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## **Carer Assessment**

**Factsheet 601 - 03 July 08 (5 pages)**

### **Guidance notes**

#### **Who is a carer?**

**A carer is someone who provides, or intends to provide, a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for another individual. This can be for an adult or a child with special needs, and may be a family member, friend or neighbour.**

**Parents who care for a child with special needs are also parent/carers. Young people who care for parents or other adults are young carers.**

#### **How an assessment may help a carer**

**If you are an unpaid carer as described above you are entitled to a carer assessment. An assessment is about you as a person rather than the person you care for and looks at your needs. It explores how your caring role is affecting you, and what might help to support you in your caring role and life.**

**An assessment may also consider the carer's leisure, education, training and work, where this is appropriate.**

**Where a carer is supporting more than one person, the carer assessment will enable support to be co-ordinated and shared with relevant persons.**

**Assessments may well identify problems experienced by both the carer and the cared for person. The worker helping to complete the carers assessment will need to consider any risks that are identified, and will discuss these with the carer, to determine appropriate action where required.**

**How can a carer get an assessment?**

**Your invitation to have an assessment does not depend upon the cared for person receiving social care support, and the carer can decide when and how an assessment might take place.**

**If the carer wishes, an assessment can take place with the cared for person. This is known as a joint assessment of need. If a carer prefers to talk to someone without the cared for person being present, the carer can have an individual assessment with an assessor. The carer's needs can also be considered when a review of the cared for persons care package takes place.**

**Carers have helped design the current carer assessment process, to take into account flexibility and offer choice in the assessment process.**

**Carers can look at the assessment form that comes with this factsheet, before deciding how to arrange an assessment. Carers can**

**also discuss an initial assessment with their Carers Link Worker, or look at the assessment process online by visiting the Carers in Devon website: [www.carersindevon.org.uk](http://www.carersindevon.org.uk)**

**For carers considering an individual assessment, the carer assessment form will act as a guide to that assessment. Carers only need to complete those sections on the form that apply to them. Questions can be left blank that do not fit particular circumstances or are not relevant.**

**Some carers may wish to complete the assessment by talking with a staff member from a particular specialist service, where specific medical information and management advice are required, in support of the cared for person.**

**Where a carer wishes to seek specific further information or advice - for example, on benefits, leisure, education, training and work - the carer will be referred on to other relevant agencies.**

**What happens when an assessment has been completed?**

**So that the carer assessment is a valued and useful exercise, the final part of the form includes an action plan with agreed outcomes. These are changes that the carer would like to see take place with some indication of what is most important to the carer, and in what order of priority action should take place.**

**This may involve accessing additional services or support initiated either by the carer, assessor or a third party. If extra social care**

support is identified for the carer, and this requires public funding, the carer will then be asked to read Devon County Council Social Services factsheet FS1, Assessment and Fair Access to Care on Fair Access to Care (available from Care Direct on 0845 1551 007 or online at [www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets)), which explains the eligibility criteria for social care services.

Assessments should be reviewed on a regular basis according to the carer's wishes and changing needs, and should be kept up to date.

**What happens to information collected/recorded?**

The carer assessment is a document that belongs to both the carer and the assessor. Information gathered is held by the assessor in confidence and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. The action plan needs to be owned and actioned, with a copy given to the carer. It can only be shared with other professionals with the carer's consent unless we are obliged to do so by law, or there are exceptional circumstances such as, your safety or the safety of others. The carer may wish to share the action plan with their family GP, district nurse or specialist hospital multidisciplinary team.

Unmet need will be recorded and this information will be used to plan and develop services in the future.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact:

- More carer information can be found at

**[www.carersindevon.org.uk](http://www.carersindevon.org.uk)**

- **Social Care and Carers factsheets can be found online at [www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets](http://www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets) or by contacting Care Direct on 0845 1551 007**
- **Have you read our factsheet 600, Helping carers to pursue leisure, education training and work?**

**If you would like this factsheet in a different format such as Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on: 0845 155 1015**

**or email: [customer@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer@devon.gov.uk)**

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