Background:
ELFT recognises through its Trust wide Carers Strategy (31/1/13) that:

“Carers play a very valuable role in supporting someone throughout an illness and on their journey to recovery. They provide a range of emotional and practical forms of support which can help others to live more fulfilling and independent lives. Caring for someone can also present many challenges including their physical, mental health and overall wellbeing, finances and the ability to work.

Carers who are well supported by professionals in terms of high quality advice, information and guidance can be instrumental in enhancing health interventions and treatment provided to the patient.”

Carers Week Partnership Report (2012) surveyed over 2100 family carers of patients with Cancer, MS and Parkinson’s and found that:

- 75% were not prepared for caring role
- 81% were not prepared for emotional impact
- 61% suffered depression
- 81% not aware of support available.

Main Recommendations from report were to:
- Increase Access to good quality practical and emotional support
- Ensure professionals share information and decision making processes with carers and patient.

Project Aim
To improve emotional, physical and practical support for informal carers in order to provide safe, effective, patient-centred care

Next Steps:
- Trial Carers Assessment Tool with Cazaubon Ward to gather feedback and develop final version of tool
- Work with EPCT staff to develop pilot work and design PDSA cycles

Lesson Learned:
Collaboration with the Pressure Ulcer Project has helped to highlight to managers and staff the crucial role informal carers play in prevention of pressure sores, and carrying out other health related care tasks.