

Care Act overview

The Care Act, which came into force in England in April 2015, replaces most current law regarding carers and people being cared for. It outlines the way in which local authorities should carry out assessments; how they should determine who is eligible for support; and how they should charge for care. It requires local authorities to consider the wellbeing of the person needing care and the cared for, and includes a duty for local authorities to provide adequate information and advice about care and support.

Under the Act, local authorities and health bodies will also be required to work together to identify carers. For the first time, carers will have the same legal right to a needs assessment and support as those that they care for, so more carers will be encouraged to undertake a carer's assessment with their local authority.

This means that you, as a health professional, will need to be able to identify carers you come into contact with and signpost them to support.

For more information on what the Care Act means, go to:

- <http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Document-library/Standards/Care-Act/learning-and-development/introduction-and-overview/care-act-overview-fact-sheet.pdf>
- <http://www.carersuk.org/for-professionals/policy/policy-library/care-act-2014>