



Department  
of Health



**Care and support  
is changing for the better**

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**care and  
support  
& you**

# **Department of Health**

## **Care and support and you**

### **Care and support is changing for the better**

From April 2015, care and support in England is changing for the better. The new Care Act will help make care and support more consistent across the country.

‘Care and support’ is the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with friends or family.

If you receive care and support, or you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from the changes.

# **Getting thing the right care and support**

## **Your needs assessed**

The way care and support needs are assessed in England is changing, meaning when decisions are made about the help you receive, the council will consider your wellbeing and what is important to your family.

## **Your assessment**

For the first time, there will be a national level of care and support needs that all councils will consider when they assess what help they can give you. This may result in you being eligible for care and support and will make it easier for you to make plans now and in the future. And if you move to another area in England, councils will work together to make sure that there is no gap in your care when you move.

## **Your plan, your decisions**

If you receive care and support, you will be more in control of decisions that affect you, and in putting together a care plan, tailored to your needs. You will know how much it will cost to meet your needs and how much the council will contribute towards the cost. You'll also have more control over how the money for your care is spent.

## **Emotional, mental and physical needs**

Everyone's needs are different. They may be physical, mental or emotional. You may find that the support you need could be met by something going on in your local community, for example services organised by local charities or other support networks. Whatever your level of need, your council will be able to put you in touch with the right organisation to support your wellbeing and help you remain independent for longer.

To find out more about needs assessments visit [gov.uk/careandsupport](http://gov.uk/careandsupport)

## **Deferred payment agreements**

### **Planning for care home costs**

One way to pay for care is a deferred payment agreement - an arrangement with the council that enables you to use the value of your house to pay for care home costs. From April 2015, every council in England will offer this.

### **Choosing a deferred payment agreement**

If you are eligible, your council will help to pay your care home bills on your behalf. You can delay repaying the council until you choose to sell your home, or until after your death.

Deferred payment agreements will suit some people's circumstances better than others'. Councils may charge interest on the amount owed to them, and there may also be a fee for setting this arrangement up. These will be set to cover the council's costs and not to make a profit.

### **Considering your options**

A deferred payment agreement is only one way to pay for care. To find out more about the options available, you can speak to your council or a financial adviser.

To find out about deferred payment agreements visit [gov.uk/careandsupport](http://gov.uk/careandsupport)

# **Information for carers**

## **Supporting you in caring**

In England, millions of people provide unpaid care or support to an adult family member or friend, either in their own home or somewhere else. 'Caring' for someone covers lots of different things, like helping with their washing, dressing or eating, taking them to regular appointments or keeping them company when they feel lonely or anxious.

## **The right help at the right time**

If this sounds like you, from April 2015, changes to the way care and support is provided in England mean you may be able to get more help so that you can carry on caring and look after your own wellbeing.

You may be eligible for support, such as a direct payment to spend on the things that make caring easier, or practical support, like arranging for someone to step in when you need a short break.

The council covering the area where the person you care for lives can help you find the right support and you can ask them for a carer's assessment.

## **Assessing your wellbeing**

A carer's assessment will look at the different ways that caring affects your life. It will help work out how you can carry on doing the things that are important to you and your family. Your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing will be at the heart of this assessment. As a result, you may be eligible for support from the council, who will also offer you advice and guidance to help you with your caring responsibilities.

You can have a carer's assessment even if the person you care for does not get any help from the council, and they will not need to be assessed.

To find out more about carers' assessments visit **[gov.uk/careandsupport](https://www.gov.uk/careandsupport)**

## **Further information**

To find out more about care and support in England and how you might benefit from the changes, visit **[gov.uk/careandsupport](http://gov.uk/careandsupport)**

Or speak to your council for more information and to get advice about your circumstances.

**This leaflet is available in other accessible formats.  
Contact the council for details.**