



Unpaid carers: COVID-19

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About Carers UK

- The UK's only national membership charity for carers
- A supportive community and a movement for change
- For the past 50 years we've been driven by carers raising their voices together to call for change and seek recognition and support
- We want a society that recognises, supports and values all unpaid carers



Our research in the past 12 months

Caring behind closed doors

Forgotten families in the coronavirus outbreak

April 2020

Caring behind closed doors: six months on

The continued impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on unpaid carers

October 2020

Carers Week 2020 Research Report

The rise in the number of unpaid carers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

Unseen and undervalued

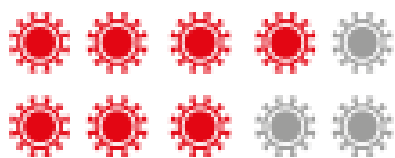
The value of unpaid care provided to date during the COVID-19 pandemic

November 2020

Impact of COVID-19 on unpaid carers

Caring Behind Closed Doors - Key findings (April 2020):

70%



of unpaid carers are providing more care due to the coronavirus outbreak

10hrs



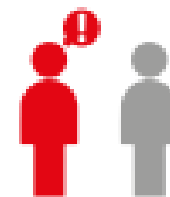
Unpaid carers are on average providing 10 additional hours of care a week

35%



Over a third of unpaid carers are providing more care as a result of local services reducing or closing

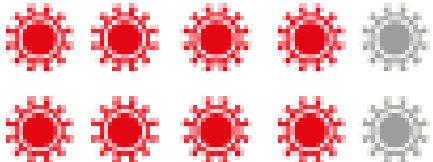
55%



of unpaid carers feel overwhelmed and are worried that they are going to burnout in the coming weeks

Impact of COVID-19 on unpaid carers

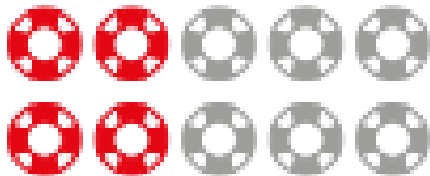
Key findings - six months on (October 2020):

81% 

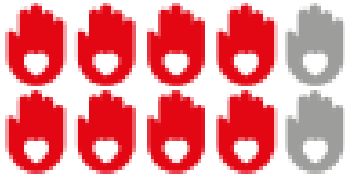
of carers are providing more care since the COVID-19 pandemic

38% 

of carers are providing more care because of local services reducing or closing

40% 

of carers are providing more care because the needs of the person they care for have increased

78% 

8 out of 10 carers said the needs of the person they care for have increased since the COVID-19 pandemic

Emerging themes

The following themes give a clearer picture of how the pandemic has affected carers lives...

1. The changing nature of care
2. Access to breaks and services
3. Health, wellbeing and emotional impact
4. Financial pressures
5. Impact on working carers

Caring for those with dementia

Alzheimer's Society conducted specific research looking at impact on those caring for people with dementia:

- A lack of dementia-appropriate services available
- A minority received a Carer's Assessment
- Wishes around work/personal life not considered
- Loss of identity
- Carers wanted more guidance on support available

Support for unpaid carers

- Included in priority list for testing
- Early guidance for unpaid carers
- Extending furlough to carers
- Lockdown exemptions
- Infection Control Fund to support return of services
- Additional Carer's Allowance supplement in Scotland
- Providing PPE to unpaid carers in Nations
- Priority access to a COVID-19 vaccine once available

But needed to do more

- Lack of PPE - carers withdrew from services
- No specific financial support (Eng, Wales, NI)
- Closure of care services and respite support
- Lack of understanding of carers by the NHS
- Hospital discharge guidance
- A lack of visiting in care homes

Priorities for carers now

- Roll out of vaccine to carers (priority 6)
- Breaks / respite support for carers
- Financial support – supplement to Carer's Allowance
- Measures to help people juggle work and unpaid care
- Duty on NHS to recognise / support carers
- Carers at heart of social care reform
- A 'New Deal' for carers as we emerge from pandemic

Thank you!

If you want to get in touch, please feel free to contact me at:

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