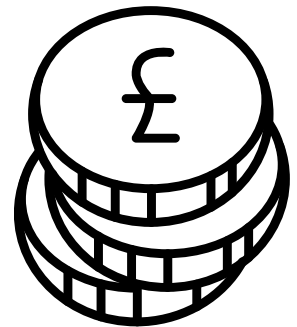


ONLINE FAMILY CARER COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY'S MEETING

- **Financial** - assessments and disability-related expenses
- **Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)** - The differences between health and welfare, and property and financial LPAs were explored
- **End-of-life planning** - The importance of planning ahead and having clear arrangements in place was discussed
- **Property purchase and trusts** - Sharing the experience of purchasing a flat/ home for a loved one and placing it in Trust
- **Trust registration with HMRC** - It was shared that trusts must be registered with HMRC and that failure to do so can result in penalties
- **Individual Service Funds and Direct Payments** - The group discussed the newly trialled Individual Service Funds in BCP compared with the Direct Payments system. Feedback suggested a reduction in stress for carers using the new system, alongside greater flexibility and a more person-centred approach
- **Capacity** - Capacity was explored from a range of perspectives. Frustrations were expressed regarding current approaches to assessing capacity, particularly where capacity fluctuates, and the impact this can have on care provision, funding and ongoing support.



ONLINE FAMILY CARER COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY'S MEETING

- **Measuring outcomes and sustaining independence** – Focused on how success is measured in care provision. It was noted that increasing independence often relies on consistent, ongoing support
- **Consistency of care and the role of carers** – The importance of finding the right support and care provider was emphasised. Carers play a vital role, and consistency in care was viewed as crucial to positive outcomes
- **Concerns regarding care provision and safeguarding** – Significant discussion centred on recent news reports of abuse and reductions in care following assessments conducted without appropriate support for vulnerable individuals. Concerns were also raised about reports of some providers restricting family access where relatives challenge care arrangements or advocate on behalf of their loved one, leading to fear of raising concerns and uncertainty around legal rights
- **Impact on family carers** – The emotional and well being impact on family carers was discussed, particularly in relation to navigating systems, raising concerns, and advocating for appropriate care.

