# What happens during a Carer's Assessment?

Carer's assessments can be carried out in a number of different ways:

- Face to face (with a social worker or Carers Network).
- A 'supported self-assessment' where you complete the assessment yourself and then it is agreed / signed-off by the local council.
- A telephone assessment
  A telephone assessment may be suitable for less complicated situations, or when you are having a review or reassessment.
- A joint assessment
  This carer's assessment is completed at the same time as the assessment of the person you look after.

A joint assessment can avoid duplication, or allow a more joined-up approach when arranging support. However, some carers prefer to have their assessment separately, and are fully entitled to ask for a separate assessment.

### What support is there for carers?

Even if you have not had a carer's assessment, or are not eligible for support from your council following a carer's assessment, there is a wide range of support available.

Contact Carers Network on 020 8960 3033 for more information or email:

info@carers-network.org.uk



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# **CARER'S ASSESSMENTS**

There were some significant changes to the way local councils complete assessments with carers because of the Care Act after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

Find out more inside this leaflet.

www.carers-network.org.uk







# Who can get support as a carer under the Care Act?

If you are a carer you may be entitled to support from your local council in your own right, even when the person you look after does not meet the council's criteria for receiving support.

If you appear to be in need of support as a result of your caring role then your council should offer you a carer's assessment. The council may carry out the assessment with you, or may arrange for Carers Network to carry out the assessment on their behalf.

If Carers Network carries out your assessment they will need to share it with the council.

The carer's assessment will look at whether you need support because of your caring role, and how this affects your wellbeing.

### The assessment criteria

You will be entitled to support if the assessment finds that:

1) Your need for support arises because you are providing necessary care and support for another adult

#### AND

2) Your own physical or mental health is deteriorating, or is at risk of deteriorating

#### OR

You are unable to achieve one or more 'out-comes' in your own life because of the effects of your caring role.

(These 'outcomes' are the kinds of things all of us might want in our lives, whether we are looking after another person or not).

#### AND

3) As a result of number 2 above there is, or is likely to be, a significant effect on your own 'well-being' - 'well-being' means things like health and happiness.

You will only be entitled to support if you meet *all three* of the above criteria.

## **Outcomes in your assessment**

You and the person completing the assessment will consider if you can achieve the following outcomes as well as your caring role:

- Carry out any caring you do for a child, alongside caring for the adult.
- ✓ Provide care to other people, if you look after more than one person
- ✓ Have a habitable (safe and clean) home.

- Have a healthy, nutritious diet.
- Develop and maintain family or other important relationships.
- Take part in work, training, education or volunteering.
- Use necessary facilities or services in the local community.
- Join in fun or relaxing activities that you enjoy.

If you <u>cannot achieve one or more</u> of these outcomes then the council should consider if:

• This impacts on your wellbeing in a significant way.

If you meet all these criteria, then you will be entitled to support from the council in carrying out your caring role.