



Sheffield hospitals give unpaid carers valuable discounts

Unpaid carers' visits to hospitals will be made that bit easier with a 15% discount across Sheffield Teaching Hospital Trust-operated retail outlets, coffee shops and canteens.

Since 2018, thousands of people who look after a loved one due to a disability or illness have been able to get discounts from local businesses through Sheffield Carers Centre's *Carer Card*. This decision by the NHS Trust to accept the *Card* in outlets in the Royal Hallamshire, Jessop Wing, Weston Park and Northern General Hospital, is a very welcome addition to the offers available to unpaid carers. [Click here for details of the discounts at Sheffield Teaching Hospital sites.](#)

Kirsten Major, Chief Executive at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Carers provide invaluable support, and we are pleased to be able to offer this discount as a small recognition of all that they do."

Carers will often accompany patients with temporary or chronic medical conditions to hospitals across the city, spending many hours with the person they care for, attending appointments or unplanned admissions.

Pauline Kimantas, Chief Executive of Sheffield Carers Centre said "The *Carer Card* is about giving something back to unpaid carers, without whom the health and social care system would collapse. We and the carers we support are really grateful for Sheffield Teaching Hospital Trust for their support of carers alongside the people they care for."

In addition to the many scheduled hospital visits carers attend every year, over a third of carers (37%) say that the person they care for was admitted to hospital in an emergency over the previous 12 months^[1]. Many carers who are also juggling paid employment have to take unpaid leave from work to go to hospital for appointments with the person they look after.

Making these visits more affordable by giving discounts on food, drink and other purchases will reduce stress and the financial impact of hospital visits, making a real difference to the carers' experience.

Coffee outlets, AMT and Starbucks already offer a discount at their Royal Hallamshire and Northern General Hospital stores for holders of the *Carer Card*.

[1] *State of Caring*
2019

http://www.carersuk.org/images/News_campaigns/CUK_State_of_Caring_2019_Report.pdf