

Respite Care for Carers in Wandsworth

Respite Care

What is available?

This service is designed to enable Carers to take short breaks away from their caring role by providing respite care. Carers who are eligible can access up to a **maximum** of 52 hours of planned respite care in a 9-month period. Carers may choose to use the hours flexibly within the 9-month period and this will be negotiated in advance between the Carer and Bluebird Care Wandsworth. Repeat applications for respite may only be considered 10 months after the previous 9-month period has ended. Only in exceptional circumstances will further respite be agreed earlier than this.

If Carers are not eligible for our respite service, we may be able to support them to access other services.

Please note, as our respite service is intended as an interim provision, there is no guarantee that repeat applications will be granted. All requests for further respite hours must be assessed and agreed by Wandsworth Carers' Centre.

The service will be accessible seven days per week, **except for Bank Holidays**, for delivery, although referrals will only be accepted between 9.30am and 5.30pm Monday to Friday.

Who is this service for?

This service is for Carers who are caring for someone who lives in the borough of Wandsworth.

This service is targeted at those Carers with limited resources available from other sources e.g., limited finances, Carers without family and close friends, or where family and friends are unable to help due to issues such as distance, work, family or other commitments. Carers who wish to access this respite service should either have received a Carers Assessment, are awaiting an assessment or be referred for an assessment by one of our team. The reason for this is that our respite service is intended as an interim measure whilst Carers arrange longer term support.

Additional criteria

- Carers need a break
- The cared for person cannot be left alone for periods of time
- The cared for person is willing to have care workers in the home
- Carers are under particular stress
- Short-term additional stress e.g., temporary loss of support while a family member or friend is on holiday/unavailable

- Short-term support is required while other support systems are put in place

Please note this service is not designed to replace, or supplement, means tested social care respite or to replace a service for the cared for person.

How do I access the service?

If, having read this leaflet, you think you might be eligible to use the service please contact Wandsworth Carers' Centre on 020 8877 1200 or email support@wandsworthcarers.org.uk

Once you have contacted us we will make an initial appointment with you to talk about your needs and the needs of the person you care for. If you are eligible to access the service Bluebird Care Wandsworth will then arrange to meet you in the home of the person you care for. This allows us to assess more fully the needs of the person you care for and to agree the details of the service that may be provided.

If following assessment, we are able to meet your needs we will then agree the final details such as when the service will begin and the planning of the respite service over the 9-month period.

What else do I need to know?

Booking

Carers will need to book respite a minimum of 2 weeks in advance.

Cancellation

Carers will need to give 48 hours notice of cancellation. If less notice is received the hours that were due to be delivered on that occasion will be deducted from your allocation.

Cost

This service is free to Carers.

Waiting list

There are a limited number of hours available in this service and if we have allocated all available hours, you will be placed on a waiting list until more hours are released.

Prior receipt of the service will be considered when allocating hours to Carers.

Unused hours

Unused hours may not be carried over. If you have not used your allocated hours by the end of the 9-month period these hours will be lost to you.

How you can help other Carers

Please access this service responsibly as it is a limited service, and we wish to ensure that it is allocated equitably so that Carers who are most in need can access this support.