Who’s Who at the Carers’ Centre

Senior Management Team

**Sonia Hutchison**
Chief Executive Officer
I joined the Carers’ Centre in 2009 and was formerly the Young Carers’ Manager in Bath and North East Somerset.

I’ve looked after my mother since I left care at 18. My passion for caring is both from my professional and personal experiences, and I am driven to improve carers’ lives whilst making sure the Centre has a positive impact on as many carers as possible. My role is to make sure we are able to meet this aim; I enjoy seeing the Carers’ Centre going from strength to strength as we gain funding and an excellent reputation for everyone’s hard work.

**David Trumper**
Deputy Chief Executive
After 12 years’ working for a wide range of local and national charities, I came to work for the Carers’ Centre in 2011. I grew up watching my mother juggle caring for my elderly grandparents whilst working part-time and being mum to three children. She struggled to find her own identity once her caring role ended. Working for the Carers’ Centre gives me a real appreciation of what carers do for others each and every day.

**Janine Woodward-Grant**
Senior Development Manager
I joined the Carers’ Centre in March 2014. With a background in social enterprise and business development, I was keen to employ the skills I have to help people in my local community. At the Carers’ Centre I can do exactly this, working alongside the team to strengthen and develop the work that we do. I want everyone in Bath and North East Somerset to be aware of the valuable role carers play in our community, and ensure that they gain the support they need and deserve.

Business Support Team

**Maxine Denham**
Senior Business Support Officer
I started working at the Carers’ Centre in 2014 and my role is to enable the front line team to help and support carers better. My work ensures the smooth running of the administration and support services used by the Centre, as well as the day-to-day running of the buildings in Bath and Radstock. I’ve worked with and for carers in the past, and am delighted to be back helping carers in such a rewarding environment.
Gill Evans
Business Support Co-ordinator – NE
Somerset Carers’ Centre
I’ve worked for the Carers’ Centre since 1998. I have always loved the fact that there was a service available for the carer rather than the cared for and that there was an organisation that recognised the value of carers and supported them. I have seen the Centre grow from strength to strength and raise awareness of carers throughout Bath and North East Somerset.

Andy Graham
Volunteer Co-ordinator
I have been working at the Carers’ Centre since 2013. I’m responsible for recruiting and supervising the Centre’s many volunteers. They help provide a variety of services including befriending, driving and telephone support. It’s very powerful to see how carers value our service, and I’m delighted to see how often our volunteering opportunities can lead to paid employment.

Lydia Clark
Senior Carers’ Support Officer
I have been working for the Carers’ Centre since 2010 and have met with many carers in a wide range of caring situations. The tireless care and support given by many carers to their loved ones has humbled, inspired and motivated me to ensure that carers know their rights and are treated with respect. It is a pleasure to support people who are so often under-valued for their contribution to society.

Michelle Jenner
Carers’ Support Officer
Since 2012 when I joined the Carers’ Centre, I’ve supported carers by providing information on local services, making referrals to other organisations and assisting them to access breaks. I meet many carers who don’t think they are doing anything extraordinary but I am humbled and grateful to them for sharing their experiences with me. I get a buzz out of acknowledging the difference carers make and supporting them in whatever way I can.

Lorraine Frapwell
Carers’ Support Officer
I have worked at the Carers’ Centre since 2011. I have arthritis of the spine resulting in my becoming disabled over the last few years. My wonderful husband is my carer and I am acutely aware of the emotional impact of being cared for. I hope this gives me insight into supporting carers and their family and friends.

Jo Grobler
Carers’ Support Officer
Having worked with a variety of carers since I joined the Carers’ Centre in 2009, I can see the huge need for services to support their well-being, as caring can take its toll on people’s health in many ways. I feel proud to work for the Centre as it is dedicated to ensuring carers needs are continuously addressed. We have a fantastic team who all feel strongly about carers’ issues.

Carer Support Team
Ian Dagger
Telephone Support Co-ordinator
I work on the Telephone Support Team that has been part of the Carers’ Centre since 2011. Volunteers run this service, and we all get a real lift from providing carers with information and advice that makes their caring role just a little easier. We also make calls to carers to advise them of the services available from the Centre, and arrange for Carers’ Support Officers to carry out a detailed review of their caring situation.

Emma Beadle
Telecare Hub Project Worker
I started working for the Carers’ Centre in 2013. I enjoy finding out about products that have helped people with caring at home, and talking them through the possibilities of trying some of the technology that is available. People are often surprised at how adaptable telecare is to their lives and how they can make it work well for them.

Young Carers’ Team

Roy Maguire
Senior Young Carers’ Officer
I really enjoy my job working with young carers at the Carers’ Centre. When I was growing up it was just me and my mum - she was ill a lot of the time and I had to care for her on my own from when I was about 10 years old. For the last 30 years I have done all kinds of voluntary and paid work for children and young people in big cities, schools and in even in prisons. I started this role in 2013 and am now getting to know young carers and building new friendships.

Alice Miller
Young Carers’ Officer
I work with young carers aged between 14 and 25. I help to support young people in their caring roles, making sure they have the same access to education, employment and fun that other people their age do. I’ve been working with the Young Carers’ Service since 2012 and I love getting to know young people and putting together exciting projects and activities that I know they will enjoy!

Steve Newman
Young Carers’ Officer
I started at the Carers’ Centre in March 2014. I have volunteered and worked with young carers’ services all across the region - helping out and running projects. Young carers mean a lot to me as it’s where I started out: I have cared for my mum all of my life. I am extremely glad to be working for the Carers’ Centre and help make an even better service - with learning and experiences that will stay with young carers forever.
Carers’ Breaks Team

**Sarah Dixon**  
Senior Carers’ Breaks Officer  
I joined the Carers’ Centre in April 2012. My role is to produce the Give Us A Break programme through listening to what breaks carers want. I enjoy working with breaks’ providers and volunteers and supporting carers to overcome barriers and take time out from their caring role. I find it rewarding to listen to carers about how Give Us A Break has made a positive difference to their lives - whether it’s through enjoying a new hobby, feeling healthier and fitter or learning a new skill and finding work.

**Mike Tichelar**  
Counselling Co-ordinator  
I joined the Carers’ Centre in 2013 to set up a new counselling service for young and adult carers. My job involves recruiting, training and supporting a team of volunteer counsellors. I also assess carers for counselling, maintain the waiting list and organise appointments. I really enjoy meeting carers to talk about counselling and seeing the positive difference it can make to their lives.

Carers’ Engagement Team

**Tom Fox-Proverbs**  
Senior Carers’ Engagement Officer  
My role for the Carers’ Centre has changed since I joined as a Carers’ Support Officer in 2011 - I now work with health agencies and other organisations to help them understand what carers are and how the Centre can help them. This means more carers can be identified and referred for help, using simple, clear pathways. The Carers’ Centre makes a positive difference to carers’ lives.

**Neil Drinkwater**  
Carers’ Engagement Officer  
I’ve been working at the Carers’ Centre since 2009 and started out working with local GP surgeries to improve services for carers. I now work in the Royal United Hospital in Bath, which I enjoy immensely. The best part of my job is being part of medical teams on the ward and hearing how carers are being involved and recognised for the amazing work they do.
Community Activators

The Big Lottery has awarded funding to the Carers’ Centre to deliver a range of services improving the health and well-being of carers. Community Activators Jane Harvey and Kath Hooper, from the Council’s Sport and Active Lifestyles Team, offer health checks and one to one support for carers to increase physical activity. They also give advice about taking time out from caring through the Carers’ Centre Give Us A Break programme and personal break opportunities.

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The Carers’ Centre is an independent charity working in partnership with: