**Local brain injury charity pledges support for new ‘Working for Carers’ scheme**

5 June, 2018

Local brain injury charity Headway Birmingham & Solihull has today pledged its support for the new Working for Carers scheme designed to help carers in work.

With over 30 years experience providing services to brain injured clients and their families, Headway understands all too well the daily struggle faced by those caring for a brain injured loved one while holding down a job, and so has pledged its full support to this new initiative launched by Birmingham based Forward Carers.

Nancy Khan, Carer Services Manager at Headway Birmingham & Solihull, said: “Through our work with brain injury, we have a unique insight into the stresses of juggling work with care, and so we were keen to learn more about the new Woking for Carers scheme and what it might mean for our own employees.”

She explained what a difference support makes to those who care for a brain injured family member.

“A little support at the right time goes a long way” said Nancy. “And if it enables someone caring for a brain injured family member to continue in paid employment, then it has all sorts of benefits, from a better income and better opportunities for the family as a whole to improved morale for the carer, in turn helping them cope better for longer.”

Keen to offer similar benefits to its own staff, Headway Birmingham & Solihull met with Baldish Kaur, Project Coordinator at Forward Carers, to find out more about the recently launched Working for Carers scheme.

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Baldish said: “Becoming a carer can happen to anyone at any time – whether as a result of an illness or accident or the deterioration of an existing condition. Currently around 1 in 8 people in work also care for a loved one at home, and nearly three-quarters give up work or reduce their hours because of the stress of juggling work with care.

“With changing lifestyles and an ageing population, this is an issue which is only going to get more common, and so it’s vital we take a closer look at this now and take action.”

She outlined how supporting staff to manage the demands of their home and work life and continue in employment can be good for both the employee and the organisation.

“Improving support for carers makes good business sense. It can improve staff retention, reduce absences and even increase productivity. It also represents a great opportunity for employers to demonstrate their corporate social responsibility while looking after the welfare of their staff.”

Perks of the Working for Carers scheme include access to a library of downloadable resources, online training for staff, chance to attain ‘Outstanding Employer’ accreditation as well as positive press and PR opportunities and much more.

Baldish ended: “It’s a great endorsement for Working for Carers that an organisation like Headway that fully understand the challenges carers face balancing home and work commitments is looking to introduce the scheme to its own staff, and we hope other organisations will be inspired to do the same.”

Anyone wanting more information on Working for Carers can call 0121 574 0439 or email birmingham@workingforcarers.co.uk or visit [www.workingforcarers.co.uk](http://www.workingforcarers.co.uk).

**Ends**

**Photo Caption:** *Baldish Kaur (right) from Forward Carers runs through the Working for Carers scheme with Nancy Khan (left) from Headway Birmingham & Solihull.*

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**For more information**

Contact Julie Wedgbury in the Fundraising department at Headway Birmingham & Solihull at fundraising@headway-bs.org.uk or 0121 457 7541.

**About Headway Birmingham & Solihull**

Headway Birmingham & Solihull is a registered charity helping to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury in the local area. Its aim is to promote greater understanding of all aspects of brain injury and provide information, support and services to the person with the acquired brain injury as well as their family and carers. For full information, visit [www.headway-bs.org.uk](http://www.headway-wm-org.uk) .

**About Working for Carers**

Working for Carers is a membership and accreditation scheme for employers. Visit [www.workingforcarers.co.uk](http://www.workingforcarers.co.uk) for more information.