

Thank you for getting back in touch, yes I would be delighted for you to publish the e-mail. You will note in my original e-mail that I made reference to a new Library and Information Service that we were in the process of setting up at Burnley Library for carers. The service is called 'Catch a Carer' and we have just received news that we have been allocated funding from Social Services.

All the front line library staff have now taken part in 'Carer Awareness training', library staff are on the 'coal face' of public enquiry and therefore crucial to the success of any project-hence the training, there is an article in this week's Community Care Magazine about 'Catch a Carer'.

A lot of carers came in to see us last week during National Carers Week and we were able to promote access to important information via our 'Carers IT Folder' resource on the internet, which is free of course. Also, as a result of the Carer Training, library staff were given opportunities to become much more informed about carer issues and the barriers that carers can face; as a result staff were able to signpost carers to key local carer organisations within our community. By the way, the web page/comments made by Tony Blair is in our Carers IT Folder about the governments new Carers Strategy because we felt it was vital to promote this information to help make it more accessible to carers. We have also promoted the value of libraries and the resources we have to offer which may be of benefit to carers. After our official launch in September, we will disseminate the project across East Lancashire Libraries and Information Service. 'Catch a Carer' is a partnership initiative by the way, with Carers Contact, Social Services and Welfare Rights.

I thought I'd let you know because I think this links in with 'Improving Life Chances for Disabled People' and some of the comments made in the report about supporting carers?

Many thanks,
Carole