

Care Act 2014

update for HOSC

03 June 2015

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WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview of the Care Act 2015 reforms



- * New rights for carers
- * New national eligibility criteria framework and assessments for care and support services
- * Prevention services
- * Better planning of transition between children's and adults' services
- * Easier to move between areas (continuation of services)
- * Universal deferred payments
- * Universal information and advice (including signposting to independent financial advice)
- * Safer services (statutory Safeguarding Board)
- * Market development
- * Market failure
- * Partnership working

Assessments



- * New assessment questionnaire for customers and a carer's assessment (including a new Resource Allocation System) and new style of assessments (outcomes based, whole family approach)
- * Care planning process has been adapted to reflect the Care Act guidance and a new carer's support planning process has been developed
- * Transition arrangements have been put in place to better support young people entering adult social care and their families
- * Independent Advocacy provided to customers and carers

Workforce development



- * Additional staff have been recruited to cover assessments
- * A group of senior social care practitioners meet fortnightly to develop best practice;
- * Practice guidance, FAQs and other information is available to practitioners
- * An extensive training programme is in place

Carers



- * Young carer's protocol has been put in place to streamline and improve identification of young carers and a referral process for an assessment
- * Providers of carers services and carers have been actively involved in implementation of the carer's assessment, support planning and information and advice carers through monthly meetings
- * Carers' views have been sought via a survey and these will feed into the carers' strategy and commissioning plan
- * Online guide to the carer's assessment process
- * Carers event focusing on the Care Act will be taking place on 12th June
- * All carers services will be re-commissioned to reflect the Care Act requirements and carers' needs (April 2016)

Finance



- * 2 charging consultations completed (the first one focused on streamlining our charges in line with the Care Act principles and the second one was on Care Act related charges); results of the second consultation will shape the new Deferred Payments Policy and the new charging framework
- * Options to streamline direct payments such as e-payments are being explored
- * Monitoring arrangements have been put in place to evaluate the impact of the Care Act reforms

Information and advice



- * All public information has been updated / new information provided to ensure compliance with the Care Act
- * New Adult Social Care website has been developed to facilitate easy access to information about statutory services and community based support: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/care-and-support-for-adults>
- * Printable factsheets
- * Signposting to independent financial advice – online, leaflet and as part of the assessment process
- * Online self-screening for social care customers is being developed

Prevention services, commissioning and safeguarding



- * Over 60 prevention services ranging from specialist information and advice, befriending services through to clubs and support groups are currently funded by WBC
- * Carers are supported through 20 community based services
- * Signposting to prevention embedded in the new assessments and reviews of support
- * We are reviewing all prevention and carers services and new services will be commissioned from April 2016
- * Market Position Statement
- * Market Provider Failure protocol
- * Safeguarding Board has been put on a statutory footing
- * New safeguarding regulations are in place and training is available for staff

Communication



- * Extensive publicity campaign involving social media and news releases (e.g. Twitter sessions and Wokingham Borough News)
- * A number of public events and presentations
- * Voluntary sector actively involved in promoting the Care Act through the co-production network
- * Fortnightly Care Act bulletins
- * Dedicated website and Grapevine pages
- * Letters to all social care customers
- * Email updates to staff, members, providers and partnership boards

Overview of the Care Act 2016 reforms



- * **Care cap of £72,000** – after reaching the cap, all **eligible** residential and non-residential care will be provided free of charge
- * Those who develop eligible needs & aged under 25 before 1st April 2016 will benefit from free services (**zero cap**)
- * Those receiving local authority support will have a **personal budget**
- * People who fund their own care (self-funders) will have an **Independent Personal Budget**
- * **New capital thresholds**
 - * in a care home: upper limit will be **£118,000** or **£27,000**; and lower limit will be **£17,000**,
 - * in non-residential care: upper limit will be **£27,000** and lower limit will also be **£17,000**.
- * Currently, the upper limit for both residential and non-residential care is **£23,250** and the lower limit is **£14,250**.
- * **Appeals process**

Planning and implementation of April 2016 reforms



- * Waiting for a clear steer from the government (June / July)
- * Final draft and regulations expected in October
- * Early assessments of residents in residential and nursing care (September)
- * Online form to register an interest in a care account (June)
- * Engagement with residential and home care providers (July / August)
- * Review of the complaints process and joint working with other local authorities regarding recruitment of independent reviewers (current)
- * Reviewing our IT processes to ensure compliance

More information?



* Website:

www.wokingham.gov.uk/socialcare/contact/careact/

*  (@WBC_CareAct)

*  (*Wokingham Care Act*)

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