

The Care Act Information Sheet

The Care Act came into effect on the 1st April 2015. It is the biggest change to English adult social care law in over 60 years and we have put together this information to help you to understand these changes.

Key areas of change for April 2015 include:

- Local authorities will have a general responsibility to promote people's wellbeing, and duties for prevention and providing information and advice
- The introduction of a consistent, national eligibility criteria to determine who is entitled to local authority funding for long term care
- New rights to support for carers
- Legal right to a personal budget and direct payment to pay for long term care
- The extension of local authority adult social care responsibility to include prisons
- New responsibilities around transition to adulthood, provider failure, supporting people who move between local authority areas and safeguarding adults.

The three main elements to the Care Act for 2015 are:

Eligibility:

- There will be national minimum eligibility threshold – councils currently set their own
- This is a fairer system and guarantees continuity when people move between areas
- It also makes sure that people's wellbeing, and the outcomes which matter to them, will be at the heart of every decision that is made.

Changes to carers' entitlements:

- All carers will be able to have an assessment of their needs for support, whether or not the person they care for receives support from their local authority
- If a carer's needs meet the new national threshold, they will be eligible for support
- This could include practical help, a break from caring responsibilities or a personal budget which could be spent on things that will help the carer or support their wellbeing.

Deferred payment agreements:

- A person can defer paying the costs of their care and support, so that they don't have to sell their home at a point of crisis.

The Care Act is a very detailed piece of legislation and this is intended just as an outline guide. For more information please visit:

www.ageuk.org.uk/home-and-care/the-care-act/