



PRESS RELEASE

(18/10/2011)

Time-out for parents with disabled children

Caring for a disabled child can be both physically and emotionally demanding.

The North Wales office of charity Crossroads Care have launched a brand new service for parents of disabled children which provides help with cleaning and ironing, transport to day centres and trips out as well as more specialist services including PEG feeding.

The new service called 'Gwalia Care' operates on a not-for-profit basis with funds reinvested to provide further care services and maintain the high standards of training.

Yveline Hands, Chief Executive of Crossroads Care North Wales said, "We have been helping children, young adults, families and older people remain independent for over 20 years. Our aim with Gwalia is to provide parents and carers with some time for themselves - knowing that their children are being cared for by trained professionals."

Parents and carers can get further information on the full range of services of Gwalia Care by calling 0845 605 0115 (local rate) or visit www.crossroadsnorthwales.co.uk

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Note for editors:

Crossroads Care North Wales was established in April 2007 (the result of a merger of smaller Crossroads schemes in North Wales), is a registered charity and registered domiciliary care agency for adults as well as children. The service is available to carers of children with disabilities, carers and their families as well as to young adults and older people who wish to live alone and remain independent.

Our services are available to anyone regardless of age or condition and include;

- companionship
- emotional support
- help with domestic tasks such as cleaning and ironing
- transport to day centres or for leisure and social activities
- trips out
- respite care
- support with bathing/showering

- and more complex personal care tasks such as PEG feeding.

All our support staff are highly trained professionals but do not wear uniforms so that our clients can be assured of complete privacy when visits are made.

Our expertise and experience allows us to tailor support specifically to the individual's needs and wishes.

A recent survey carried out by LE Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government on respite care highlighted in the section A4.6 "In the Words of Carers" the plight of many carers: older carers; young carers; parent carers and carers with multiple caring responsibilities. (1)

Older women are more likely than older men to live alone and this becomes more likely with advancing age. In 2009 in Great Britain, 32% of women aged 65 to 74 lived alone compared to 22% of men in this age group; and for those aged 75 and over this increases to 60% and 36% respectively (2).

Living independently in their own home is the desire of most people who live alone and who sometimes need a bit of support, short-term or for longer in order to feel safer and more confident.

Our approach with Gwalia Care is to deliver a “Rolls-Royce” affordable service to carers and to people living alone. Crossroads already enjoys an enviable reputation for the excellence of their work when supporting carers and their families, and for putting people before profit. Gwalia Care is also not-for-profit with any monies made ploughed back into delivering excellent care to as many as possible.

By opting to buy Gwalia Care services from Crossroads, customers exercise choice and control over the type of the service they need and want, at times and frequency to suit them and for as long as they wish.

In the words of a carer looking after her elderly mother and user of Gwalia Care;

“Crossroads Care has made a tremendous difference to my mother’s life. The weekly 2-hour visits by one of your dedicated and caring carer support workers is helping my mother to stay in her own home and also gives her confidence to remain there indefinitely..... from the beginning they have hit it off. One of the reasons is that they’re both from farming backgrounds and are able to converse in Welsh. They get on really well together and we couldn’t do without her. My mother feels it was one of the best things she ever did was getting Crossroads Gwalia Care. Long may Crossroads continue as it is vitally important in the care and independence of elderly people.”

Crossroads Care is the only independent organisation in North Wales that has specifically invested in the training of our staff to look after the needs of disabled children. It is now our aim to extend our services to parents and carers of disabled children as well as for adults and the elderly.

References

- (1) Respite Care in Wales – Final Report to Welsh Assembly Government – prepared by LE Wales (an economics and policy consultancy based in Wales and a division of London Economics Limited)
- (2) Office for National Statistics – Older People Living Arrangements

Contact information

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