

PRESS RELEASE:

Somerset Praised for its Care Support in Panorama: Crisis in Care

The Panorama 'Crisis in Care' films will be broadcast at 9pm on BBC 1 on Wednesday 29 May and 5 June.

The film crew spent ten months filming Somerset County Council's Adult Social Care teams, shining a light on the incredible work going on in care and the pressures the system faces as growing demand outstrips funding.

They document incredible stories of families and unpaid carers looking after loved ones, and the difficult decisions that come with the growing demand for care from an ageing population at a time of limited funding.

At Somerset Carers we are incredibly proud to be an integral part of the county-wide support for unpaid Carers, a service funded by Somerset County Council. Our network of Carers, Village and Community Agents work together to support individuals not only in crisis but who need regular 1:1 support, taking a holistic approach to the needs of the carer and everyone affected.

Between October 2017 and March 2019 Somerset Carers has:

- Supported 595 Carers face to face
- Received 1,667 calls to the Advice Line
- Had over 5,500 visits to the website www.somersetcarers.org for signposting to the support available within Somerset
- Updated and published 1500 free copies of 'If Only I Knew That', written by a Carer to give others guidance and support on their caring journey.

Keeley Rudd, CEO for CCS, (the Community Council for Somerset) who run Somerset Carers said: "Carers are incredible people who are unpaid and often work incredibly long hours without thought for their own health and without whom the toll on governmental resources would be immeasurably increased. We believe there are over 60,000 unpaid Carers in Somerset".

She continued "It is our mission to support people who may feel lonely and isolated in their caring role, from helping them to apply for funding they may be entitled to, get access to mobility equipment they may need, or simply providing a listening and understanding ear with our Carers Agents or Talk and Support team. If you need one to one support in your caring role, please contact us at Somerset Carers."

Cllr David Fothergill, Leader of Somerset County Council said: "Thank you to our many carers across Somerset for all the tremendous work they do in supporting friends, families and their communities. We wanted to get involved in filming Panorama as it helps us bring to light the national issue of the enormous pressures our social care system is under on a daily basis. These pressures will only deepen as time goes on - our funding continues to decrease whilst our population ages, living longer but with more complex needs. It's no surprise that some of the cases Panorama show are challenging. Together, we work extremely hard across Somerset to do the very best for those we support, with the aim of improving health and wellbeing for everyone. If you are a carer and need help, information or support, please get in touch with the Somerset Carers service, our contact centre Somerset Direct or visit one of our Talking Cafes held in locations across Somerset."

Carers Week 2019 runs from June 10th – June 17th - and we will be hosting Cake for Carers in the weeks before, during and after at regular Carers Groups as a Thank You to those amazing people. If you feel you may benefit from attending a Carers Group for support, come along to one to find out more - your local group can be found on our website www.somersetcarers.org or by calling the Helpline **0800 31 68 600**

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