Press Release

Wednesday June 4th 2013

West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group promotes National Carers Week
June 10th to June 16th 2013

West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group is urging carers to come forward and take part in National Carers Week, which runs from June 10th to June 16th 2013.

In recognition of the important and challenging role undertaken by local carers, the Clinical Commissioning Group works closely with Chester and Cheshire West Council in order to ensure that carers of all ages have regular breaks from their caring role. These might range from carers having a weekend away to them attending organised training courses or carer information days.

The Clinical Commissioning Group will also be promoting the Carers Personal Budget Scheme which allows carers to choose the type of short breaks they take.

Local GP Surgeries are also getting involved. Every GP Surgery in West Cheshire has a fully trained member of staff who is able to help carers. Many GP surgeries will be putting up displays to encourage carers to come forward and find out more about the support they are entitled to. Carers will also have the chance to complete a survey about their own health needs, or can complete the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WestCarers. The Clinical Commissioning Group will use the results to improve local support for carers.

Dr Huw Charles-Jones, Clinical Commissioning Group Chair commented “carers are often called the unsung heroes of the NHS. However, many carers often put their own health second to that of the person they care for. We would therefore encourage carers to come forward so that we can offer them the support they need”

Ends
National Carers Week takes place from 10th to 16th June 2013.

The key objectives of Carers Week are to:

- Recognise and celebrate the contribution that carers make to those they care for, and to their communities
- Raise the profile of carers and increase awareness of their need for support
- Identify 'hidden carers', with the aim of enabling them to access support and services.
- Encourage local organisations to work together to promote recognition, support and services for carers

The link to NHS Choices may be useful for general, national advice and information
http://www.nhs.uk/carersdirect/Pages/CarersDirectHome.aspx
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WestCarers

The Cheshire and Warrington Carers Centre can provide more localised information on advice and support services available. Their link is westpb@cheshirecarerscentre.org.uk