

Number of Carers

Estimated number **6.5 Millionⁱ**
 Percentage of population **10.3%**



Current Practices	Opportunities to Increase Support
Unpaid carers are legally defined as people who look after family members, friends, or others because of long-term physical or mental ill health or disability, or care needs related to old age. ⁱⁱ	Increase levels of discussion highlighting the unmet challenges that unpaid carers continue to face in the UK.
The Carers Allowance is the main benefit for unpaid carers in the UK. The unpaid carer must meet specific criteria to qualify and may not be able to receive another financial benefit in addition to the Carers Allowance. ⁱⁱⁱ	Provide increased education to unpaid carers on their rights for financial support.
Unpaid carers can request flexible working hours, time off and leave for care, but paid leave appears to be subject to negotiation between employers and employees, rather than a guaranteed right. ^{iv}	Expand unpaid carers rights for paid leave.
Unpaid carers who are pension age will receive a State Pension, but they cannot receive the full amount of both the Carer's Allowance and the State Pension at the same time. ^v A system of pension credits to the State Pension can be claimed by unpaid carers of working aged if they fulfill the entitlement criteria.	Increase financial support for unpaid carers so they may receive both a State Pension and a Carer's Allowance.
Various forms of respite care or breaks may be provided after an assessment of the unpaid carer or the person from whom they care is completed. ^{vi}	Provide more government funding for additional respite care.
Carers UK provides training and information to unpaid carers throughout the UK. Local councils provide information and may provide training.	Increase awareness of training and services available to unpaid carers. This includes information about caring and condition management. Provide support to organizations that already provide training and information to unpaid carers. Increase identification and support from health bodies and the wider system.

Legislation	Working arrangements	Respite care
Financial support	Pension credits	Information and training

Government Recognition

Care Act (England, 2014)

Carers Act (Scotland, 2014)

Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales, 2014)

Carers and Direct Payments Act (Northern Ireland, 2002)

Employment Rights Act (1996)

Work and Families Act (2006)

References

- i House of Commons Library. (2017). Carers Briefing Paper. Page 3. <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7756>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- ii Ibid.
- iii Carers UK. (2018). Carer's Allowance. Page 3. <https://www.carersuk.org/images/Factsheets/Carers-Allowance-2018-19-FINAL.pdf>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- iv Carers UK. (2016). Your Rights in Work. Page 2-3. <http://www.carersuk.org/files/helpandadvice/2613/factsheet-uk1031-your-rights-in-work.pdf>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- v Carers UK. (2018). Carer's Allowance. Page 10. <https://www.carersuk.org/images/Factsheets/Carers-Allowance-2018-19-FINAL.pdf>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]
- vi National Health Service. (2018). Carers' breaks and respite care. Page 1. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support/breaks-for-carers-respitecare/>. [Date Accessed: 16 July 2018]