



Carers Breaks & Support

RULES & ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The carer must reside within the Wakefield MDC area.
2. Carers can be of any age but applications for a young carer (under the age of 18) must be completed by an adult on their behalf, who will be responsible for the use of the grant.
3. Carers must have been caring for at least 1 year.
4. Grants cannot be awarded retrospectively and carers are advised not to make any firm arrangements until advised of the outcome of their application.
5. Former carers may apply if the caring role ceased no more than 12 months prior to the date of the application.
6. A carer is defined as someone providing unpaid personal, practical and/or emotional support to a relative, friend or neighbour for an average of at least 35 hours a week.
7. The carer need not reside with the person they care for.
8. Carers are responsible for organising their own breaks and any associated insurance.
9. An estimate or breakdown of costs from the organisation providing the planned break **MUST BE** provided before an application can be considered. Failure to do so will mean the application will be returned as unsuccessful.
10. Out of pocket expenses such as restaurant meals cannot be included. Travel expenses must be supported by evidence from the airline, train, coach or taxi company. Fuel costs using your own vehicle will be considered at a rate of 15p/mile.
11. All applicants are required to submit receipts for the break that they have taken. Any excess must be returned to the fund. Failure to comply will mean any future applications are automatically excluded.
12. All breaks must be taken within 6 months of the award or the amount returned to the fund.
13. Breaks are defined as 'the opportunity for the carer to take some time away from their caring role and spend it pursuing an interest of their choice.'
14. However breaks with the person they care for may be considered if someone else will be undertaking or helping with the caring duties.
15. Awards will not normally be considered for equipment/capital expenditure, but every application will be considered on its own merit.
16. Whilst the aim of the scheme is to offer the carer a degree of choice and flexibility in selecting a break the decision of the panel as regards suitability is final.
17. Funding will be restricted to the maximum of £100 per household per annum in all cases. Joint applications up to this amount will be accepted where there is more than one carer in the household
18. Funds are limited; therefore priority will be given to first time applicants.
19. Applications must be received by the 15th of the month and applicants will be advised of the outcome by the end of the month.
20. Cheques will generally be issued in the name of the carer. Therefore ideally all applicants should have access to a bank account. In some circumstances (e.g. a young carer without an account) we are prepared to consider alternative arrangements such as an alternative account. Payment will not be made in cash.
21. The equal Opportunities form **MUST** be submitted with the application.