

## General Election 2017 Questions for Candidates



The following questions were agreed at a workshop held for unpaid family carers from across Hertfordshire on 16 May 2017.

1	Did you know that there are about 7 million unpaid family carers in the UK and about 110,000 in Hertfordshire, which means that there are probably between 9,000 to 10,000 in your constituency?
2	Did you know that the economic value of the contribution that is made by unpaid family carers in the UK is estimated at £132billion and in Hertfordshire at £6billion.
3	If an unpaid family carer has to give up paid work to care for their relative they are entitled to claim Carers Allowance which is currently paid at £62.70 per week. Do you consider that this is a sufficient sum to recompense an unpaid family carer for loss of earnings, pension contributions and in-work benefits?
4	The experience of claiming benefits or assisting a loved one to claim for example the Personal Independence Payment or Employment Support Allowance suggests that the process is adversarial, applicants and carers are treated with a lack of respect by the Department of Work and Pensions and their agents and there is no accountability when decisions are found to have been wrong. What will you do to address this?
5	National politicians keep saying that resources are being targeted on those 'most in need'. What is the criteria used to decide that someone is 'most in need'?
6	There have been real cuts in social care budgets in Hertfordshire in the past 6 – 7 years, largely due to reductions in central government grant. Over the past two years the County Council has been able to levy a 'social care precept' on Council Tax to help manage pressures but this is to stop in 2019/20. What will your party do to make sure that social care is funded adequately?
7	The Dilnott Report recommended a cap on social care fees and under David Cameron the Conservative Party had proposed a lifetime cap of £72,000 but the introduction of this was postponed until 2020. What is your view of charging for social care and do you support a cap on the amount that an

	individual would have to pay?
8	Some parents say that they are not able to find a support worker or suitable activities for their disabled children even when funding is available. How would you make sure that there are sufficient resources in the local community for children with disabilities and their families?
9	Carers need 'time off' if they are to stay well and continue with their caring role. However problems in recruiting social care workers can mean that it is difficult to find agencies to support their loved ones and allow them some respite. How would you make sure that these workforce challenges are addressed?
10	Carers of adults with severe and enduring mental ill health report a lack of consistency in the community mental health workers who support their relatives and inadequate social care activities and support in the local community. What would you do to highlight and address these concerns?
11	Are you aware of the social work role and what social workers should achieve?