

Day Respite Services – Manevi Destek Servisi

Bilingual carers Outreach Officer: Turgay Ertim

There are many Turkish – speaking carers within our community who look after their mother, father or disabled child at home, like many other carers, are both physically and mentally exhausted. However, these people find themselves in isolation, due to the very fact that they are not under their native country of origin where family support is extensive. Lack of family support, combined with the fact that language is a barrier to many, places these people in a very disadvantaged situation in terms of accessing services. Known to us are at least 50 elderly and disabled who are also 40 – 50 elderly (who meet in ETCA’s Luncheon Club) who have carers. There are also those who are receiving services from other voluntary organisations.

The aim of this proposal is to provide support to Turkish –speaking carers by means of an outreach services. The service will provide;

- Sitting or respite care, including evenings and weekends, or as and when required, by volunteers, as befriending the carer.
- Empowerment of the carer by the outreach officer.

The service provided by the volunteer Turkish – speaking carers has been running in Enfield area for six months and providing the respite service to those people who want to benefit from the service. Each day, each member of the service of a team, contributing their best efforts into making the service to run successfully for the benefit of Turkish Community’s users in Enfield area. Information leaflets and posters in Turkish and English are distributed to local libraries, Social Services and some GP surgeries. Also information about respite service are advertised in the local weekly newspapers (ie: Toplum Postasi, Olay, Kibris Gazetesi) which are the most known newspapers to Turkish Community. Consequently, the Turkish speaking community is now aware of services available. Everybody in the team believes that the project is developing fast and the service will be more successful by working together and completing of a simple confidential questionnaire at the end of each visit on users by volunteers which will help the evaluation of the project, and also to find out the missing parts of the service.