

# Care Act reforms update



**WOKINGHAM**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

# Overview of April 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
- \* Managing market failure
- \* Partnership working with NHS, housing and education

# Implementation of April 2015 reforms



- \* Assessments of needs reflect the new eligibility criteria
- \* New assessments and statutory services for carers
- \* Improved transition arrangements between children and adult services (e.g. young carers protocol, new transition guidance)
- \* Independent advocacy services provided to customers and carers
- \* Improved information and advice (new adult social care website, factsheets for customers and development of an online screening tool)

# Implementation of April 2015 reforms cont.



- \* 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
- \* Market Position Statement has been developed in partnership with local providers
- \* Market Provider Failure protocol is in place
- \* New safeguarding regulations have been implemented and training is available for staff
- \* A number of projects with NHS funded through the Better Care Fund

# Implementation of April 2015 reforms cont.



- \* Streamlined financial framework (following 2 public consultations)
  - \* Fair and equitable charging framework based on the individual customer's ability to pay (personal budgets)
  - \* Carers are not charged for support
  - \* Self-funders are required to pay for management of their support services
  - \* Universal deferred payments
- \* Extensive programme of training and staff development
- \* Awareness raising campaign including personal letters to customers, public events, social media, online information and Wokingham Borough News articles

# Delay of April 2016 reforms



- \* **Care cap of £72,000** - after reaching the cap, all eligible residential and non-residential care would be provided free of charge to self-funders; free lifetime care for young adults with disabilities (if they became disabled before they are 21)
- \* **Delayed till April 2020**
- \* **Implications:**
  - \* the delay means that LAs will not have to pick up the costs till April 2020 (there was no clear information on how this was to be funded)
  - \* no need to assess self-funders from October (in preparation for April 2015)
  - \* no impact on current social care customers fully funded by LA
  - \* self-funders and customers who pay full cost or contribute to the cost of their care will have continue paying for their support

# Delay of April 2016 reforms cont.



- \* **Increased capital thresholds**

- \* in a care home: upper limit would be **£118,000** (if property is taken into account) or **£27,000** (if property is disregarded); and lower limit would be **£17,000**,
- \* in non-residential care: upper limit would be **£27,000** and lower limit would also be **£17,000**

- \* **Delayed till April 2020**

- \* **Implications:**

- \* Current capital thresholds apply - the upper limit for both residential and non-residential care is **£23,250** and the lower limit is **£14,250**
- \* More people would be eligible for free or subsidised care if these changes were implemented (it was not clear how this was to be funded)
- \* No impact on current customers

# Delay of April 2016 reforms cont.



- \* **A duty on councils to meet the eligible needs of self-funders in care homes at their request**
- \* **Delayed till April 2020**
- \* **Implications:**
  - \* No additional pressure on resources
  - \* Positive impact on providers and LA (self-funders being entitled to lower rates negotiated by LA would potentially lead to destabilisation of the market and higher prices for LA)

# Delay of April 2016 reforms cont.



- \* **New appeals process** for adult social care (to appeal against decisions made about care and support)
- \* **Deferred until the Spending Review in the Autumn**
- \* **Implications:**
  - \* No additional pressure on resources
  - \* Decision on the timetable for appeals implementation will be made after the Spending Review.
  - \* Social care customers and carers have access to an existing complaints system, and ultimately, the Local Government Ombudsman

# Funding



- \* The Department of Health is expected to advise local authorities on what will occur with the implementation funding in the light of the delay
- \* The forthcoming Spending Review will determine the level of funding for social care