



Information for Carers

The Government agenda for Adult Social Care sets out a vision for social care that enables people to have more choice and control over the services they receive. The Government acknowledges the very valuable support offered by family carers and while the agenda does not set out to replace this support, it is recognised that carers also need support in their own right to enable them to continue in their caring role.

Carers are already entitled to an assessment of their own needs (under the Carers Recognition Act legislation).

People have a lot of questions about how things might change the answers below try to respond to some of these early queries and concerns.

Am I or the person I care for eligible for support from Adult Social Care services?

To find out if either or both of you, are eligible for support you can contact your local Social Services Office and request an assessment.

Is there a difference between an Individual Budget and a Direct Payment?

Yes. A direct payment is a cash payment paid directly to the individual who is eligible for social care services. This money can be used to purchase your own social care support although it cannot be used to pay for services already contracted by the local authority.

An individual budget, which is money from social care funding, can be a combination of an allocated sum of money as well as arranged services, or it can be received wholly as a direct payment. An individual budget can be used in a more innovative way such as assisting an individual to gain access to work rather than the traditional personal social care support.

Will I or the person I care for have to employ people? How do we go about this?

No, not if you don't want to. However, if you choose to employ your own Personal Assistants there are opportunities to you support to do this. Currently this type of assistance is available to people who use Direct Payments and this includes advice on how to employ people as well as terminating contracts.

What if the person I'm employing is off sick?

As part of developing your Support Plan, you will be asked to consider contingency arrangements to make sure you have a plan in place if your support person is off sick.

What safeguards are there in the new way of working?

Part of this new way of working is to ensure that people have the opportunity to live their lives to the full and this may involve taking risks as we all do in our everyday lives. However, procedures and policies will still be followed to ensure that people are kept safe.