

A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE FROM A MOTHER OF AN OLDER CHILD

- **Background.**
Erin is an 18 year old woman who was first diagnosed with Rett Syndrome at the age of five. She is the youngest child in a family of four children. Erin's parents, Alan and Julie, have moved on from the shock of the Rett diagnosis, have reached the acceptance stage, and are now moving into retirement with Erin.
- **Insight into a different world.**
Carers often lead hidden lives. Their role as carer often leads them to become isolated within their community and within their own families. Carers and their families are in need of care.
- **What can the community do to help?**
There are many ways in which the community and health professionals can assist carers.
- **What next?**
Erin will exit school in three weeks. The ability of the family to cope is dependent on the support services it is able to access.