**Contact your local council in England about the Support MND Carers campaign**

Please see below for suggested wording that you can use to email your local councillors. Please add your own experience, it may make them more likely to reply. If you get a response, please forward it to [campaigns@mndassociation.org](mailto:campaigns@mndassociation.org).

You can find your local councillors by following [this link](https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-councillors).

Dear X,

As my local councillor, I’m asking you to support people caring for those with motor neurone disease (MND) in our area.

As you may know, MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. MND leaves people locked in a failing body, unable to move, talk and eventually breathe. Six people a day die from MND in the UK.

Caring for somebody with a complex and progressive disease like MND is an enormous responsibility which impacts carers in multiple ways. It is often family who take on the bulk of caring responsibilities.

Research conducted by the MND Association found MND carers are physically and mentally exhausted, unable to access breaks and impacted financially. Many are also juggling caring with work and additional parental responsibilities.

MND carers also felt unable to leave their loved one with MND for prolonged periods of time, if at all, due to the lack of access to proficient care staff trained to deal with complex care needs associated with MND. For example, people making use of equipment such as assisted ventilation or suction machines for saliva control require care staff who are trained in the use of such equipment.

You can read the report in full here: <https://www.mndassociation.org/support-mnd-carers/>.

As you know, carer's assessments are the responsibility of local authorities in England. They can provide much needed support and they are a statutory right.

If you could share the report with the cabinet member with responsibility in this area and urge them to review processes locally to make sure unpaid carers of people with MND are made aware of their right to assessments.

I would also like to know:

* What steps are taken locally to ensure that carers are identified and their support needs are assessed?
* For example, do you work with local NHS bodies to ensure carers are identified and referred for a carer’s assessment?
* Do you have an estimate of the proportion of carers in our local authority area who have been offered/received a carer’s assessment?

I would appreciate it if you could show your support for people living with MND, and especially their carers and families living in our constituency.

Yours sincerely,

**X**