

March 2022

Dear valued group member,

In November 2019, we introduced a small charge of £5 for attendance at our Caring Together groups. I'm writing to you now to let you that as **from 1 May this charge will be increasing to £6 per session.**

It costs Age Exchange £20 per person, per session to run these groups. We apply for grants from various charitable trusts every year to be able to continue our services and it's really helpful when we make these applications to say that there is a small contribution from users. I hope you would agree that what you gain from attending the groups is more than worth the charge.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that:

- when you first join a group the first 3 sessions are free
- the charge is for the cared-for person – carers go free
- you can pay by the session, or by a monthly standing order of £18 per month. This is a discount of 20% on the sessional rate, which means in a year paying for 36 sessions instead of 46.
- we have a hardship fund for those who can't afford to pay. Please speak to Aga or Lydia in confidence.

Paying by standing order means you don't have to think about the money each week. We have held the monthly amount the same, as we recognise from experience that when people are not able to attend all the sessions, they may feel it's not worth taking out the standing order. However, it does make administration simpler for us so I would encourage you to consider it.

If you have any questions about the increase please speak to Aga, Lydia or myself.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raj Kapoor'.

Raj Kapoor
CEO, Age Exchange