

About the Care Act



The Care Act 2014 began on 14 May 2014. It is the most significant change to care and support in more than 60 years, putting people and their carers in control of their care and support.



The Act sets out how care and support in England should be provided to adults with care needs, including older people, and how it is paid for.



It supports the personalisation of care services, putting the person at the centre of the process.

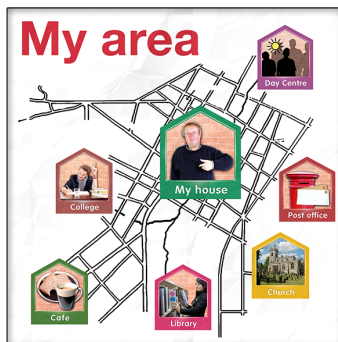


The Act says that the Local Authority needs to look at the care and support a person needs.

This could include things like



- help to get out of bed, get dressed or washed
- help with eating or cooking meals
- help with seeing friends and family
- help with caring for others.



The Government will also look at funding some of this support when appropriate and depending on an individual's finances.

- **Supporting the community** - Local councils must have services to meet different people's needs. They must always think about your well-being.
- **Stopping problems before they start** - Local councils must think about services that stop problems before they start or stop them from getting worse as early as possible.
- **Information and advice** - Local councils must have good information to help people choose the right care and support.
- **Having all the services people need** - Local councils must make sure there are lots of different care and support services in their area. Councils must understand what you need and have plans about services that give good support.

There are rules that say councils need to have plans about what to do if a service must stop giving care and support.

Finding out about your needs



When a person needs care and support, the council check to see what help you need, this is called an assessment.



The law says all carers can have an assessment too, even if the council thinks they or the person they care for can pay for their support.



If you find it difficult to take part in meetings, this is called a 'significant difficulty'. You can get support to make sure your thoughts are heard.

The support you get will come from an 'appropriate person'.



Significant difficulty

This is when someone is not able to fully be involved in a care act assessment, care act review or a safeguarding review involving them.

It could be having difficulty talking to professionals, memory issues or difficulties due to processing information.



An appropriate person

An appropriate person can be someone from your family, a friend, or an unpaid carer. The name 'appropriate person' is a legal term and is used for someone you trust who can support you to be part of the Care Act process.



This needs to be someone who is available and a person you are happy to have support you. An appropriate person should only ever help you to have your voice heard, they should not share their own thoughts or ideas. If you do not have anyone who can do this for you, you can access an independent advocate to help.



Independent advocacy

If you do not have an appropriate person and find it very difficult to be fully involved, then councils must find an independent advocate to support you.

An independent advocate will help you to:

- make sure your views are heard
- protect your rights
- find out information about your options
- support you to be part of your care and support
- support you to make your own decisions
- support you to challenge decisions.



The aim of the Care Act is to focus on prevention to make sure local authorities provide or arrange the right services to prevent people's care needs from becoming more serious.