

**Carers
First**



Candidate Pack
Caring Community Connector

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in working for Carers First as our next Caring Community Connector [Merton].

You will be joining a charity that has a new ambitious three-year strategy to grow our reach, support and impact for carers, working in collaboration and partnership with a range of statutory, voluntary and commercial organisations.

If you have the passion and drive to make a difference and you have the experience and skills we are looking for, we are keen to meet you - and welcome you to our dedicated and talented team.

Warmest wishes

Alison Taylor
Chief Executive



About us

We understand that life as a carer can be challenging. Getting the support and help you need shouldn't be.

Any of our lives could be turned upside down due to the ill-health, frailty or disability of a family member or friend. In fact, two in three of us can expect to become a carer in our lifetime.

There are currently 5.7 million unpaid carers in the UK, however carer charities estimate that number could be as high as 10.6 million. Their huge contribution saves our economy £184 billion each year - the cost of a second NHS. Each carer's needs and situation are unique, but many face similar challenges. They can struggle to balance employment, finances, or their own wellbeing and time for themselves with their caring role. They may not be aware of the help and support available to them - and that is why we are here.

Carers First works directly with, and for carers, providing personalised information and tailored support in the way that suits them: online, on the phone, or face to face in their local community. With the help of our supporters and volunteers, we can continue to be there for carers, helping them find balance, and to live their lives to the fullest - today, and for years to come.



Our values

We are:

Positive

We are dedicated to working with carers to make a positive, material difference in their lives. We celebrate diversity and work in an inclusive, positive and supportive way, actively listening and valuing everyone's contribution.

Collaborative

We recognise the importance and strength of working in collaboration with local and national organisations to deliver improved support to carers. We also know the importance of collaborating with our Carers First colleagues, sharing knowledge and learning, being curious, respecting differences and working with integrity and transparency.

Ambitious

We are ambitious and tenacious in our determination to support more carers in better ways. We will innovate and develop our programmes of support, so more carers are able to obtain the support they need, at the time they need it, to achieve a balance in their lives and enable them to live their lives to the fullest.

Diversity and Inclusion

We are proud to be a diverse and inclusive workplace.

Carers First is committed to promoting equal opportunities in employment. Employees and any job applicants will receive equal treatment regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (Protected Characteristics).

Carers First has an absolute commitment to equality and diversity which is about:

- Recognising and valuing difference.
- Recognising and seeking to redress inequality and disadvantage.

Our commitment is firmly founded on our belief that:

- To offer services that are personal, committed and creative we need a diverse staff team who can respond to our carers as individuals.
- To attract, keep and motivate the most talented staff, we need to:
 - Reach out to all sections of the community.
 - Provide a working environment in which everyone feels valued, respected and able to contribute.

The charity recognises that true diversity in service delivery provision and within the staff group also involves a willingness to act, where necessary, at combating the effects of existing barriers to fair and equal treatment.

Our strategy 2024-2027

Our three-year strategy will enable us to grow our work to reach and support significantly more carers, deliver innovative programmes of support in coproduction with carers and forge new collaborations to scale our reach, support and impact for carers.



Strategic Objectives

Over the next three years Carers First will:

1. Reach and engage more carers early in their caring role
2. Develop new innovative models of collaboration, delivery and programmes with the potential to scale our reach and impact
3. Achieve the highest quality of support possible, so we can maximise the difference made to carers lives
4. Champion talent and diversity
5. Grow and diversify our income to enable us to achieve more for carers.

Our support and services are designed with carers, ensuring the support we offer is inclusive and accessible to all carers in different communities.

By joining Carers First, you will play a vital part in helping us achieve this. You can help us achieve something amazing.

How we work

We support young carers, young adult carers and adult carers throughout England with our comprehensive online offer including information, advice and guidance, tools, resources and training, as well as through our vibrant online peer support communities.

We also deliver locally commissioned services in Lincolnshire, Essex, Medway, Southend and in four London Boroughs.

We offer a range of support options for carers to access in ways that work best for them:

- **Face-to-Face Support:** Available both one-to-one and in group settings, providing personalised and community-based assistance.
- **Online Support:** Accessible resources and virtual sessions to ensure carers can connect with us anytime, anywhere.
- **Dedicated Helpline:** A trusted source of advice, guidance, and a listening ear for carers navigating their journey.
- **Extensive Online Resources:** Comprehensive and easy-to-use tools, guides, and information to empower carers with knowledge and confidence.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Working with organisations and communities to provide a seamless network of support tailored to carers' needs.

Our impact and reach

Carers First Impact Framework sets out our Theory of Change and the measures and tools we use to understand the outputs, outcomes and impact of the support we provide.

Last year, we reached over 330,000 people to provide information about caring and 51,000 carers are registered with us to receive information and support.

In numbers

- 96% of carers felt more resilient in their caring role after our support.
- 95% of carers felt listened to and that their own needs were taken into account through our interventions.
- 93% of carers felt more confident and informed in their caring role after our support.





Join our team

When you join Carers First, you join a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive team who all have a shared interest in supporting unpaid carers to continue living their lives to the fullest, across the country.

In a community dedicated to caring, we believe that our employees and volunteers really do make a difference, therefore, we emphasise the importance of learning and development, as well as actively encouraging them to develop their skills with our fantastic learning and development programme. This means that all of our team become the best that they can be, whilst helping others do the same.

The role

Job Title:	Caring Community Connector [Merton]
Salary:	£26,400 per annum
Contract:	Fixed term until 30 June 2026
Hours:	37 hours per week
Location:	Working flexibly in the community with some homeworking

Job Description

Job title:	Caring Community Connector [Merton]
Reports to:	Service Manager
Purpose of the role:	To increase the identification and support of unpaid carers in Merton by developing partnerships, delivering training, and embedding carer awareness across the local community and voluntary sector.

Job Overview

The Caring Community Connector will

1. Build relationships with local organisations, networks and professionals to raise awareness of unpaid carers.
2. Deliver training and awareness sessions to improve carer identification and confidence among community facing staff.
3. Support local partners to understand and use referral pathways to Carers First and other support.
4. Develop and test innovative approaches for embedding carer awareness in community and frontline services.

Responsibilities and Duties

- 1. Build relationships with local organisations, networks and professionals to raise awareness of unpaid carers.**
 - Build relationships with local organisations, networks, and services to help identify hidden carers and connect them with appropriate support.
 - Raise awareness of carers needs and rights through presentations, outreach events, and networking opportunities.
 - Promote carer friendly practices and explore innovative recognition and referral approaches in community settings.
 - Represent Carers First at forums, meetings, and strategic events to raise the profile of unpaid carers across Merton.
 - Distribute promotional materials and awareness tools to increase understanding of carers within key partner settings.
 - Record and report on engagement activity, capturing outputs, trends, and opportunities to inform future delivery.
- 2. Deliver training and awareness sessions to improve carer identification and confidence among community facing staff.**
 - Deliver training, briefings and awareness sessions to build the confidence of VCS staff and professionals in recognising carers and taking early supportive actions.
 - Share insight on local services, events, and offers with the Carers First community team, supporting the development of a practical toolkit to improve onward referrals and partnerships.
 - Maintain accurate records of engagement, learning shared, and partner feedback to track improvements in sector confidence and collaboration.

3. Support local partners to understand and use referral pathways to Carers First and other support.

- Use insight gathered from external engagement to identify gaps in provision, emerging needs, or opportunities to enhance local carer support.
- Test or pilot new ways of working with partners and community organisations to improve outcomes for carers.
- Feed learning from local activity into wider team practice and organisational reporting to support continuous improvement and strategic alignment.

4. Develop and test innovative approaches for embedding carer awareness in community and frontline services

- Build and sustain constructive relationships with community and statutory partners to support joined up, community led carer support.
- Identify opportunities for joint delivery, shared venues, or awareness initiatives to broaden the reach and accessibility of carers services.
- Advocate informally for carers rights and visibility within local systems and represent Carers Firsts values and mission in all communications and activities.
- Share opportunities, best practice and learning with colleagues and stakeholders to maximise collective impact.

These are the normal duties that are required for this position. However, it is necessary for all employees to be flexible and they may be required, from time to time, to perform other duties as may be required for the efficient running of the charity. This Job Description is non-contractual, it will be subject to reviews and may change.

The postholder will take responsibility to integrate safeguarding into all aspects of their work, complying with organisational policies and frameworks.

The postholder will be expected to ensure that their work complies with contractual terms and conditions, the charity's policies and procedures and key legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and charity law.

Person Specification

Education

- NVQ level 2 education or equivalent relevant experience.

Skills and Experience

Community Engagement and Partnership Working

- Proven experience of working in outreach, engagement, or partnership development roles, ideally within the voluntary, community, health or social care sectors.
- Ability to develop and maintain strong, collaborative relationships with a wide range of stakeholders and community organisations.
- Experience of delivering presentations, training or awareness sessions to professional and public audiences.
- Confident in representing organisational values in external forums, with the ability to influence and advocate effectively.

Communication and Project Delivery

- Strong written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to present information clearly and engage others in learning or behavioural change.
- Excellent organisational and project coordination skills, with the ability to manage competing priorities and deliver to agreed plans.
- Experience of using databases or digital tools to record activity, monitor outputs, and contribute to reporting.
- Comfortable working independently and taking initiative, while also contributing to team learning and shared outcomes.

Knowledge and Values

- Understanding of the needs and experiences of unpaid carers and/or people facing disadvantage in community or health settings.
- Knowledge of safeguarding, data protection, and the importance of promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in community-facing work.
- A creative and curious mindset, committed to innovation, continuous learning, and making a positive difference.

Personal Qualities

- Ability to demonstrate understanding of and an **ambitious** commitment to the goals and values of the charity.
- Demonstrate a **positive** level of professional credibility, integrity, and emotional resilience.
- Self-motivated, **collaborative**, and able to work flexibly, whilst maintaining good work/life balance.

Rewarding our employees

We provide a reward package for our employees upon joining Carers First.

Our reward package includes:

- 26 days Annual Leave which increases with continuous service + Bank Holidays.
- 1 days Birthday Leave
- Benenden Private Healthcare Membership (following successful probationary period)
- Pension
- Death in Service Benefit
- Employee Assistance Programme
- Carer Passports
- High Street Discount Platform
- Flexible Working Options

How to apply

To apply for a role with Carers First, please complete in full our online application form via our website: <https://www.carersfirst.org.uk/about-us/working-for-us/>

Appointments are subject to Carers First receiving an appropriate disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service that we consider acceptable.

We encourage and welcome applications regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or age.

If you would like to discuss this role confidentially, please contact us at, recruitment@carersfirst.org.uk, and we will be happy to organise one of the Team to contact you.

Interview process

- All successfully shortlisted candidates will be invited to a Microsoft teams interview.
- Closing date for applications: **21 September 2025**- we reserve the right to close the vacancy early if we receive sufficient applications for the role.
- Interview date: week commencing: **01 October 2025**

Tips on completing your application

- Read the Job Description and Person Specification carefully.
- Be sure to include your employment history, details of relevant duties to the role you are applying for and any transferable skills you may have.
- Include any other work or volunteering experience you have which you feel is relevant.
- Read the Skills and Experience required for the role in the Person Specification and demonstrate clearly in your application evidence of how you meet each of these.



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