

Annual Report

2025 2026





Message from the Chair

It is a real privilege to introduce this year's Annual Report and reflect on another year of dedicated work supporting unpaid carers in Northumberland.

The need for our services continues to grow, as more people find themselves balancing caring responsibilities alongside work, family life and their own wellbeing. Against this backdrop, Carers Northumberland remains committed to ensuring that carers feel heard, valued and supported, and that they can access the information, advice and practical support they need.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteer team for their dedication, compassion and hard work throughout the year. Their commitment to carers, often in challenging circumstances, makes a real and lasting difference to people's lives. I would also like to thank our partners, funders and supporters for their continued contribution.

Most importantly, I want to acknowledge the unpaid carers we work alongside - your resilience and commitment to those you care for is extraordinary.

As Chair, I continue to be humbled by the dedication of the people who care for loved ones every day, often quietly and without recognition.

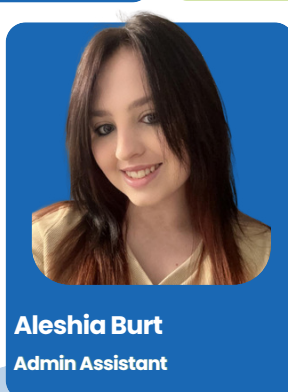
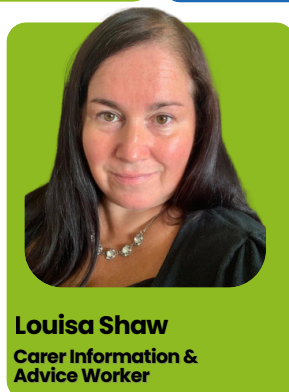
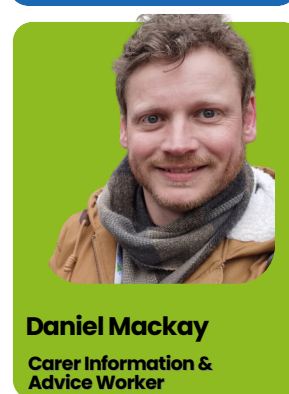
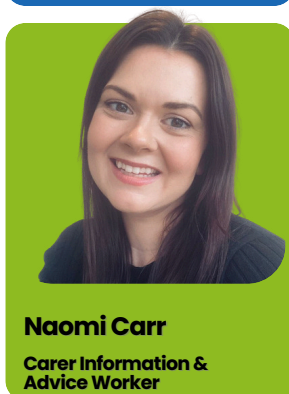
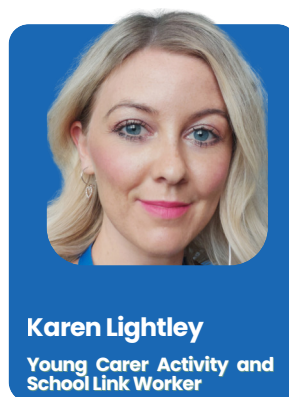
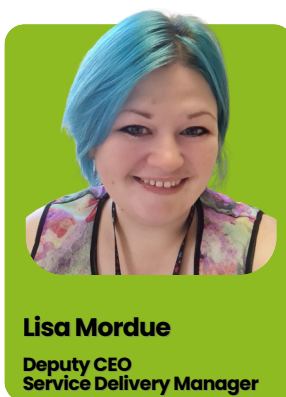
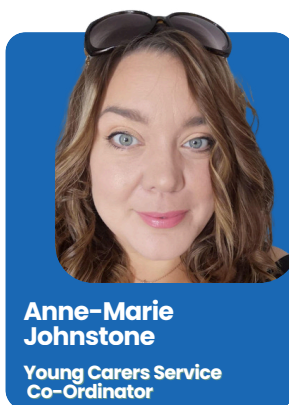
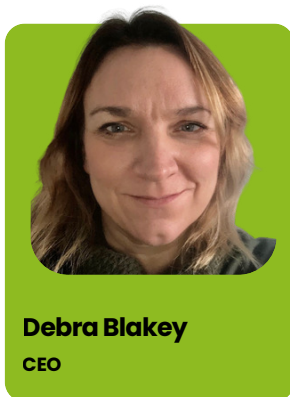
As demand continues to increase, Carers Northumberland remains focused on strengthening our services and ensuring that carers are not left to navigate their caring journey alone.



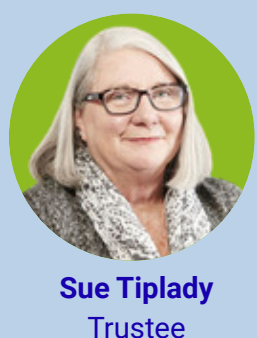
Julie Danskin

Chair of the board

Our Team



Trustees



Year in review

10225

Carers on our database

1380

Carers registered this year

3893

Carers supported this year

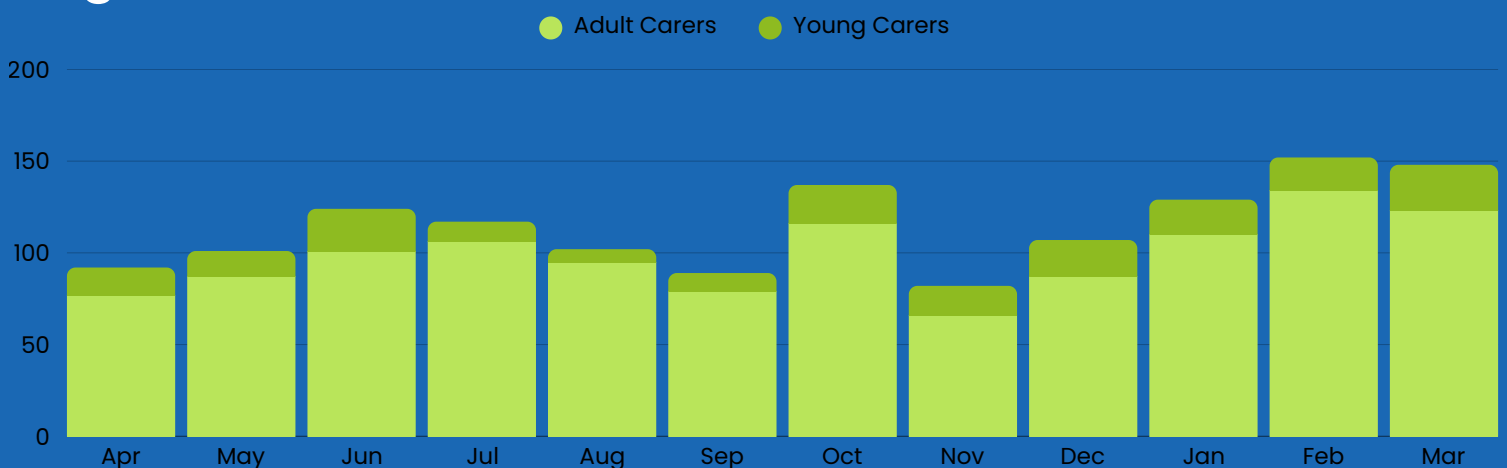
18649

Actions completed this year

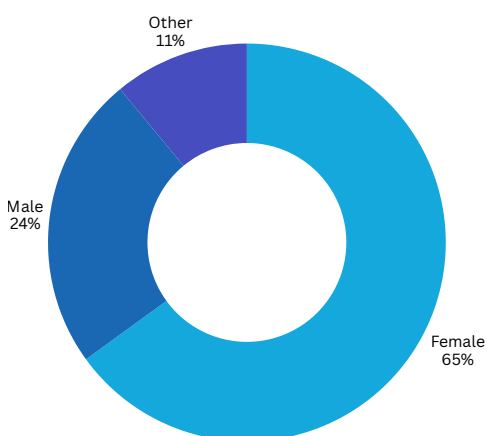


Carers Northumberland recorded 7780 enquiry codes in 2025/2026. 24% of these were linked to benefits and finance. Other common enquiry types are social services, carer support and leisure.

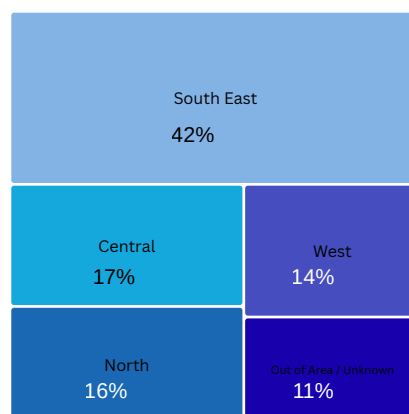
Registrations



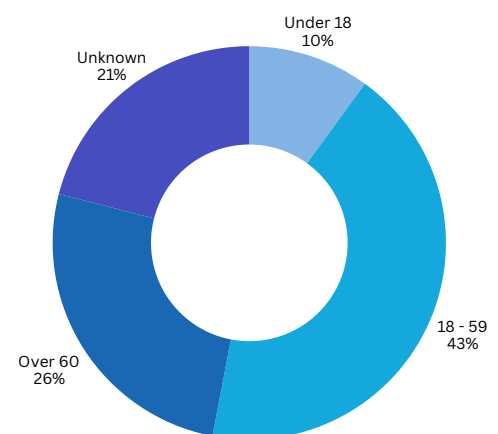
Demographics



GENDER



LOCATION



AGE

“

Hannah assisted me with an application for attendance allowance for my mum. She was very patient and supportive during this process. She was able to answer all my queries and made a rather daunting task easier. Thank you Hannah! Without Hannah's support I wouldn't have been aware of either of these being available to mum.

”

Financial Impact

Carers Northumberland have supported more carers than ever before to access benefits and grants in 2025 / 2026



Total benefit gains

£812,779.92

Total grants

£60,314.09

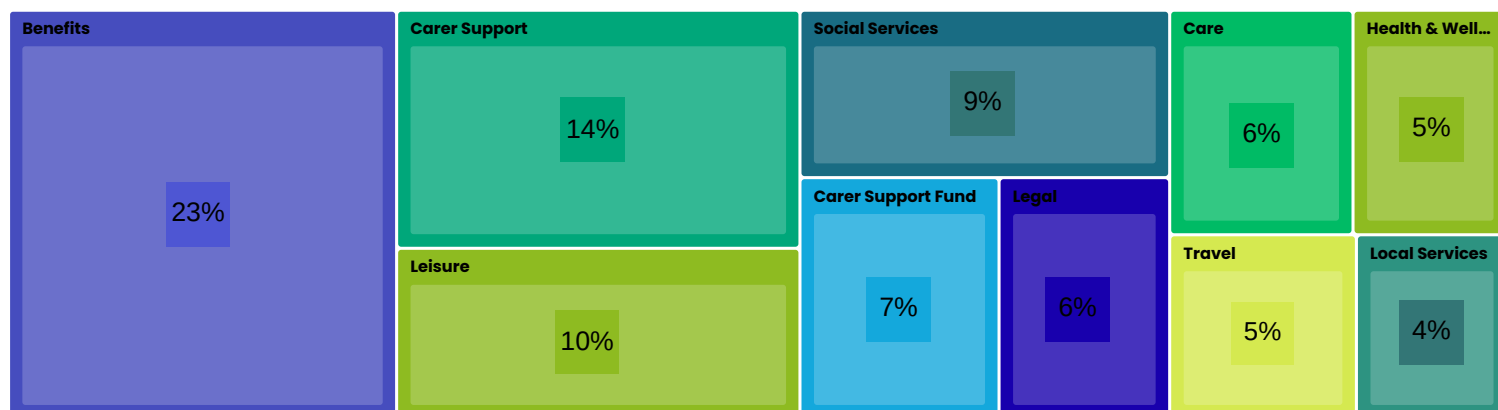
- We supported **185** people to claim a benefit this year
- Made **209** awards of Carer Support Fund
- Supported **37** people with Household Support Fund
- Helped **51** people to apply for other grants
- Completed **215** benefit checks
- Recorded **1149** benefit enquiry codes

“

I could not have filled in attendance allowance forms without your help, Louisa was very helpful, patient and very easy to talk to. The help we have had from Carers Northumberland has been exceptional since my husband's stroke. We cannot thank you all enough.

”

Enquiry Types



“Everything was well organised and the staff were really friendly
would highly recommend anyone to book a trip.”



Activities and Events

1493 people attended our activities, events and groups throughout the year. We have 9 regular carer groups across the county and have planned a wide range of day trips, meals, walks and other activities that carers have enjoyed.



Carers Week

In Carers Week 2025 we organised coach trips to Harrogate and Edinburgh, visited the Sunderland Air Museum and Seaton Delaval hall, enjoyed lunches and walks in locations across Northumberland.



Carers Rights Day

In November we celebrated Carers Rights Day, this year the theme was “Know your rights, use your rights”. We held an information marketplace event in Berwick at the Places Leisure sports centre.



“Just like to say you provide a brilliant service and its great you keep it affordable for those who struggle financial. Thank you so very much.”

Beamish Trip

In August we held our third annual Beamish trip, with 131 people attending.



“A very well organised trip with amazing value for money. Thank you for helping me have a proper day off xx”



103

Carers with
emergency care
plans



17

Carers have taken a break
with Carefree

Other Work

Fundraising

Over £6000 was raised this year through carer donations, community fundraisers and support from community groups and organisations. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Thank you so much for the free passes for Alnwick Gardens and Lilidorei. It was lovely to be able to treat my nephew and family. I couldn't have afforded it myself. We had a fabulous time. You've no idea how grateful I am for my free passes.

Carer Therapies

Blyth Rotary Club funded a pilot project that enabled us to work in partnership with Essential Beauty to deliver massages, facials and reflexology to 44 carers.

£19,584.50

Saved by carers using our
Alnwick Garden passes

Lasting Power of Attorney

This year we have spent over 200 hours supporting carers to make lasting power of attorney forms, 49 carers have received completed paperwork back this year.

Since my husband was diagnosed with dementia I have found Carers Northumberland to be so helpful and understanding. Louisa in particular has been a godsend in helping us with Attendance Allowance and Blue Badge Application. Nothing seemed to be a bother to her and never made me feel like a burden to her.

49

Successful Blue
Badge applications

Memory Groups

We continue to work alongside CNTW and Alzheimer's Society to deliver the post diagnostic dementia pathway, supporting 75 carers at memory groups this year.

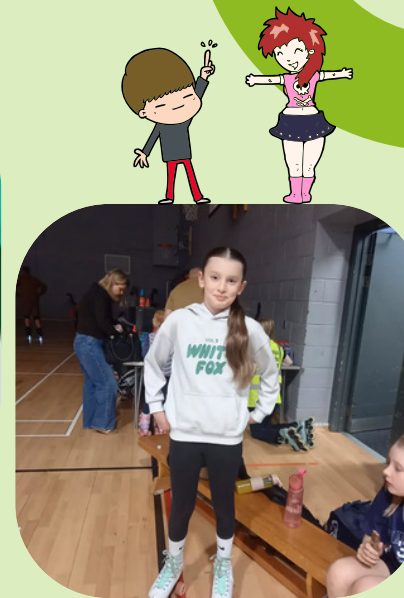
Young Carers

803

YOUNG
CARERS

200

NEW THIS
YEAR



Support for Young Carers

Support for young carers is a mixture of intensive one to one support for those young carers who are struggling with their caring role as well as opportunities for young carers to access other support, activities, events and trips.

My daughter has found so much self-confidence since being a member of young carers. She really enjoys her ambassador role and making a difference to her peers.

Young Carers Action Day

This year we had a family fun day in Blyth to celebrate young carer action day, there were lots of fun activities, arts and crafts, smoothie bikes, drumming and the gaming bus.

Other Work

We work in partnership with other North East young carer services to raise awareness, deliver projects and run activities.

I love the support from the staff and the different types of trips that I would never had experienced without young carers service.



Activities and Events

443

ATTENDED
ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year we have held a range of trips activities for young carers including; meals out, bowling, clip n climb, gymnastics, cooking workshops, day trips, residential, cinema trips and much more!



Schools



Carers Northumberland offer a schools toolkit to help them to identify and support young carers in education. Our schools programme offers young carer awareness training to all school staff, young carer themed assemblies, support with implementing a Young Carer Policy, and group work in schools.



"I am so pleased as I know what a difference you make to our young people."

7

**Gold
Awards Acheived**



3

**Silver
Awards Acheived**



32

**Bronze
Awards Acheived**

School Groups

This year there were 433 attendances at young carer groups and parent events in schools.

School Award

69 schools across Northumberland are taking part in the school offer this year.

"Thank you for this week. The assemblies have really helped us to identify a lot of potential young carers. Some have come forward that we had no idea were young carers."



13795

**Pupils have
attended a young
carer assembly**

Training

147

CARERS

+

496

PROFESSIONALS

147 carers and 496 professionals have accessed training from Carers Northumberland this year.

Our carer training has included in person and online sessions on topics such as lasting power of attorney, social care charging and wellbeing.

Professionals have taken part in carer awareness, young carer awareness, carer assessment training and info talks.



“

I found the session very insightful into the extensive range of services and support that Carers Northumberland provides. It is really reassuring to know it is readily available and I will be sure to keep it in mind for myself and for others I feel would benefit from it.

”



Feedback

As a result of the support received from Carers Northumberland

- 99% of carers agreed they know more about their rights as a carer now.
- 97% of carers agreed they feel more confident.
- 97% of carers agreed they feel more in control.
- 99% of carers agreed they feel less lonely/isolated.
- 100% of carers agreed they know where to go for advice and support.

“

We always know Carers Northumberland cares and as a carer this is such an important safety net. This organisation means more to us than you could imagine.

”

“

Without exception, all at carers northumberland were absolutely wonderful. So understanding and helpful - such lovely people. Always available to help and talk. You are all great!

”



5

4

How would you rate the overall service received	93	7
Rate your experience when dealing with staff	95	
How likely would you be to recommend us to others	96	
Did you feel listened to by the staff and/or volunteers	96	
Carers Northumberland understands me	93	7

Statement of Accounts

TOTAL
INCOMING
RESOURCES

£467,554

£463,018

TOTAL
EXPENDED
RESOURCES

Added to Reserves - £4,536

To our supporters and funders, Thank you

Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland, our Patron
Northumberland County Council Adult and Children's Services
NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
North East Combined Authority
David and Paula George
Community Foundation North East – Nadara Sisters and High Steads Wind Farm
Community Foundation North East – Rose Joicey Fund
Carers Trust
Blyth Rotary Club
Ponteland Methodist Church
Hays Travel Morpeth
Blyth Ladies Golf Club
St Aidan's Church
The Amble Inn
Victoria Craig
Ray Carmody
Players of the Northumberland Lottery and all our individual donors, fundraisers, and supporters.



Going forward

2025-26 has been another busy year for Carers Northumberland, and we have seen growth across nearly all of the services we offer. Our registrations, contacts, actions, and attendances have all increased this year. We have continued to fund (via our reserves) additional capacity in the Information and Advice Team which has enabled us to manage the increased demand on our service. This has enabled us to continue our form filling, benefit advice, and our Lasting Power of Attorney work. We are working hard to source additional funding to enable us to continue this work and introduce new elements to our information and advice offer.

Our partnership work has also increased. We are part of the Northumberland Carers Partnership Board which has produced the Northumberland Commitment to Carers Strategy – working with local partners to improve the lives of unpaid carers in the county. We have also been collaborated with other carers organisations across the region on initiatives to support young carers in schools, supporting carers into employment and working with local employers to help them recognise and support their employees with caring responsibilities. We aim to build on this work into the next year and beyond.

As always, our thanks go to our funders, our dedicated Trustee Board, staff team and volunteers for ensuring the ongoing success of Carers Northumberland.

Debra Blakey

Chief Executive



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