

Jim and Barack

Jim who is 45 years old cares for his partner Barack, who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease six months ago. Jim juggles his caring role with running his own graphic design business from home. Barack's condition has deteriorated significantly over the last few weeks. In particular his mobility has become seriously affected and Jim is now giving regular help with his personal care needs.

Jim feels near to breaking point. His business is suffering and he has recently lost several business clients as he has not been able to meet required deadlines. As a result he is struggling financially and he is worried that they will soon default on the mortgage on their flat. They have not paid their most recent electricity bill and have now received a threatening letter from the electricity company.

Jim has put on weight which is affecting his overall energy levels and self esteem and he has had little or no time to pursue his interest in photography. Since Jim and Barack have been together, they have also had little or no contact from their families, and both are now feeling very isolated.

1. What sort of outcomes might Jim wish to achieve as the carer?
2. How might you enable him to identify the outcomes that are right for him?
3. What sort of solutions might make life better for both Barack and Jim?
4. What services and support are available locally to assist in reaching those solutions?
5. How would you ensure the services and support identified are meeting Jim's identified outcomes?

