**Exploring and maximising the potential for care technology to support the needs of carers**

**Background**

Essex County Council (ECC) is conducting work to further enable, empower and transform the lives of carers across the county.

According the Office of National Statistics (ONS) 14% of carers in Essex are in poor health and continue to provide over 50 hours of support and care a week. Recent research commissioned by ECC identified several suggestions from carers, on how they can be better supported by the council in their caring duties. This included, getting carers the right support when they require it, better access to a directory of local services and more training and education on those they are supporting and caring for.

ECC envisages the roll out of a new care technology service from mid-2020 to support people with caring responsibilities. In our preparations for this, we are also keen to **expand our understanding and ambitions around the role that care technology can play in supporting the needs of carers and their loved ones**. To help us do this, we have commissioned PA Consulting to gather the views of carers across Essex - and this is where we would like your help.

**How we would like you to help**

We are seeking carers’ views through this survey and face-to-face focus groups. We would like you to support these activities by:

1. **Completing the survey** – the survey will take around 10 minutes to complete, you can also request the survey in alternative formats.
2. **Joining one of our focus groups.** We are delivering focus groups on 10 October in Epping Forest and 21 October in Maldon. Each focus group is around 90minutes, further details can be requested by emailing Emily Wojcik at Emily.Wojcik@essex.gov.uk.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Emily Wojcik at Emily.Wojcik@essex.gov.uk.