



Department  
of Health



# Care and support is changing for the better



EasyRead version

care  
and  
support  
& you

# What is in this booklet



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## Care and support is changing for the better

Care and support is changing and is getting better.



If you get care and support these changes could help you.



They could also help you if you care for someone else.



**Care and support** means help with things like:

- washing



- dressing





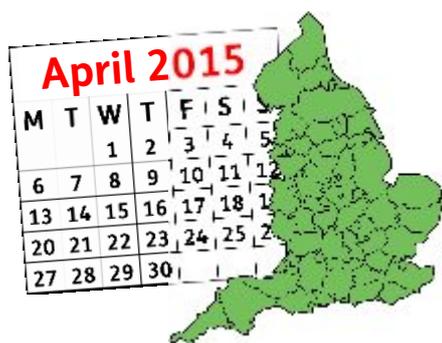
- eating



- getting out and about



- keeping in touch with friends or family.



The changes will happen from April 2015 all over England.



They are part of the new Care Act.



These changes will help make sure everyone gets the care and support they need wherever they live.





This leaflet tells you about these changes.



It is an easy read version of a longer leaflet about care and support.



You might like to have someone support you when you look at this leaflet.





## Getting the right care and support



The way your council decides what care and support you need is changing.



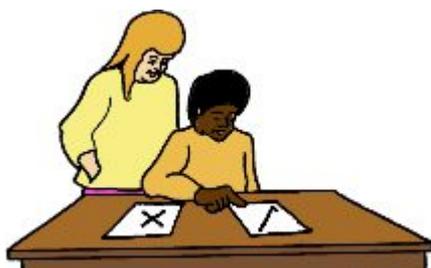
Your council will need to think about:



- keeping you happy and healthy



- what is important to your family.



You will also be more in control of your care and support.





The changes mean you will:

- help decide the care and support you get



- be able to make sure you get the care and support you need



- know how much your care costs

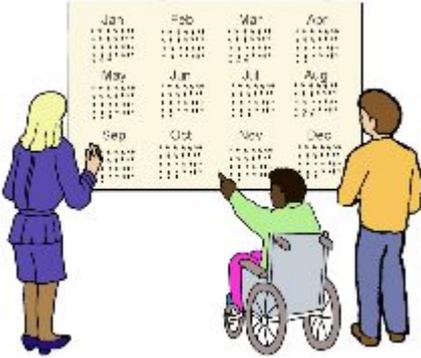


- know how much the council pays towards your care and how the money is spent.



Wherever you live your council must think about the same list of needs when they decide what help they can give you.





This will make it easier for you to make plans now and for the future.



And if you move to a different part of the country you will still get the care and support you need.

## Different needs

Everyone's needs are different. They may be:

- physical
- mental
- emotional.





A local charity or support network might be able to give you the support you need.



Your council will put you in touch with organisations to keep you well and help you live independently.



You can find out more about this at:  
**[www.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.gov.uk/careandsupport)**



## Paying for care home costs



There are different ways to pay if you need to be in a care home.



One way is called a **deferred payment agreement**.

This means if you own your home you can agree with the council that right now you only pay what you can afford from your income.



You use the value of your house to pay for your care later.



You can then pay the council back when you decide to sell your house or after you die.



From April 2015 all councils will have to offer deferred payment agreements to people who need care in a care home.





Deferred payment agreements will suit some people more than others.



The council may charge you to do this.

They might also charge you interest on the amount you owe. Interest is extra money you pay to borrow money.



The council can only charge you what it costs them and must not make money from this.



To find out more about this and other ways to pay for care you can speak to your council or a financial adviser.



You can find out more about deferred payment agreements at [www.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.gov.uk/careandsupport)





## Information for carers



In England millions of us care for or support an adult family member or friend unpaid. You might care for the person in their own home or somewhere else.



The changes mean carers may be able to get help so they can carry on caring and keep well.



A **carer's assessment** can help you decide what help and support you need. You can ask for an assessment from the council.



The assessment will look at:

- how caring affects you
- how you can carry on doing the things that are important to you and your family.





The council will also offer you advice to help you with caring.



You may also be able to get help like:

- a **direct payment** (money to spend on the things that make caring easier)



- someone to take over caring when you need a short break.



You can have a carer's assessment even if the person you care for does not get any help from the council.

The person you care for will not need an assessment.



You can find out more about carers' assessments at:

**[www.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.gov.uk/careandsupport)**





## Finding out more



Our website: [www.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.gov.uk/careandsupport) has information about care and support in England and how the changes could help you.



Or speak to your council for more information and to get advice about your care and support.



This information is available in lots of different accessible formats.





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