



Gov't care reform talk is a 'step in the right direction'

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Overhaul of carers' rights and benefits is long overdue, according to CBK

Calls to pay carers up to £110 a week for looking after sick and elderly relatives are a step in the right direction, according to an adviser.

Peter Chadborn, principal of Essex-based CBK, said MPs' calls that the benefits system is outdated and needs to be radically overhauled were "long overdue".

Mr Chadborn said: "I was with a prospective client only this week trying to give her advice, as she cares for her elderly mother who lives with her. She is really struggling financially and it makes my job very hard as the money she is spending on looking after her mum she cannot use to save for the future.

"These demands are long overdue, but they are definitely a step in the right direction."

There are almost 6m carers in the UK who are believed to save the taxpayer £87bn a year. However, experts think many more people taking on such roles do not see themselves as carers but accept their role as simply a normal way of life.

These people could suffer hardship by reducing their work hours, giving up work and missing out on pensions contributions.

Support group Carers UK claims the problem is so bad that almost three-quarters of carers lose an average £11,000 a year.

Mr Chadborn said: "I do not think it is apathy, just that people might not know how to go about getting the information and benefits they need.

"Plus there is a Catch 22 situation, as people who need a financial adviser cannot afford one.

"As well as more financial support, they also need more guidance."

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