Care and support is changing for the better

From April 2015, the new Care Act will help make care and support more consistent across England.

If you receive care and support, or you support someone more, contact:

focus independent adult social work C.I.C

http://www.services4.me.uk/careact

01472 256 256
From April 2015, care and support in England is changing for the better. The new Care Act will help to make care and support more consistent across the country.

‘Care and support’ is the term we use to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with friends or family.

Whether you are receiving support at home or living in a care home, the new national changes are designed to put you in control. It will be easier for you to make plans for your care and support now, and in the future.
Consistent across England
For the first time, all councils in England will consider the same national level of care and support needs when we assess what help we can give to you.

And if you receive care and support and want to move to another area in England, both councils will work together to make sure that there is no gap in your care when you move.

In control of decisions
If you receive care and support, you will be more in control of decisions that affect you, and in putting together a care plan, tailored to your needs.

Your plan will work out how you can do the things that are important to you and your family, with the right level of care and support.

You will also know how much it will cost to meet your needs and how much the council will contribute towards the cost. You will have more control over how that money is spent.

Emotional, mental and physical needs
Everyone’s needs are different. They may be physical, mental or emotional.

You may find that the support you need could be met by something going on in your local community, for example services organised by local charities or other support networks.

Whatever your level of need, we will be able to put you in touch with the right organisation to support your wellbeing and help you remain independent for longer.
Support for carers

If you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from the changes.

Supporting you in caring
In England, millions of us provide unpaid care or support to an adult family member or friend, either in our own homes or somewhere else.
‘Caring’ for someone covers lots of different things, like helping with their washing, dressing or eating, taking them to regular appointments or keeping them company when they feel lonely or anxious.
If this sounds like you, from April 2015, changes to the way care and support is provided in England mean you may be able to get more help so that you can carry on caring and look after your own wellbeing.
The right help at the right time
You may be eligible for support, such as a direct payment* to spend on the things that make caring easier; or practical support, like arranging for someone to step in when you need a short break.

You may prefer just to be put in touch with local support groups so you have people to talk to.

The council of the person you care for can help you find the right support and you can ask them for a carer’s assessment.

Assessing your wellbeing
A carer’s assessment will look at the different ways that caring affects your life and work out how you can carry on doing the things that are important to you and your family. Your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing will be at the heart of this assessment.

As a result of the assessment, you may be eligible for support. We will also offer you advice and guidance to help you with your caring responsibilities and help you look after your own wellbeing.

You can have a carer’s assessment even if the person you care for does not get any help from the council, and they will not need to be assessed.

*A direct payment means that the money the council contributes towards meeting your care and support needs is paid directly to you, for example into your bank account or the bank account of someone else you choose, to give you control over how it is spent.
Deferred payment agreements

If you receive care and support, or you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from the changes.

Planning for care costs
From April 2015 deferred payment agreements will be available across the whole country.
This means that people should not have to sell their homes in their lifetime to pay for their care, as they have sometimes had to do in the past.
Choosing a deferred payment agreement
A deferred payment agreement is an arrangement with the council that will enable some people to use the value of their homes to pay for their care costs.

If you are eligible, we will help to pay your care home bills on your behalf. You can delay repaying us until you choose to sell your home, or until after your death.

We may charge a small amount of interest on the amount owed to us, and there may also be a fee for setting this arrangement up. These will be set to cover the council’s costs and not to make a profit.

Considering your options
Deferred payment agreements will suit some people’s circumstances better than others’. If you are still living in your own home, you will not need a deferred payment agreement.

A deferred payment agreement is only one way to pay for care.

To find out more about the options available, you can speak to a financial adviser or seek advice from an independent organisation.
To find out more about care and support in England and how you might benefit from the changes, contact:

The Single Point of Access on 01472 256 256 or visit www.services4.me.uk/careact focus independent adult social work C.I.C

This leaflet is available in accessible formats. Contact focus for details.