

Care Act 2014

The Care Act will be implemented in two Phases. Phase One will be implemented in April 2015 and will include the following responsibilities and duties:

- A duty to promote people's wellbeing as the underlying principle that influences the way care and support functions are carried out.
- A duty to work to prevent and delay needs for care and support.
- A duty to provide an information and advice service about care and support.
- A requirement to carry out an assessment of both individuals and carers wherever they have needs, including people who will be "self-funders" meeting their own care costs; this will place carers' rights on the same footing as the people they care for.
- A duty to facilitate a vibrant, diverse and sustainable market of care and support provision and to meet people's needs if a provider of care fails.
- A national minimum eligibility threshold for support – a minimum level of need which will always be met in every council area.
- A requirement to offer a universal "deferred payment" scheme, where people can defer the costs of care and support set against the value of a home they own.
- A duty in some cases to arrange "independent advocacy" to facilitate the involvement of an adult or carer in assessing needs and planning for care.
- A duty to provide social care support to people in prisons and bail hostels.
- A duty to strengthen Safeguarding Adults Board and to make safeguarding "personal".
- Embedding the right to choice through care plans and personal budgets.
- A duty to give new assurances about continuity of care when people move from one area to another.

Phase Two will be implemented in April 2016 and covers the following key issues:

- Revised upper and lower capital limits.
- £72,000 cap on expenditure for individuals for meeting eligible needs.
- Care accounts.
- Financial support from Councils after reaching cap.
- Free care for life (zero cap) for those born with an eligible need or who develop one in early life.