

Care Act Bulletin

Edition 15

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Welcome to the fifteenth 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.

INTEGRATION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

This section of the Care Act sets out the duties placed upon local authorities with their NHS and other partners to consider and promote integration of services. Local authorities must carry out their care and support responsibilities with the aim of promoting greater integration with NHS and other health-related services. This requires partners to have an aim to join up the services provided and includes services such as housing and leisure and includes the prevention of needs, providing information and advice and shaping and facilitating the provider market.

This duty to promote integration applies when the local authority considers that such integration will:

- a) promote the wellbeing of adults with care and support needs or of its carers in its area;
- b) contribute to the prevention or delay of the development of needs of people and/or;
- c) improve the quality of care and support in the local authority's area, including the outcomes that are achieved for local people.

On an individual service level, the Act requires cooperation between partners where needed to ensure a person's needs are best met and this requirement is suggested to include approaches such as care coordinators and multi agency teams. Both of these approaches are already built into the North Yorkshire Better Care Fund Plan which was submitted to the Department of Health in November 2014.

Local authorities must make arrangements to ensure cooperation of its Adult Care and Support, Public Health Officers (including in other authorities) with Housing Officers. It must also consider how education, planning and transport may be included. A part of the duty includes a requirement that processes are combined and /or aligned, such as combining assessments, perhaps through a single professional working on behalf of multiple agencies. Other approaches might include aligning processes (such as care and support needs, health needs, Continuing Health Care assessments) - i.e. sharing information (where there is a lawful basis to do so) to avoid asking for the same information more than once or combining processes, perhaps to create a single assessment appropriate to

multiple agency's needs.

Promoting integration might be through:

- Prevention services - developing a local approach to preventative support is a responsibility wider than adult care and support alone, and should include the involvement, by way of example, of those responsible for public health, leisure, transport, and housing services e.g. adaptations to housing to and handyman services;
- Planning - using adult care and support data, with Public Health data, to understand the population's needs and profile, e.g. using Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA);
- JSNA and the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy;
- Commissioning - including having housing represented at Health and Well Being/CCG Boards, linking preventative spend and avoiding acute/crisis interventions, e.g. joint commissioning of information and advice services;
- Assessment, Information and Advice, e.g. integrating housing, care and related finance information within a care plan (if appropriate) reflecting the person's housing choices, strengths and capabilities to help achieve their desired outcomes;
- Delivery or provision of care & support.

Boundaries:

Section 22 of the Care Act sets out in detail the extent of healthcare services that a local authority may legally provide. With one exception, wherever the NHS has a clear legal responsibility to provide the service, a local authority may not do so. The exception relates to nursing care provided by registered nurses, notably in a residential care setting or through Continuing Health Care.

Hospital Discharge and Delayed Transfers of Care:

There are new provisions to ensure NHS and local authorities work together more effectively to plan the safe discharge of NHS hospital patients and to set out the consequences of a failure to provide or enact a satisfactory plan. There are expectations that the Better Care Fund will provide an incentive to local authorities and their partners to resolve issues of delayed transfer of care (DTC) through joint incentive, rather than through penalties. There are clear rules on what DTC's are, to whom they apply and to whom they don't.

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