



North Tyneside Council

The Care Act 2014 North Tyneside

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Getting More Information

The Care Act can be found on the UK Parliament website

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/care.html>

The Department Of Health has produced a series of very useful factsheets about different sections of the care Act

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets/care-act-factsheets--2>

Further details about North Tyneside Council plans for implementation of the Care Act or how to get in touch with someone, can be found on the Council website

www.northyneside.gov.uk

Introduction

The Care Act 2014 introduces a set of reforms to guide how care for adults with care needs is provided and paid for. It is part of a bigger national reform to both social care and health to improve the way all parts of the system work together.

This document sets out some of the key changes made by the Care Act 2014.

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014. The Act introduces major reforms to the legal framework for adult social care, the way it is funded, the duties of local authorities, and the rights of those in need of social care.

Some parts of the Care Act put into law ways of working that are already normal practice for many local authorities. Other parts introduce new duties.

Most of the requirements will come into force on 1 April 2015.

The Act is divided into three main parts.

Part One deals with the reform of adult social care and changes in legislation.

The Act will place a limit on the amount those receiving care will have to pay towards the costs of their care. A cap on care costs is introduced in April 2020, having been delayed from the initial date of April 2016. The remainder of Part One of the Act will come into force in April 2015.

Part Two of the Act seeks to improve care standards. It outlines a developing role for the Care Quality Commission and how it works with and assesses regulated services, including NHS Foundation Trusts. It also provides a legislative response to the Francis Inquiry by increasing transparency and openness. The intention is to enhance the quality of care.

Part Three of the Act establishes Health Education England and the Health Research Authority.

This document focuses on Part One of the Act.

About this Document

This document is designed to give an overview of Part One of the Care Act 2014. It's divided into short sections which outline what the changes are and what this means for North Tyneside.

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1. Prevention and Wellbeing

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act sets out a general and prevailing duty to promote the wellbeing of individuals.

This means all relevant services within local authorities must consider the following when carrying out any of the functions outlined in the Care Act. This includes any other partners or organisations who are commissioned by the local authority to deliver any of the functions outlined in the Care Act:

- A person's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs.
- The need to prevent or delay the development of need for care and support.
- The need to make decisions that are not based on stereotyping people.
- The importance of people participating as fully as possible in relevant decisions about their care needs, including provision of information and support.
- The importance of achieving a balance between a person's wellbeing and that of any friends or relatives who are involved in caring for that person.
- The need to protect people from abuse and neglect.
- The need to ensure that restrictions on individual rights or freedoms are kept to the minimum necessary.

The Act also requires local authorities to ensure the provision of preventative services. That is services which help prevent, delay or reduce the development of care and support needs, including carers' support needs.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

Like many elements of the Care Act, prevention principles are not new and have operated in practice in North Tyneside for some time. We will continue to provide or arrange services which help prevent, delay or reduce the development of care and support needs, including carers' support needs.

The Council has dedicated reablement and enablement services which help people recover from periods of ill health or help people develop skills to live more independently.

We recognise that the solutions that many people have to meet their care needs can be found within their own families, their communities and within themselves. We will encourage our service users, our partners and our staff to help find these solutions.

Wellbeing has a broad scope, including:

- Personal dignity
- Physical health
- Mental health,
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Housing
- Control over day to day life, and
- Participation in work, education or training.

This scope applies equally to carers and those with care needs.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Work with carers to redesign our approach to carer assessments, ensuring these are focused on wellbeing and enable carers to receive support to continue in their caring role, where they want to do this.
- Train our assessment teams to ensure that the focus of assessment and resulting care plans is on wellbeing.
- Provide a new community based, face to face service, called Care and Connect, to offer further opportunities for people to get information about local services that promote their health and wellbeing. This is a free service, open to everyone, regardless of funding or eligibility status.
- Promote the use of telecare and equipment to help people live independently and to assess ongoing care needs.
- Improving our advice and information offer so this has full details of the local care and support system and is available to everyone, regardless of funding or eligibility status.
- Reconfigure services that we provide and commission, to always have a focus on recovery and on reducing or delaying needs for formal support.

2. Advice and Information

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act places a duty on local authorities to establish and maintain a service for providing information and advice to local people on care and support. However the local authority does NOT have to provide or directly commission these services.

- The advice and information offer should include details of:

- What support and services are available and how to access them;
- Services which prevent and delay the development of care and support needs;
- The cost of services and how to plan for this.
- Health, housing and employment services and support available.
- Abuse or neglect; how to prevent this, report it or get help.

The Act also sets out a clear role for social workers in evidencing how advice and information is used in support planning.

The local advice and information service should be open to everyone, including those:

- Wanting to plan for future care needs
- Who may develop care and support needs, or whose needs may increase
- Involved in assessment
- Being reviewed
- Involved in safeguarding.

Carers will need information and advice about:

- Breaks from caring
- The health and wellbeing of carers themselves
- Caring and advice on wider family relationships
- Carers' financial and legal issues
- Caring and employment
- A carer's need for advocacy.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

We already have many of the key ingredients for meeting the Care Act requirements on advice and information.

We have SIGN (Signposting Information and Guidance Network), a professional network of advice and information providers, who work together to provide ten easy access points for advice and information about the local care and support system.

The Council also operates a dedicated team who offer information advice and signposting and support to access adult social care help.

Advice and information experts in the community and voluntary sector have already helped us start to map out the current position and from this we have established a working group to help

develop a longer term vision and strategy for advice and information services in North Tyneside.

We will need to be clear what advice and information services look like now and how people currently access this, before agreeing what changes we should make.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Update all existing information leaflets and create some new ones to cover additional information to meet the changes required by the Care Act, from April 2015.
- Review how people currently access advice and information and find out what improvements they would like to see.
- Provide a new community based, face-to-face service, called Care and Connect, to offer further opportunities for people to get information about local care and support services. This is a free service, open to everyone, regardless of funding or eligibility status.
- Ensure SIGN has access to the right information and training to give out the most up to date information and advice to residents.
- Train Council assessment teams so they are equipped to deliver advice and information as part of the care planning process.
- Update the current Council website content to make sure this is Care Act compliant. This will include making links to relevant information about NHS and other wellbeing services including the council's Active North Tyneside service.
- Ensure that information is made available in the right format.
- Develop a longer term advice and information strategy with our partners and residents.
- Make substantial improvements to the Council website to improve access, layout and usability. This will include the use of more self help tools and an improved directory of services.
- Work with North Tyneside SIGN to establish shared standards and practice for advice and information. This will help to ensure the quality of advice and information is consistent and of good quality for everybody.
- Develop information methods to actively reach out to self funders.
- Ensure that there is specialist financial advice and information available for people to plan for the cost of care and support and the introduction of the Care Account.

3. Adult Safeguarding

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act sets out the local authority's responsibility for adult safeguarding for the first time in primary legislation. This includes:

- Responsibility to ensure enquiries into cases of abuse and neglect are carried out effectively.
- Establishment of Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. Each local authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. The way in which a SAB must seek to achieve its objective is by co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.
- Information sharing agreements between agencies are to be established to enable vulnerable people to be safeguarded.
- Changes to professional practice; practitioners must ensure that the adult and their wishes and experiences are at the centre of safeguarding practice and the approach is focused on the outcomes the adult wants to achieve.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

North Tyneside already has a robust system for safeguarding adults in place with a dedicated team who coordinate and support the implementation of the Safeguarding arrangements.

The Care Act makes it a legal requirement to have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). North Tyneside has had a SAB in place for many years. The SAB will be carrying out a benchmarking exercise to confirm that the SAB is meeting all of the requirements of the act.

To meet the changing demands in Safeguarding adults, we have a multi agency working party addressing the main aspects of this. This group is looking at:

- The definition of Safeguarding as set out in the act
- The roles and responsibilities of multi agency partners within the Safeguarding process
- Agreeing pathways to show how various types of concerns will be dealt with and by whom.

We are in the process of updating our Multi Agency Policy and Procedures to ensure that these meet the requirements of the Care Act.

We will be revising the Safeguarding threshold matrix to take account of the new definition in the Care Act that now includes Domestic Abuse, modern slavery and self neglect.

Making Safeguarding Personal is an underlying theme of the Care Act. North Tyneside has been focusing on an outcome based approach for safeguarding. In particular we need to

ensure that the wishes and views of those who have experienced abuse are captured throughout the safeguarding process.

4. Advocacy

What the Care Act Says

Local authorities must involve people in decisions made about them and their care and support. No matter how complex a person's needs, local authorities are required to help people express their wishes and feelings, support them in weighing up their options, and assist them in making their own decisions.

The Care Act places a new duty on local authorities, in certain specified circumstances, to arrange an independent advocate to be available to facilitate the involvement of an adult or carer who is the subject of an assessment, care, support planning or review.

If it appears to the authority that a person has care and support needs, then a judgement must be made as to whether that person has substantial difficulty in being involved. If they do, then an appropriate individual must be made available to support them.

The advocacy duty will apply from the point of first contact and if the individual is required to take part in one or more of the following processes described in the Care Act:

- A needs assessment
- A carers' assessment
- The preparation of a care and support or support plan
- A review of a care and support or support plan
- A child's needs assessment
- A child's carers' assessment
- A young carers' assessment
- A safeguarding enquiry
- A safeguarding adult review.

Prior to making contact with the local authority, there may be some people who require independent advocacy to access information and advice.

The advocacy duty in the Care Act applies equally to those people whose needs are being jointly accessed by the NHS and the local authority, or where a package of support is planned, commissioned or funded by both a local authority and a clinical commissioning group (CCG), known as a 'joint package' of care.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

We are currently reviewing our advocacy provision across Adult and Children's Services.

This will include advocacy services that are commissioned by North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group. From this we will seek to commission a new range of advocacy services from April 2015.

We will also update customer information leaflets and information on the Council website to inform people of their rights.

5. Market Oversight, Shaping and Provider Failure

What the Care Act Says

Market oversight will be a new regulatory duty for the Care Quality Commission (CQC)

It will be required to monitor providers, especially those who would be difficult to replace because of their specialist services or the number of people they support. This will be determined by criteria such as their size, geographical concentration and/or the specialist nature of their provision.

The purpose of this duty is to protect people in vulnerable circumstances from the effects of a provider failing.

CQC will deliver this by monitoring providers' financial health to provide early warnings of potential business failure, and coordinating our responses in the event of a failure that would cause difficulties for multiple local authorities.

The scheme isn't intended to prevent providers going out of business, but rather to provide reassurance that, even a business fails, national and local agencies will work together to ensure that people's individual needs continue to be met.

Delivery of our market oversight role will include:

- Monitoring financial sustainability and assessing the likelihood of business failure of difficult-to-replace adult social care provider organisations.
- Identifying and responding to risks in respect of financial sustainability.
- Providing early warnings of business failure to local authorities.
- Assisting in coordinating a response in the event of business failure.

The Care Act also makes clear the role of local authorities in managing the market. Local authorities will have an important role in developing the quality and range of services that local people want and need. Integrated commissioning with key partners, including health and housing, is essential to ensure quality as well as value for money and improve user satisfaction.

The Act provides a new duty on local authorities to join up care and support with health and housing where this delivers better care and promotes wellbeing. Additionally local authorities will need to ensure there is a wide range of care and support services available that enable local people to choose the care and support services they want.

The Care Act also sets out the duties on local authorities when providers fail. Local authorities will be required to temporarily meet an adult's needs for care and support which are no longer being met as a result of the provider failing. This specific duty will apply to all individuals present in the authority's area whose needs the local authority is not already meeting, for example those who are self-funders, and those whose services are funded by another local authority.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

A new commissioning team within the Council will be responsible for all people-based commissioning activity across the Council and will work closely with North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group on joint commissioning initiatives for children and adults.

The team will be responsible for many areas set out in the Care Act relating to:

- Market Shaping
- Provider failure and resilience
- Contract management
- Demand management
- Service quality
- Commissioning intentions.

The Council will continue to work closely with the CQC and CCG in terms of improving the quality of services.

Although North Tyneside Council may still act as a purchaser of care, its overarching responsibility will be to ensure there is as an efficient and effective care market in the borough. The Council will need to make sure that the market is sustainable and that there is sufficient care available for all those who need it, whether funded by the local authority or not and for those who may be in receipt of care and their carers.

To help achieve this, the Council will develop Market Position Statements for different client groups and service areas by April 2015. These Statements will produce a common and shared view of supply and demand in the area that can be published and shared. This will help us to ensure that there is sufficient availability and choice of services to meet local need.

We will also continue to review and update where needed our approach to gathering information and intelligence to give us the best possible view of need, service quality and experience.

We will continue to monitor the quality of all services we commission.

6. Continuity of Assessments and Support

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act seeks to clarify the assessment process for anyone wishing to move between different local authority areas, recognising that it is important to ensure that care and support is in place during the move, in order to maintain the person's wellbeing.

Effective joint working between authorities will be essential to ensure that care continues without interruption, providing confidence to the individual.

The Act clarifies that the 'receiving' authority must satisfy itself that the individual has taken an informed decision and has a new support plan before the date of the move. If this is not possible, then the individual's existing support plan will remain in place until a new one is produced.

The Act also helps local authorities identify a person's ordinary residence (usually based on where they live) for the purposes of providing care and support. It provides a mechanism for local authorities to reclaim money they have spent providing care and support to someone for whom they were not in fact responsible.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

As part of the Care Act, we will:

- Develop a policy for continuity
- Provide training to all relevant staff
- Update customer information leaflets.

7. Universal Deferred Payments

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act provides regulations to state when a local authority may or must enter into a deferred payment agreement, which will allow people to defer paying their care fees by taking out a loan from their local authority (secured against their property) to pay for care and support.

The loan is repaid upon the sale of the person's home.

The Act contains further provisions for deferred payment agreements to help local authorities recover the costs involved in their provision of services and to ensure adequate protections for residents and their families. It includes powers to set out administration costs and interest

payments, which local authorities can charge people, and the information or other consumer protection measures that must be provided to the resident.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

In line with most local authorities, North Tyneside Council currently offers deferred payments to those people who: are moving into a long-term care setting; and own a property, but do not wish to sell it at that time. We recognise that this can be a particularly challenging and difficult time for them and the opportunity to delay making a final decision about their home can give them some reassurance and peace of mind.

The provisions in the Care Act will make deferred payments a universal provision across all authorities. It will be available to those people who meet certain qualifying criteria, and where the local authority is confident that the deferred amount can be repaid at some point in the future by ensuring that there is sufficient security/equity in place.

Our existing system will be fundamentally reviewed in preparation for the new Care Act requirements from April 2015 and the introduction of the new regulations.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Review our existing Deferred Payments Policy and Agreements, to ensure that they are 'fit for purpose' and meet the requirements of the Care Act;
- Seek Cabinet Agreement to the new Policy;
- Develop an 'Easy Read' Guide to Deferred Payments, setting out:
 - The conditions for eligibility;
 - How the system will work: and
 - What information customer's will be provided with once they are part of the scheme.
- Develop a financial risk management strategy and accounting procedures;
- Develop a framework of providers for property valuations;
- Develop interim IT solutions to support us to advise customers on a six-monthly basis how much of their care charge has been deferred and how much is owed;
- Undertake staff awareness raising and training with care management teams.

8. Personalisation and Planning Care and Support

What the Care Act Says

Personalisation is the process by which people who are in need of care and support are encouraged to take as active a part as possible in planning their care and support, and are given choice and control over how their care and support needs will be met.

Duties in the Care Act around personalisation reflect current policy and practice and embed these in statute.

The Care Act makes clear that individuals, who have eligible needs, receive support through a personal budget, and possibly in the form of a direct payment. The requirement to inform an individual about direct payments replicates current duties.

A personal budget is defined as a statement of the cost of meeting an individual's needs and the amount the individual and the council must pay towards these costs.

Social workers have a unique and valuable contribution to make in enabling service users and carers to direct their own support and in a way that reflects and promotes the overarching wellbeing principle in the Care Act. Central to an individual's well-being is that it is self-defined, self-manufactured and self-realised.

The Act replaces and brings together a number of disparate legal duties to meet eligible needs into a single entitlement to care and support.

The Act makes the requirement to prepare a care and support plan a new legal duty. This reflects established practice in local authorities and existing case law.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

Many of the principles of personalisation in the Care Act are not new. Whilst the right to a personal budget will be included in statutory legislation for the first time, in practice personal budgets have been delivered through statutory guidance and have been embedded in North Tyneside since 2012.

The definition of a personal budget in the Act reflects current policy and practice.

Alongside our assessment processes, we will begin a systematic review of all of our processes (the Customer Pathway) to confirm whether they are compliant with the Care Act. If the processes are not compliant then we will amend or change them before April 2015.

Initial work suggests that the majority of our processes are compliant or would only require a small change in order to achieve compliance.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Engage with current customers to understand what currently works well and what doesn't work as well.
- Update all care and support planning documentation to ensure that it reflects the language and ethos of the Care Act.
- Ensure that our care and support planning system is compliant with the Care Act.
- Provide training to all relevant staff on the changes associated with the Care Act.
- Hold a series of workshops for adult social care users so they understand the changes.
- Update all customer information leaflets.

9. Assessment and Eligibility

What the Care Act Says

Local Authorities have operated the National Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Eligibility Criteria since 2003 (revised in 2010). FACS operates at four needs bands (Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low) with local authorities able to determine which needs bands they will meet.

The Care Act, via the new National Minimum Eligibility Criteria, sets out a minimum threshold for people's care and support needs which must be met by local authorities in all areas. Local authorities will not be able to restrict eligibility beyond this threshold. If authorities wish to do so, they can meet other needs which are below the national threshold.

The new criteria will reflect the current Critical and Substantial level of FACS.

Assessment is divided into three distinct stages. Firstly, **identifying the needs**; then deciding whether they are **eligible social care needs**, and lastly, the **care planning** stage, where the impact of carer's willingness and ability to support, will be taken into consideration.

The remainder of unmet eligible needs will be costed and put into a personal budget

Reviews are carried out on a scheduled basis (at least annually). Unscheduled reviews need only be carried out if the council thinks that the circumstances of the person have changed, or on reasonable request from service users, or their advocates.

Service users will be entitled to a copy of their assessment and care and support plan with a written explanation regarding their eligibility.

Advice and information becomes a core part of the support planning process.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

North Tyneside Council has always met Critical and Substantial needs.

We will begin a systematic review of all of our processes (the Customer Pathway) to confirm whether they are compliant with the Care Act. This will include updating the process to reflect the new eligibility criteria. Initial analysis indicates that the majority of our processes are compliant or would only require a small change.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Update all of our documentation to reflect the new National Minimum Eligibility Criteria and approach to assessment and support planning. This will include changes to assessments for carers.
- Provide training to all relevant staff on the changes associated with the Eligibility Criteria and approach to assessments and support planning.
- Hold a series of workshops for adult social care users so they understand the changes.
- Update all customer information leaflets, where necessary, to reflect the Care Act requirements.
- Plan a programme of reviews for 2014/15, which will encompass the application of the new Eligibility Criteria for existing adult social care users.

10. Carers

What the Care Act Says

The Care Act makes some significant changes in terms of the rights of carers, including for the first time making carers eligible for support.

The Act also removes the requirement for carers to *ask* for an assessment and removes the requirement for the carer to be providing “substantial care on a regular basis”.

The Act is clear that the cared for person does not need to have eligible needs in order for the carer to be considered eligible in their own right, instead, the only requirement is that the carer ‘may have needs for support – whether currently or in the future’.

Carers’ have had the right to an assessments since the introduction of carers legislation in 1995 Carers Recognition and Services Act; 2000 Carers and Disabled Children Act; 2004 Carers Equal Opportunities Act.

Carers over 16, including parent carers of disabled children, are entitled to an assessment in their own right.

The Care Act places a duty on local authorities to ensure that all carers know they are entitled to an assessment of their needs. The carers' assessment should always consider a carer's outside interests (work, study or leisure) when carrying out an assessment.

Also see sections of this document on:

- Assessment and eligibility, and
- Advice and information.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

North Tyneside has a strong commitment to supporting carers and working closely with organisations such as the Carers Centre.

Many parts of the Care Act are already in place for carers but there is further work to do.

The Council funds two Carer Support Workers who work alongside the social work teams to specifically support Carers in their caring role. We also fund the Carers Advice and Information Service, which is delivered by the Carers Centre and jointly provide a Carers Breaks and Opportunities fund with North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)...

The Council has a Carers' Champion for the Council, and the Elected Mayor launched a Carers Charter in 2013 following extensive consultation with carers via the Carers Centre and other organisations that support carers.

We have produced the North Tyneside Carers Guide to Health and Wellbeing, which includes a Carers' Wellbeing Check.

A network of Carer Champions is also in operation to enable the two-way flow of information between organisations and the Carers Centre, about matters which impact upon or are of relevance to carers.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Hold sessions with carers to establish what currently works well and what doesn't work in relation to carers' assessments in North Tyneside. We will use these findings to help redesign the process and documentation for carers' assessments in North Tyneside.
- Review and revise our assessment process for carers to reflect the Care Act requirements.
- Update all of our documentation to reflect the new eligibility criteria for carers.

- Provide training to all relevant staff on the changes associated with carers' assessment and eligibility criteria.
- In conjunction with carers, design and deliver workshops, will be held to explain what the Care Act means for carers in North Tyneside and what practical changes are planned.

11. Transition

What the Care Act Says

If a child, young carer or an adult caring for a child (a "child's carer") is likely to have needs when they, or the child they care for, turns 18, the local authority must assess them if it considers there is "significant benefit" to the individual, regardless of whether the child or individual currently receives any services.

A child or a young carer approaching their 18th birthday may ask for an assessment. A parent or carer may also ask for an assessment as the child they are caring for approaches 18 years old.

The Act says that when an assessment is carried out, information should be given about whether the young person, child's carer, or young carer is likely to have eligible needs for care and support when they turn 18 years old.

The Act does not say that the child or young person has to be a certain age to be able to ask for an assessment. It says that local authorities must consider, in all cases, whether there would be a "significant benefit" to the individual in doing an assessment. This means that assessments can begin before the age of 16.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Undertake workforce training to mainstream the assessment co-ordinators role.
- Develop co-production principles with carers and parents.
- Update all of our documentation to reflect the new National Minimum Eligibility Criteria for adults.

12. Partnerships, Cooperation and Integration

What the Care Act Says

What these terms mean.

- Integration: The combined set of methods processes and models that seek to bring about improved coordination of care.
- Cooperation: Public organisations working in partnership to ensure a focus on the care and support and health and health-related needs of their local population.
- Partnership: A joint working arrangement where the partners: or otherwise independent bodies; agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal; create a new organisational structure or process to achieve this goal; plan and implement a joint programme; share information, risks and rewards.

The Care Act states that:

- A local authority must exercise its functions with a view to ensuring the integration of care and support with health-related services.
- A local authority must co-operate with each of its relevant partners, and each relevant partner must co-operate with the authority, in the exercise of their functions relating to adults and carers.
- Local authorities and their partners must co-operate where this is needed in the case of specific individuals who have care and support needs.

The Act describes a general duty to cooperate between the local authority and other relevant authorities which have functions relevant to care and support. This includes a duty on the local authority itself to ensure cooperation between its adult care and support, housing, public health and children's services.

The Care Act also re-enacts and updates the provisions which relate to delayed discharge services from acute hospitals. They set out the process for notification of discharge when an adult has care needs, requirement for assessment, and amends the mandatory system of fining ("reimbursement"), where the local authority has not carried out its duties by the day of discharge, to a discretionary one.

The Care Act makes clear that a local authority may not provide any healthcare services which are the responsibility of the NHS. However, a local authority may provide some healthcare services in certain circumstances, as long as the service provided is minor and it accompanies some other care and support service which the local authority is permitted to provide.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

The three main commissioners, providers and employers of health and social care services in North Tyneside – North Tyneside Council, North Tyneside Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Northumbria NHS Foundation Trust - established a formal programme of integration in mid 2013. The programme forms the basis of Better Care Fund implementation and is focused on tangible improvements over six work streams. The programme is accountable to the North Tyneside Health and Wellbeing Board.

North Tyneside also has a strong history of partnership and inter-organisational working to deliver improved care and support to residents.

Some services such as those for older people recovering from periods of ill health or hospital stays are already jointly delivered across NHS and social care services.

As part of the Care Act we will:

- Establish a new commissioning team within the Council which will be responsible for all people based commissioning activity across the Council for adult care, children's care and public health.
- Continue to explore joint commissioning opportunities with the CCG around the older person's care pathway and new contracts for domiciliary care.

13. Care Accounts and Self Funders – 2020

What the Care Act Says

From April 2020 the key reforms on care funding will be enacted. The key principles to this are:

- Financial protection: everyone will know what they have to pay towards the cost of meeting their eligible needs for care and support.
- People will be protected from having to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for any care home costs.
- People will be helped to take responsibility for planning and preparing for their care needs in later life.

Important changes include the introduction of a cap on costs of meeting eligible needs for care and support (to be set at £72,000 for those of state pension age and above when it is introduced) including independent personal budgets and care accounts.

- The cap will be adjusted annually, as will the amount people have accrued towards the cap.
- The cap will only apply to care costs which means residents in care homes will be expected to pay around £12k per annum towards what are being deemed as 'daily living costs'.
- There will be no contribution expected for young people entering adulthood with an eligible care need.
- A lower cap for adults of working age (level to be determined) will be implemented.
- There will be an increase in capital thresholds and an extension to the means test providing more support to people with modest wealth
- These changes represent a new legal basis and more consistent approach for charging covering both residential and non-residential care.

The duty to provide an independent personal budget for self funders is a new requirement.

The Department of Health continue to consult on the new guidance around the cap and funding reform regulations, having now delayed the introduction of these change from April 2016 to April 2020.

What's Happening in North Tyneside

Whilst these elements of the Care Act do not start until 2020, work has started to plan for these significant changes.

Before April 2020 we will:

- Identify local self-funders.
- Estimate the time needed to assess self-funders ahead of go live date.
- Estimate cost of meeting care costs for self-funders locally.
- Identify the potential impact on the current workforce.
- Consider ways of carrying out proportionate assessments for self funders.
- Review financial processes, information and advice systems and IT.
- Start a conversation with local providers about the potential impact of the reforms.