

Care Act Bulletin

Edition 13

18 February 2015

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Care Act Bulletin. This is a series of Bulletins which have been produced to provide an outline of the key elements in the Care Act, to prompt thinking about how these changes may impact on your organisation and what opportunities it may bring. Each bulletin will cover a chapter in the Care Act Guidance issued by the Department of Health. Links to the guidance and relevant fact sheets are detailed at the end of the bulletin.

REVIEW OF CARE AND SUPPORT PLANS

Review of Care and Support Plans

The Act specifies that plans must be kept under review and the local authority has systems to do this, including seeking cooperation with other health and care professionals who may be able to inform the authority of any concerns about the ability of the plan to meet needs.

The review should be person-centred and seen as a positive opportunity to take stock of outcomes and to consider if the plan is enabling the person to meet their needs and achieve their aspirations. The review could be a self-review, or carried out by a carer, a provider or another authorised professional, and then signed-off by the local authority. Similarly the local authority is likely to undertake reviews of care and support plans in a number of ways, for example face to face or telephone dependent upon the individual circumstances of each person.

It is expected that authorities should conduct a review no later than every 12 months, with an initial 'light-touch' review after 6-8 weeks.

Where circumstances have changed then it may be necessary to undertake a revision of the care and support plan, and if appropriate a needs assessment and financial assessment. However, this should not be a new assessment from the beginning of the care and support process, but should be a proportionate assessment that takes into consideration what is already known of the person. In some cases a complete change of plan may be required, whereas in others only minor adjustments may be needed.

You can view the Department of Health Care Act Guidance by visiting:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/366104/43380_2390277_7_Care_Act_Book.pdf

The factsheet regarding general responsibilities is available on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/366080/Factsheet_1_-_General_responsibilities.pdf