

Local Account 2014 – 2015: Carers Information

The Care Act 2014

Key Points

- Improved rights for carers, including a right to a carer's assessment, which is independent of any assessment of the cared for person.
- The right to support in their caring role, and for choices outside their caring role.
- A cap on care costs and other social care funding reforms – by law from April 2016 all individuals will have a lifetime cap on the amount they need to pay for social care costs for care assessed as meeting critical or substantial needs.
- A focus on prevention and personalised services and improving individuals' well-being.

Carers in Somerset

The population of Somerset is 530,000. There are 58,382 carers within Somerset providing varying levels of care. This is approximately 9.5% of the population. It is estimated that only 7000 carers are known to statutory agencies in Somerset, which leaves a possible 51,382 people providing care who are not known to the Council. .

- Over the next ten years the number of people in Somerset living with dementia is expected to increase by 35%
- In the same period the number of carers aged over 85 will increase by 41%, many of whom will have care needs themselves.
- 42% (nearly 700) of adults with learning disabilities supported by statutory services are living at home with parents or carers
- 3,300 children living in Somerset are currently assessed as being "in need" of additional support
- Last year Compass Carers supported nearly 6,000 carers across Somerset, through their support to carers groups and providing good information.

How does Somerset County Council plan to support services for carers?

The role undertaken by carers will become even more crucial so that people are able to remain independent. Services for carers should be joined-up across organisations in the county to ensure that the most effective and efficient support is provided.

We will:

- Strengthen partnerships with carers and groups / organisations that support carers.
- Review our approach to carers assessments and personal budgets for carers because of the requirements of the Care Act.
- We will work with the Carers Partnership Board and our social care colleagues to look at how we can do this. We will let you know through updates in this Local Account, as soon as we have some clear proposals.

In order to meet our commissioning intentions we will:

- We will develop a 5 year Carer Strategy for 2014 -2019. This will be in consultation with Carers, via the Carers Partnership Board and its Carers Support Project Officer. This Strategy will also respond to the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
- Develop wider options for access to a broader range of support services, in line with the Care Act.
- Support the Carer Partnership Board to have influence to help shape County Council services and influence future decisions.
- Employ a Carers Project Support worker (from June 2014) to work with the Somerset Carers Partnership Board to raise the profile within Health and Social Care.

Our spending on Adult Carer Services

Carers Services	Budget 2014/15
Adult respite / breaks (Older people, Learning and physical disability groups)	£3,217,800
Adult sitting services (Older people, Learning and physical disability groups)	£ 862,900
Mental Health Somerset Partnership commissioned services	£ 181,310
Carers Support Service Voluntary and Community services (pooled funding SCC and CCG)	£ 457,000
Total spend	£4,719,010

Carers services in Somerset

Here are the links to information and support across Somerset:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/adult-social-care/carers/>

<http://compasscarers.org.uk/>

Carers Partnership Board

Follow link to information on the Carers Partnership Board.

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/partnerships/carers-partnership-board/>

Plans

What you wanted Taken from consultations with carers during 2012 and 2013	Examples of what we did	What are we going to do in 2014 -15 and beyond
Improve the single point of access for carers and the quality of assessments for carers.	From May 2013, Compass Carers have been commissioned by SCC to ensure that as many carers as possible are identified earlier and supported to access good quality information and advice with a single point of access for carers.	We are planning improving access to carer assessments and we are looking at options for providing this.
Information and advice for carers to be provided close to their local community. This should include GP surgeries but also elsewhere such as libraries and post offices. A single carers website/ common information adopted by all agencies/ a single carers charter	From 2011 “Carers Champions” have started to have a presence in GP surgeries: 96% of surgeries now have one. They have acted as a local contact point for Carers where they can both identify carers and offer advice and information. A carers website has been developed by Compass Carers as an access point for information.	We will continue to promote Carers champions and our target is that all GP Surgeries should have one. We will get feedback from Carers Champions to check the have the right information to give to carers. We will continue to develop and improve access to information for carers.
A Carers Hub to be developed as a focal point for carers across the county.	The Carers Partnership Board was established in late 2010 to influence the policy and practice of public agencies for carer support,	A Carers Partnership Board Support Worker has been appointed from June 2014. Part of this role is to ensure carers voices are heard by decision

	and to oversee and recommend development for carers services in Somerset.	makers.
There should be greater integration with Active Living Centres and local community groups.	There are already good links with Active Living Centres across Somerset.	The Carers Partnership Board Support Worker will provide information for carers and raise the profile of carers issues through Active Living Centres and community groups so that the Board is informed about issues experienced.
Carers should have a choice in the type of break, who provides it and where it is provided. The booking system should be simple and sufficiently flexible to allow carers the ability to 'flex' their entitlement.	We still need to make our systems better to allow for greater choice and control for carers.	To provide carers with the opportunity of an assessment of their needs, and to signpost to the relevant support options. To work towards offering eligible carers a Personal Budget, so that they can choose and arrange respite.
Carers to be consulted prior to hospital discharge to ensure that support services are in place.	The practice of social care staff requires that any known carers are consulted prior to discharge	This practice will continue and we will monitor quality.

More comments from Carers

"We want to promote better support for carers to understand how Personal Budgets work and to enable the use of Direct Payments".

"We want to support more people to register as a carer and have better ways of letting people know what services they are entitled to."

Our priority pieces of work:

Carers Vision

During 2014 we will be developing a vision with carers. This will include:

- What is our offer?
- How charges will be applied?
- How should carers assessments best be undertaken?

