

- Maria Tomlinson

Self Employed Carer Coach Founder of the Professional Carers Network

How Care Patterns Effect Work Flow

It is often the case that more work will come your way during the Winter months. Summer months tend to be quieter.

In Winter people often get sick, which means their care needs increase which can lead to families looking for extra help.

And the families who are helping out at the minute, may find winter a struggle, with the colder and wetter weather, less day light hours and getting sick themselves. So this can mean that family and friends/helpers, will likely look for additional help during the colder seasons.

Winter Can Be A High Turnover Time

It is also worth noting that you may loose jobs during the winter as people are more likely to become ill and end up in hospital and/or passing away. So your work can become a bit more variable.

In Summer, everything is normally just that bit easier for people. It's warm, you don't get sick as often, people tend to smile more, life seems that bit more doable. So you will still get enquiries for work, but the enquiries will slow down and not be as frequent.

Take On More Work Over Winter

It is for this reason that we take on additional work during the winter with the assumed knowledge that some jobs will no longer be jobs by the time summer comes.

We then aim to be quieter over the summer which allows for us to have more time off and enjoy the sunshine a bit more!

Then we pick up more work as the colder weather starts to come back.

This care pattern works well for us and works with the care demand.

Ain For A Smaller Work Load Over Summer

So when planning time off, it is wise to plan time off in advance and know that you will likely have a smaller workload in Summer, so it is easier to organise having a break yourself.

We spend the months leading up to summer not picking up any extra work once jobs go, so that we can provide cover for each other over the holiday period, without having to juggle too many clients.

This not only helps with us having time off, but it also provides some days for child care for when the children are off over the Summer holidays too.