

Implementing the Care Act 2014 duties for carers

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We give expert advice,
information and support.



We connect carers so
no-one has to care alone.



We campaign together
for lasting change.



We innovate to find
new ways to reach carers.

Caring in 2015

- 1 in 8 adults (around 6.5 million people) are carers
 - Caring is on the rise – increase of 11% and those doing most caring
 - Every day another 6,000 people take on a caring responsibility – that equals over 2 million people each year.
- Carers save the economy £119 billion per year, an average of £18,473 per carer
- Over 3 million people juggle care with work, however the significant demands of caring mean that 1 in 5 carers are forced to give up work altogether.
- People providing high levels of care are twice as likely to be permanently sick or disabled

Care Act – Assessment & Eligibility

- New rights to assessments and less likely to be providing regular and substantial care
- Eligibility criteria in law for the first time, for carers
- New powers for local authorities to delegate assessments and decision-making.
- New rights to receive information following assessment.
- Outcomes of assessment inform what the disabled person receives in support – should increase if carers' health is at risk.
- New rights for young carers and parent carers

Carer's Assessments Models

Greater delegation of statutory carer's assessments to local organisations – and around 4 different models emerging:

Model 1: Keeping all in house with Local Authority

Model 2: Assessment is “information gathering” by carers organisation but Local Authority makes eligibility decision and care planning

Model 3: Assessment is formally undertaken by carers organisation, with eligibility decision and care planning

Model 4: Assessment formally undertaken by a range of specialist community organisations e.g. mental health, older people, etc.



Carer's Assessments - issues

- Some concern over what happens after an assessment – are legal steps followed to look at/enhance disabled person's package of support?
- Anecdotal evidence no real increase in outcomes from assessments
- No large surge in assessments so Care Act 2014 benefits “not real” for carers.
- Most carers don't know about rights.

Care Act 2014 – other key duties

- New direct rights to information and advice.
- New duties under prevent, reduce and delay needs of carers
- Market shaping duties

Implementation Issues

- Most carers don't know about rights, and certainly not new rights.
- 8 local authorities charging carers for their own services/support and more are considering -
- More discussion and debate over breaks that used to be free but now charged for as a disabled person's service.
- Services can be provided free of charge – power not a duty to charge for non-residential care services – opportunity to look at this for the public good.



Care Act 2014 opportunities

- Overall Better awareness of carers, more co-production with carers
- Opportunities to forge new relationships with voluntary sector, health and others
- New and refreshed partnerships in LAs with health, although not as far developed as some would like
- New protocols across children's and adults services for young carer
- Opportunities to use technology – to streamline services and create a low cost universal digital offer for carers
- Using Care Act and other laws to help boost carers' employment



Carers Rights Day 20th November

New Carers Rights Guide 2016/17

Carers UK produces the Carers Rights Guide each year to outline carers' essential rights and signpost what financial and practical help is available.

Carers UK will be launching the new edition written by Professor Luke Clements – **Carers and their Rights** - an essential and comprehensive guide to carers and the law – helping to unpick many legal questions on carers and their rights.

Carers Self-Advocacy Toolkit is a group of integrated resources to help carers get their voices heard.





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