



The Carer-Related Research and Evidence Exchange Network (CAREN)

www.open.ac.uk/caren

This freely accessible resource meets the needs of ALL those across the globe who require any form of carer-related knowledge – be this research evidence, and/or information about practice and policy. It is for national and international use by governments, carers, employers, policy makers, practitioners, researchers, NGOs/third sector organisations and research funders. Not only does CAREN provide a reliable, regularly updated, independent, searchable and coherently organised database of information and evidence about carers, it also allows those accessing it to communicate and exchange knowledge.

Examples of CAREN's key roles are:

- the provision of information and evidence to support decision-making and cost-effectiveness in decision-making (e.g. by carers and social care and health care practitioners)
- the facilitation of informed exchanges between carers, social care workers, social workers and social work students in relation to innovative practice and effective assessments
- enabling discussions about co-designed services and commissioning decisions
- promoting evidence-based improvements in the quality and cost-effectiveness of both health and social care services and practice with carers through dissemination and facilitation of dialogues between carers, researchers, PhD students, research funders, policymakers and practitioners
- acting as a source of information about policy consultations and policy development for carers, government departments and NGOs/third sector organisations
- providing an efficient information platform about research funding opportunities for researchers and research funders
- acting as an 'international noticeboard' for promoting conferences and events of interest to CAREN's stakeholders
- helping researchers reduce duplication of effort, develop strong multi-stakeholder research teams acquire knowledge quickly about research activities, recruit for studies, post information about the progress of studies, explore new and innovative methods, discuss study findings, and make the most effective use of funding
- providing opportunities for University-based researchers to maximise the impact of their research.

CAREN is managed by an international team committed to maximising its potential to improve the lives of carers by contributing to the development of evidence-based, cost-effective and high-quality services and support for them.

For further information, contact Dr Mary Larkin,
The Open University: mary.larkin@open.ac.uk

