

What is the Care Act?



The Care Act is a new law that brings together into one place the many different laws about care and support in England.

It aims to improve care and support for those who need it and their carers.

Why it's happening

The Government reviewed all adult social care laws and created one, modern law – the Care Act – to simplify and modernise care and support. It aims to put people and their carers in control and make it clear what people can expect.

The Care Act's main aims are to:

- Make care and support clearer and fairer
- Focus on wellbeing
- Help people stay independent
- Encourage health, social care and other services to work together
- Give new rights to carers
- Promote clear information and advice
- Reform how care is paid for

What will change and when?

Many of the details in the Care Act are already current policy but are being defined in law for the first time, such as the duty to safeguard (protect) adults at risk of abuse. However, there are some important changes and some new duties as well. Many changes begin in April 2015 but most of the financial changes, including the 'care cap', start from April 2016.

What's new?

- Supporting people who fund their own care to plan and manage it
- New rights for carers, supporting them in their ability to care
- Better information and advice to help people make the best choices
- New national eligibility criteria: who will qualify for services
- A lifetime cap on some parts of care costs and monitoring a person's progress towards the cap with a 'care account'

What does it mean for Wandsworth?

We are already planning for the changes in Wandsworth and we have split the work into four areas to help us prepare.

These are the four areas and some examples of the planned changes:

Prevention

Helping people stay as healthy and independent as possible:

- Promoting overall wellbeing
- Services that prevent, reduce and delay care needs

Planning care and support

Helping people to plan their care and support, and review it when needed:

- Assessments and support plans, including support for carers
- Improving the move to adult services

Commissioning

Developing the range and type of local care and support:

- Working with health and other services to support people
- Handling things when service providers fail, so people still get the support they need
- Making direct payments work better

Finance

Helping people pay for their care:

- Capping the total amount anyone will pay for care in their lifetime
- Using deferred payment agreements, so people can delay paying and won't have to sell their home to pay for residential care

Get involved or find out more

Over the coming months we will hold events and meetings to share more information about the changes and to offer opportunities to have your say. We want to make sure that everyone who uses services, as well as carers, voluntary organisations and care providers knows about the Care Act.

- Email careact@wandsworth.gov.uk
- Find out more on our website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/careact

If you have questions about this fact sheet or if you need it in a different format (for example, large print) please phone (020) 8871 7707, email accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk or minicom (020) 8871 8485.

For information about local services visit our website:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/acis

Information in this fact sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge as of November 2014.

