



# The Care Act 2014

## What does it mean for carers?

care and  
support  
& you



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# What is the Care Act?

- The biggest change to **adult social care legislation** in **over 60 years**
- Introduces a **uniform care and support system** across England – including a **single national eligibility** threshold for service users and carers
- **Puts carers on same footing as those they care for**
- Makes **services available to all residents** whether the Council pays or they pay for their own care
- The Act is being implemented in two phases (April 2015 & 2016) – today's presentation is about **2015 changes**



# What does the Care Act mean for Carers?

# Care Act & Carers

All councils must provide:

- Carer **assessments, support plans and services** to meet eligible needs for carers supporting a council resident.
- **Preventative** services for carers
- **Independent advocacy** for carers through these processes
- Apply the new **national eligibility** threshold

For the first time, carers have the same rights as those they care for.

Assessments can be joint with the person you care for if you wish.

Information, advice and guidance is available for all carers.



# Carers & Care Act in Richmond

# Richmond context

- **15,802 (8.5%** of all residents) identified themselves as carers in 2011 census
- In 2013/14 Richmond Council & CCG provided 4,500 carer services and over **£2.25 million funding to carers**
- The 2014-15 National Carers Survey found that compared to similar councils
  - ✓ Carers were **more satisfied** with social services
  - ✓ Carers report they were more often **included or consulted in discussions** about the person they care for
  - ✓ Carers found it **easier to find information** about services.

# Changes for carers in Richmond with Care Act

- We will assess **all carers who care for a Richmond resident**
  - carers looking after people outside the borough will be directed to their local council
- Carers offered **separate or joint** assessments
- Carers with eligible needs will have a **support plan** which sets out how these needs will be met through:
  - Service from the Carers Hub
  - Services to the person they are caring for
  - A direct payment
- We are **not charging** for carers services
- **Young carers** are referred to **Achieving for Children**

# Services for carers in Richmond

- **Carers hub services** (available to all Richmond residents) including information and advice, Support groups, Financial & debt advice, Befriending, Counselling, One to one support, Social and leisure opportunities, Learning & employment opportunities
- **Respite** in a care home
- **Respite** through day care
- **Shared lives** for people with learning disabilities/dementia
- **Direct payments**
- **Universal support** services such as Handyman services, Citizens advice





# Other Care Act changes from April 2015

# The wellbeing principle

- Underlying principle in the Care Act covering a range of outcomes such as mental and emotional wellbeing and being able to work
- Aim to **put people in control of their lives** so they can live their lives independently and realise their potential

People's wellbeing and the outcomes they want to achieve are at the heart of every decision made.

Always assume that the person is best placed to judge their own wellbeing!

# Prevention

- Not waiting until **someone reaches a crisis point**, but intervening early to support people and avoid things from getting worse
- **Available to all residents** including carers, people who do not have any current needs for care and support and those who fund their own care

Finding ways to prevent or delay needs from occurring and helping people regain their skills and confidence should be part of every conversation

It means finding ways to reduce carers' need for support

# What are we doing in Richmond?

- We invest in a wide range of services e.g. Reablement, equipment, small adaptations to the home, hot and frozen meals, handyperson services
- Richmond Council and CCG have developed new **Adult Prevention Strategy**; example priorities are:
  - ✓ Making parks and open spaces dementia friendly to ensure they are safe and accessible for all residents
  - ✓ Improving access to training for new technology and promote new technologies for our older residents
  - ✓ Putting all prevention services onto our website so that residents and professionals know what is available

# Information and advice

- **Wide range of information and advice** which is **easy to find** to enable people to take control and **make well informed choices**
- What needs to be provided:
  - ✓ Information about how the local system works
  - ✓ What services are available and how to access them
  - ✓ Financial information and advice

Everyone should have access to consistently good information and advice to help them understand how it works, find local services and plan for the future.

People have told us that the quality of information and advice is a bit *hit and miss* at the moment

# What are we doing in Richmond?

- We invest about **£2.3m for our partners** to provide a range of information & advice services
- We have developed a plan in partnership with the local voluntary sector to improve what we do. Our priorities are:
  - ✓ Making sure that information and advice is part of everyone's role
  - ✓ Improving Council website
  - ✓ Developing a directory of local care services
  - ✓ Provide better financial information & advice
  - ✓ Working better with other Council departments and partner organisations to avoid duplications



# Assessment, eligibility & support plans

- Assessment looks at how the person's needs **impact on their wellbeing** and their day-to-day life
- New **national eligibility** threshold
- Support plans & personal budgets to meet eligible needs.
- **Support plans** available to self funders who can ask the council to arrange their care.
- **Independent advocates** can support people through this process

Anyone who appears to have needs for care and support has the right to an assessment regardless of their financial situation

Eligibility for services is decided only after a full assessment

# What we are doing in Richmond?

- We have a **single, holistic assessment** which means all professionals contribute to the **same assessment**.
- The assessment will always **involve the person, their carers and family** as appropriate
- People funding care themselves in their own home **can ask the council to arrange services** for them at cost of £50 per week
- We are offering **advocacy** to both service users and carers throughout assessment and support planning





**Any questions?**

