

Making caring visible

This year's Carers Week theme is to help us all come together and make caring visible.

This year, unpaid carers have the additional worry of how to keep themselves and the person they care for safe during the coronavirus outbreak, so it is important they have the information, guidance and support they need.

There are 6.5 million people in the UK who are caring for a family member or friend with an illness, disability, addiction or mental health problem, yet many of these unpaid carers feel isolated and that their caring role is hidden.

1 in 7 of these carers will also be working as well as caring.

Caring can be rewarding but also challenging. Many unpaid carers are currently dealing with more challenges than ever before. It is important that carers know how to look after their own health and wellbeing, and that we all recognise the contribution that unpaid carers make.

Caring impacts on all aspects of life, from relationships and health to finances and work, and caring without the right information and support can be tough and should not be underestimated.

[West Cumbria Carers](#) runs a Workplace Carers Champion Scheme which enlists volunteers to become the 'voice' of carers in their workplaces and is continuing to establish and develop a network of Carers Champions and training sessions at Sellafield Ltd.

Suzanne Pender is the chair of the Family Support Network at Sellafield and the Carers Sub-group are a part of this network.

Suzanne said

This is a challenging time for everyone, but particularly people with caring responsibilities, many of whom are not visible in our community.

The Sellafield Carers Group can provide peer support and signposting, helping employees to manage both their home and work commitments more effectively.

Stephen Scott is leading the Carers Sub-group and said:

A workplace Carers Champion is someone who, through training, is aware of the stresses and strains a working carer may be facing and how West Cumbria Carers can support them. It is possible that a

carer may not actually identify as such in the workplace, but through approaching and chatting with a Carers Champion feels comfortable enough to talk about their caring responsibilities with them.

I am proud to be leading the Carers Sub-group who help signpost the Sellafield Ltd workforce to possible available help.

Angela Longrigg, Volunteer and Projects Manager and Andrea Carlton, Adult Support Manager who work together in running the Workplace Carers Champion Scheme at West Cumbria Carers said:

Sometimes even just a few words from someone who understands your situation can be a lifeline for carers.

Caring can be lonely and isolating, so speaking to someone who has had a similar experience can make a big difference. Workplace Carers Champions can make that difference.

Unfortunately, West Cumbria Carers have had to postpone all planned activities for fundraising and Carers Week owing to Covid-19.

However, to try and keep some of their traditions alive, they are going to hold a "virtual" Cupcakes4Carers event on Wednesday 10th June between 10am and 2pm.

They would like to invite you to join them in spirit by sharing your #Cupcakes4Carers pics with us on Social Media.

You can tag them on Facebook using [@westcumbriacarers](#) and on Twitter [@WCumbriaCarers](#).

They look forward to seeing you.

Further funding uplift announced for councils caring for children seeking asylum

News story

For the third time in 4 years, the Home Office has significantly increased

financial support for councils who look after children.



Demonstrating the Home Office's firm commitment to support local authorities in caring for vulnerable children, further funding has been announced today by the Minister for Immigration Compliance, Chris Philp.

For the third time in 4 years, the Home Office has significantly increased financial support for councils who look after children.

There will be a significant uplift in funding for all local authorities providing ongoing support to those unaccompanied asylum seeking children leaving care. The new rate (£240 per person per week) replaces the previous rates of £150 and £200 per week, representing a 20-60% increase.

There will also be a targeted 25% uplift in funding for local authorities across the UK who are currently looking after the highest numbers of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children when compared to their child population. They will receive a tariff of £143 per child per night instead of the standard rate of £114 per child per night.

Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts Chris Philp said:

Protecting vulnerable children is a key priority for this government and local authorities across the UK continue to provide invaluable support.

In recognition of this, I am very pleased to announce an increase in funding for local authorities across the UK.

The UK has a long and proud record of providing help to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. As a result, there are currently over 5,000 being cared for in the UK.

In 2019, the UK received more asylum applications from unaccompanied children than any country in the EU. This amounts to 20% of all such applications made in the UK and the 27 EU Member States.

The UK government is committed to supporting a balanced distribution of children across the UK, which is why it set up the National Transfer Scheme in 2016.

[Government to launch call for evidence into loot boxes](#)

As part of the response, it has been announced that DCMS will launch a call for evidence into the impact of loot boxes on in-game spending and gambling-like behaviour later this year.

Loot boxes are items within video games that can be purchased or earned where the player does not know what they will get until after the transaction is completed. These can include power-ups and cosmetic upgrades, known as skins.

The video games sector is a key part of the UK's world-leading creative industries, contributing £2.6 billion in 2018 and growing more than 16 times faster than the wider UK economy since 2010.

However, the DCMS Select Committee's report on Immersive and Addictive Technologies highlighted important issues facing some users in this fast-changing space.

The response published by the department today sets out the steps the government is taking to address these concerns and protect audiences across the UK.

Minister for Digital and Culture, Caroline Dinenage, said:

During the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen more people than ever before turn to video games and immersive technology to keep them entertained and to stay in touch with friends and family.

These innovations can present challenges though as well as opportunities, which is why we are taking the necessary steps to protect users and promote the safe enjoyment of this dynamic industry.

The government has committed to tackling issues around loot boxes in response to serious concerns about this model for in-game purchasing. A call for evidence on loot boxes will examine links to gambling-like behaviour and excessive spending in games. The findings will provide a solid foundation for future steps and will be considered alongside a review of the Gambling Act.

In addition to the call for evidence, the government will contribute to further research in this area. DCMS will set a framework for a programme of research into the impact of video games on behaviour, informed by workshops

with academia and industry.

The increased time at home in recent weeks has highlighted the increasing popularity of esports in the UK through events linking gaming to traditional sports like the Formula One virtual Grand Prix series and the ePremier League Invitational. Today's response also includes plans to develop on the potential of this burgeoning industry whilst ensuring the safety of competitors and audiences is paramount. DCMS will host a ministerial roundtable with a wide range of stakeholders to explore the future of esports in Britain.

The full response to the Select Committee report can be read [here](#). Further details on the measures announced, including the call for evidence, will be released in due course.

[Head of Technical Support – Southampton](#)

News story

We have an exciting new vacancy at MAIB and are looking for someone to head up our Technical Support team.



Your responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

- Developing the Technical Support section's capabilities to keep pace with the adoption of new technologies in the maritime industry.
- Providing expert advice on data recovery to internal and external stakeholders, and represent the UK as policy lead for Voyage Data Recorders at international meetings including the IMO, IEC and ISO working groups.

- You will support and guide the work of the IT Manager, Database Manager and Technical Manager to ensure that all aspects of work are being managed to the highest standard achievable.

As one of the team responsible for forensic data recovery and analysis, you will:

- Share on-call responsibilities with the three members of the Technical Team, ready to deploy at 2-hours' notice, not more than 1 week in 4, to accident sites worldwide to carry out data recovery as part of the investigating team.
- On site, support the lead investigator through the identification, forensic recovery and analysis of technical evidence relating to marine accidents, which could include imaging and cloning of memory and the use of forensic analysis tools to recover embedded, protected or deleted data.

For further information about this position and how to apply see [Civil Service Jobs, Head of Technical Support, Ref: 52682](#).

Closing date: 22 June 2020.

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[Royal Navy joins NATO allies on major maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region](#)

Over the next week, HMS Kent and minehunter HMS Ramsey will sail alongside 26 other vessels and 29 aircraft as 3,000 personnel from 17 NATO nations and two NATO partner nations strengthen their combined maritime capabilities and demonstrate their collective resolve to safeguard security in the Baltic Sea Region.

HMS Ramsey will join the exercise as part of her five-week deployment with the NATO Standing Mine Countermeasures Group 1. The NATO force is dedicated to eliminating the threat of historic mines in waters of northern Europe, practising dealing with present-day mines and promoting the alliance and freedom of the seas.

BALTOPS will see Allies train together on a variety of maritime exercises including air defence, anti-submarine warfare and mine-hunting.

Minister for the Armed Forces James Heapey said:

HMS Kent represents a Navy that has continued to train and operate throughout the Coronavirus pandemic so that, alongside our allies, we're ready for whatever comes next.

The UK is committed to the independence of the Baltic Sea Region and this exercise along with a range of other UK military activity helps to deter threats and defends our interests in the region. With HMS Kent exercising on BALTOPS, the UK will contribute to the region's security in the sea, the sky and on land.

HMS Kent's Commanding Officer Commander Matt Sykes said:

My ship's company are eager to take part in the exercise and up for the challenge, focussing on our ability to operate seamlessly with our NATO and partner nations.

In these turbulent times, it is also vitally important that we demonstrate our commitment to the region and to upholding the principles of freedom of access to the Baltic Sea.

There are currently over 800 British Army personnel deployed in Estonia, where they lead a multinational battlegroup as part of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence. Elsewhere, RAF Typhoons are in Lithuania this summer to contribute to the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission.

HMS Kent's participation in BALTOPS represents a return to the Baltic Sea Region for the ship and her crew after she took part in the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) deployment Baltic Protector last year. The JEF is a UK-led high-readiness force of nine north European nations that helps to uphold security in the region.