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The UK's National Carers Strategy 2008: How did we get there and where are we going?

Conference or Workshop Item

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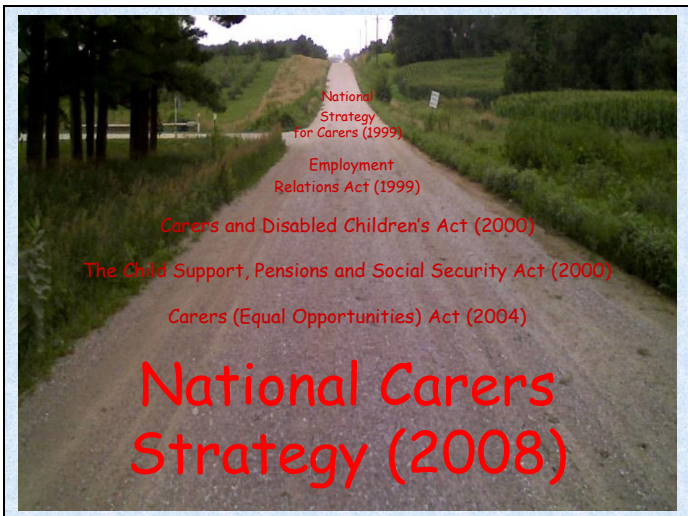
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Legislation and government initiatives

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THE NATIONAL CARERS STRATEGY 2008 - "Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities: a caring system on your side, a life of your own"

- strong prime ministerial and cross-departmental support
- "by 2018, carers will be universally recognised and valued as being fundamental to strong families and stable communities. Support will be tailored to meet individual needs, enabling carers to maintain a balance between their caring responsibilities and a life outside caring, while enabling the person they support to be a full and equal citizen"
- carers' role, value and importance is now widely recognised

The vision for carers.....

- respected as expert care partners
- access to the integrated and personalised services they need to support them in their caring role
- to have a life of their own alongside their caring role
- to be supported so that they are not forced into financial hardship by their caring role
- supported to stay mentally and physically well and treated with dignity
- children and young people to be protected from inappropriate caring


OUTCOMES of the journey so far...

- carers now have a high political profile in the UK
- entitled to their own assessments and several benefits: eg Carer's Allowance, Housing benefit
- Carers are empowered eg
 - carers organisations are consulted about policy
 - carers involved in design & delivery of education & training
 - carers respected as "expert care partners"
 - information and training for carers
 - specific training for health professionals

THE NEXT STEPS.....

- the National Carers Strategy has driven an emphasis on mainstreaming carers in strategy and policy development and reform of the carers' legislation
- Recognised, valued and supported: next steps for the Carers Strategy (2010)
http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122077
 - cross-Government strategy
 - how the Coalition government will work with carers and carers organisations
 - builds on the strategic vision for carers in the National Carers Strategy 2008

Priority areas until 2014

- 
- support carers to remain mentally and physically well
 - personalised support for carers and those they support
 - fulfil their educational and employment potential
 - involve them in designing care
 - recognise their contributions
 - identify carers at an early stage

THE FUTURE?

- there is evidence that efforts to support carers will continue and up until now the government has been willing to commit resources to support to carers
- BUT..... there is an economic recession

CONTACT ME !

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