

Date: 6 June 2007

THANKING LEEDS CARERS IN NATIONAL CARERS' WEEK

The city of Leeds will say a big 'Thank You' to the thousands of Leeds people who devote their lives to caring for family members, friends and neighbours, throughout next week.

Celebrating National Carers' Week (11–18 June 2007), a series of 30 special treats has been organised across the city to give carers time off from caring duties and provide a little light relief from their day to day routine.

The week is being kicked off by the West Yorkshire Playhouse, which is inviting carers to attend a showing of the stage spectacle *Bollywood Jane*, free of charge, at the 7.30pm performances on 11 – 17 June. An entry coupon for this and some of the other activities is included in the Carers Week programme which has been sent to carers. Any carer who has not received one can obtain a copy by ringing 0113 224 3991.

Councillor Peter Harrand, Executive Board member for adults' social care, explains:

“There are about 70,000 carers in Leeds who devote themselves to giving the kind of care that professional care workers could never replace. The council supports carers in a number of ways, such as support for emergencies and special support for older and young carers. But we are also the first to recognise that without family carers, the quality of many older, ill or disabled people's lives would be much poorer.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

“Together with partners, we have organised a wide range of events lasting all week. They are intended to be entertaining as well as informative, and the accent is definitely on fun! For people who care for others, time off is precious and so, as a gesture of the city’s thanks, we want to make Carers’ Week as enjoyable as possible.”

Events planned for Carers’ Week consist of a variety of activities, including

- Trip to the William Wilberforce Museum, Hull
- Carers’ health checks at the NHS walk-in health centre, The Headrow
- Family history research days
- Advice sessions at the Carers’ Café
- Information stall at The Light in Leeds City Centre
- Guided tour of Kirkstall Abbey
- Recovery Through the Arts workshop at the Vale day centre, Hunslet
- Walk for Health in Leeds City centre
- Improve Your Digital Photography at Age Concern.

Councillor Richard Brett, Lead Executive Board Member for children’s services added:

“We also want to recognise the incredible work our young carers do in looking after ill or disabled parents or siblings. Often, they have to juggle caring with school or college, meaning that time off to socialise with other young people can be limited.

“That’s why we have planned some of the events, such as free swimming sessions and free use of the Internet, to be especially appealing to young carers.”

Events that are particularly aimed at young carers include

- ‘Be a Victorian’ day at Abbey House Museum: take part in activities in Victorian streets – in Victorian dress
- Launch of resource pack for young adult carers at West Yorkshire Playhouse
- Free swimming sessions at any Leeds City Council pool from 11 – 17 June

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- Free use of the Internet at West Yorkshire Playhouse from 11–15 June

Notes for editors

National Carers' Week is sponsored jointly by Leeds City Council, Carers Leeds, Age Concern, Barnardo's Yorkshire, Leeds Mental Health NHS Trust, Jobcentreplus, and the Leeds Primary Care Trust.

Tickets and the calendar providing carers with information on how to join in the events planned for National Carers' Week can be obtained from **Bridget Maguire 0113 224 3991**.

For media enquiries please contact:

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