



CARERS UK
the voice of carers

counsel + care
for older people, their families and carers



**CROSS
ROADS
CARE**

Dementia UK
Improving quality of life

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

MS
Multiple Sclerosis Society

PARKINSON'S UK
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
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For immediate release

MP, Fiona, calls for greater recognition for the UK's six million carers

Local MP, Fiona Bruce has teamed up with TV presenter Angela Rippon to support this year's Carers Week (13-19 June) and recognise the contribution made by those people in the Congleton Constituency and throughout the UK who provide unpaid care for someone who is ill, frail or disabled.

The theme for Carers Week 2011 is '**The True Face of Carers**'. It calls for greater recognition for the diverse range of people who have caring responsibilities. The work they carry out is vital for their families and friends, and for their communities.

Fiona met up with Angela at the House of Commons to pay tribute to carers, and to urge that they receive more support in their caring roles. Fiona, who has personal experience of being a carer, said:

"Thousands of people in Congleton Constituency sacrifice not only their time, but also their own finances and their health in order to care for a loved one. They deserve to be recognised for their contribution to both our local community and to wider society.

"I am taking part in Carers Week to show my respect and appreciation for our carers. I also want to let them know that there are services out there to help them like the remarkable Crossroads Care Cheshire East. Caring can be so incredibly demanding. It's important that carers know that they don't have to struggle on alone and that they are appreciated, and not merely with words, but with tangible support."

Angela Rippon said:

"For a number of years now I've become aware of the extraordinary job that carers do throughout this country. I feel that it's important that anybody who has any knowledge at all stands up and be counted for them and make the job that they do public, because they should not be invisible, they should be out there and being seen as the heroes and heroines that they are.

"It's a strain that people accept willingly and lovingly, and if they're prepared to do that, I think that as a civilised nation we should be prepared to do something in return."

Other celebrities supporting carers and Carers Week include Dame Judi Dench, Sir David Jason OBE, Jack Charlton OBE and Martin Lewis.

Carers Week is organised by a partnership of 9 national charities: Age UK, Carers UK, Counsel & Care, Crossroads Care, Dementia UK, Macmillan Cancer Support, MS Society, Parkinson's UK, and The Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

For more information about local events and activities taking place as part of Carers Week, visit www.carersweek.org.

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Notes to editors:

- Picture of Fiona Bruce MP with Angela Rippon is attached
- Carers Week 2011 takes place from 13-19 June, and highlights the vital work carried out by those who provide unpaid care for someone who is ill, frail or disabled.
- Carers Week campaigns for greater recognition and support for carers; to ensure that all carers know that they are not alone, and that help and services are available.