

Carers and the Care Act

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- ▶ The Care Act 2014 simplifies, brings together and improves existing legislation; **“putting carers on an equal legal footing to those they care for and putting their needs at the centre of the legislation”**

Care Act defines a carer as:

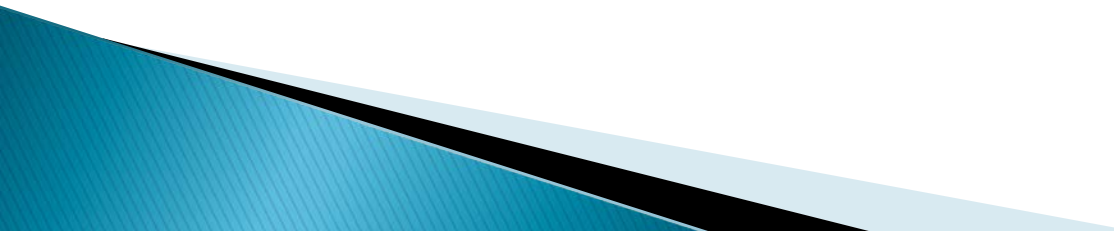
- ▶ **“an adult who provides or intends to provide care for another adult (“adult needing care”)**

Direct support for carers

Under the current system Council's don't have to offer an assessment of carer needs.

The Care Act says local authorities will now be obliged to offer every carer an assessment, even if the carer is not giving a substantial amount of support to the person they care for.

What's the purpose of a carer's assessment?

- ▶ A carer's assessment is carried out to establish what needs they have in their caring role. From April 2015, these assessments should concentrate on finding out what ability the carer has to provide care and most importantly whether they are going to be able to carry on being a carer for the person they care for and whether they are going to want to continue doing so in the future.
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What things will the carer's assessment cover?

The assessment should cover:

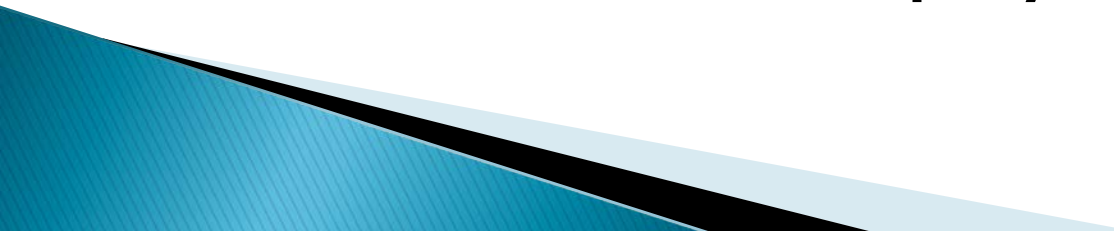
- ▶ whether the carer has a job in addition to caring for someone,
- ▶ if they want to start work
- ▶ how much time they spend or want to spend in education, training or leisure time.

Until now carers' assessments have mostly been about the amount of care the person provides.

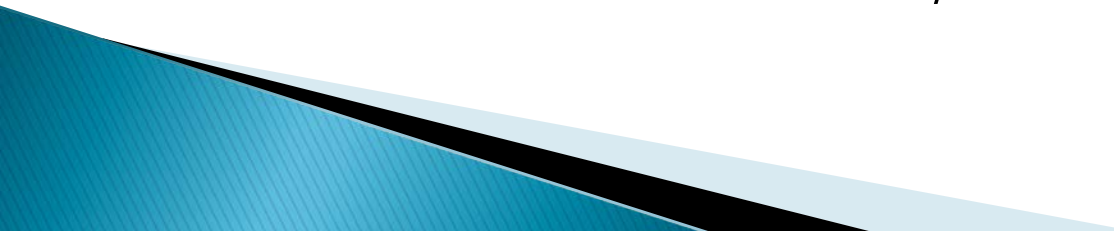
How much support will carers get?

If a carer's needs are assessed to be eligible for support they will have a legal right to receive support and the support they get will be standardised throughout the country.

Implications

- ▶ **Prevention – Early identification and support.**
 - ▶ **Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational/employment potential.**
 - ▶ **Personalised support for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.**
 - ▶ **Supporting carers to remain physically and mentally well.**
 - ▶ **Ensuring young carers do not carry out inappropriate levels of care and can achieve in education and employment.**
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Dudley picture

- ▶ Carers Network Team in Adult Social Care and Carers co-ordinator appointed
 - ▶ 37,974 people identified themselves as carers.
 - ▶ The greatest rise was in those caring for over 50 hours per week.
 - ▶ Increased costs of carers of assessments are likely to cost the Council around £1m
 - ▶ We envisage around 1,600 requests for carers assessments in 2015/16
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Our approach

