

All about being a member of the Carers Trust Readers Panel

What is the Carers Trust Readers Panel?

The Carers Trust Readers Panel is a group of carers/former carers aged 18 and over to read and comment on our fundraising magazine [We Care](#). We Care magazine is an important way of encouraging people to support Carers Trust and goes out to over 17,000 people, either by email or by post. Carers from across the UK are involved with the panel but it is not intended to be representative of all carers' views.

What is the aim of the Readers Panel?

To involve carers with this important aspect of our fundraising work so that we can ensure that carers and their roles are represented appropriately in the magazine. We Care helps us build a long-term relationship with people who support carers financially and in other ways.

Will I be paid?

No. This is a voluntary role.

What do I need to be a member of the Readers Panel?

You'll need to be interested in how carers are represented in our printed materials and to want to help us put this across to people. You will also need access to the internet and to have an email address to become a member of the Readers Panel as all correspondence/feedback will be by email/internet.

What does being a panel member involve?

We Care magazine comes out three times a year. We'll send you a draft copy of the magazine by email in advance of publication along with a link to an online questionnaire about the magazine. We'll ask you to read the magazine and to then comment on it from your point of view as a carer, using the questionnaire. We'll give you about a week to do that. We want you to tell us whether we are getting the tone right, a range of caring situations are represented and we provide a balanced view of carers' lives. We might also ask you to comment on specific stories.

Being a member of the Readers Panel will give you the chance to influence our magazine. It might also give you some experience that you can put on your CV.

What will you do with my feedback?

We Care magazine is planned by an Editorial Board of Carers Trust staff and your expert feedback will help them decide what to put in the magazine. However, we will not necessarily take on board everything you've commented on, as there may be times when we feel it is important to write a story the way we have done and to not

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make any changes. The We Care Editorial Board ultimately decides what gets published in the magazine.

Will I be able to share what you send with other people?

By joining the We Care Readers Panel you will be expected to keep what we send you confidential and to not share it with friends or family. This is because We Care magazine goes through several stages before it is published and we don't want the wrong version to start circulating as this could damage our reputation and ultimately the work we do to support carers.

Would you be interested in my story as a carer?

We are often looking for case studies that we can feature in a range of our materials, including We Care magazine. If you would be interested in sharing your experience of caring please let us know.

Will I be expected to sign anything?

No, but we will ask you to provide some information about yourself. We also ask that you are:

- Committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults and children.
- Volunteer at all times within the philosophy and policies of Carers Trust.
- Respect the personal choice and lifestyles of colleagues, carers, and people with care needs, ensuring that equal opportunity principles are applied at all times.

What if I decide it's not for me?

It's fine to leave the Readers Panel at any time, or to have a pause and to rejoin it a later date.

What if you decide I'm not for you?

Very occasionally, we may need to ask someone to leave the Readers Panel, for example if they've broken our equal opportunities policy.

I'm interested, what do I do now?

Send an email to editorial@carers.org and tell us:

- Your name
- Age
- Gender
- Postal address
- Email address
- Why you're interested in joining the Readers Panel as a carer or former carer.

What happens next?

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Once you've told us a bit more about yourself we'll get back in touch and let you know the dates you can expect your first copy of We Care magazine to comment on.

Will there be any formal acknowledgements of my role?

With your permission, and if we have room, we are hoping to thank everyone by name in each edition of We Care magazine that they comment on. We will also send you a copy of each edition you comment on, in the post.

Who is my main contact for the panel?

The Editorial Manager
Carers Trust
32-36 Loman Street
London SE1 0EH

Email: editorial@carers.org

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