About the Care Act for carers



A carer is someone who helps another person, usually a relative or friend, in their day-to-day life. The Care Act (2014) relates mostly to adult carers – people over 18 who are caring for another adult.



Under the Care Act, you are entitled to a 'carer's assessment' where you appear to have needs for support. You will be entitled to this support if you meet national eligibility criteria.



The person you care for is entitled to a 'needs assessment' if they appear to have needs for care and support.



Local authorities are allowed to arrange for other organisations such as charities or private companies to carry out assessments.



The Care Act places a general duty on local authorities to promote an individual's 'wellbeing'. This means they should always have a person's wellbeing in mind when making decisions about them or planning support and services.



Wellbeing can relate to:

- personal dignity (including treating the individual with respect)
- physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing
- protection from abuse and neglect
- control by the individual over dayto-day life (including over care and support)
- participation in work, education, training or recreation
- social and economic wellbeing
- domestic, family and personal relationships
- suitability of living accommodation
- the individual's contribution to society.

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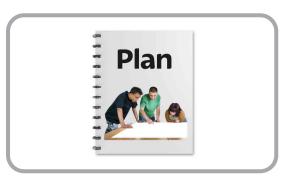


Wellbeing is also part of the eligibility criteria.

Local authorities have to consider the impact of your role as a carer on your wellbeing as well as the impact of disabled person's needs on their wellbeing.

If the impact is significant then the eligibility criteria are likely to be met.

What does the Care Act do?



It provides a framework for the local authority to assess a carer's needs for support, where the carer appears to have such needs.



The assessment will consider:

- the impact of caring on the carer
- the things a carer wants to achieve in their own day-to-day life
- whether the carer is able, and willing to carry on caring
- whether they work or want to work, study or do more socially.

If both the carer and the person they care for agree, a combined assessment of both their needs can be undertaken.