

This is what Bolton carers told us through the Carers Survey in Bolton 2023-24*

32.6% of carers feel that they have as much social contact as they want with people that they like (England 30.0%) which has seen an increase.

Over a third of carers in Bolton spend 100 or more hours per week looking after or helping the person they care for. This has seen a decrease over the last few years.

25.6% of carers have had support from carers groups or someone to talk to in confidence to help them as a carer over the last 12 months (England 32.4%). This has seen a reduction over the last few years.

53.6% found it very easy or fairly easy to find information and advice about support, services or benefits (England 59.0%). This has seen a decrease over the last few years.

Over half of carers reported their caring role had not caused any financial difficulties over the last 12 months (Bolton 51.9% and England 53.4%). The percentage of carers that reported their caring role had caused them a lot of financial difficulties increased (Bolton 11.5% and England 10.0%).

17.9% of carers feel that they have no control over their daily life (England 15.1%), which has seen a slight increase.

38.8% felt they were very or extremely satisfied with the support or services they received (England 36.7%) . This compares to 5.1% (England 8.0%) that were very or extremely dissatisfied.

79.2% of carers have no worries about their personal safety (England 81.0%). 1.2% (England 1.9%) stated that they are extremely worried about their personal safety.

83.7% found the information and advice very helpful or quite helpful (England 85.2%).

49.0% of carers felt they can look after themselves (England 46.7%) . When thinking about how much time a carer has to look after themselves, **17.5% of carers felt they are neglecting themselves** (England 20.2%) .

35.7% of carers have been looking after or helping the person for 20 years or more (England 24.8%).

36.0% of carers have used information and advice to help them as a carer over the last 12 months (England 52.8%) . This has seen a reduction over the last few years.

A summary of comments made by carers on this year's survey

Financial concerns

Paying for care, funding amounts; not understanding how pay and financial allowances work

Needing better support for carers

Impact of carers health; caring/life balance for carer; support from employers; feeling valued; consideration when arranging appointments

Breaks for carers

Availability of appropriate breaks and respite including day activities

Communication

Making information more readily available; face to face support; named link worker; services sharing information, so story only needs to be told once.

Support for the person they care for

Consistency of support; availability of specialist care and equipment; arranging support around carers needs; timescales for arranging additional support; transition from children's services to adult services; interventions from social workers.

Happy with the support received

Friendly staff; Grateful for the support received; Good care provided

* NB Feedback from carers who have accessed support through Bolton Council in the last 12 months