



Care and support in Barnet is changing for the better

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

care and
support
& you

Care and support is changing for the better

From April 2015, care and support in England is changing for the better. The new Care Act will help to make care and support more consistent across the country.

‘Care and support’ is the term we use to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with friends or family.

We provide a high standard of care and support in Barnet. The Care Act gives us an opportunity to build on and improve the care and support that we deliver, by making it more focused on the individual, their needs and their wellbeing.

Whether you are receiving support at home, living in a care home or you support someone as a carer, the new national changes are designed to put you in control. It will be easier for you to make plans for your care and support now and in the future.



What do you need to do?

If you are currently receiving care and support from adult social care in Barnet, **you don't need to do anything** as a result of the Care Act. We will give you advice and support if there is anything you need to do differently.

Assessing your needs

From April 2015 for the first time, all councils in England will consider the same national level of care and support needs when we assess what help we can give to you.

This means that decisions made about the help you receive will now focus on your wellbeing and what is important to you and your family.

In Barnet we already provide care and support for people that broadly mirror the new national eligibility criteria. We will continue to provide care and support for everyone that is currently receiving a service. We may look at ways to improve the care and support we provide by making it more focused on the individual and their wellbeing.



In control of decisions

If you receive care and support you will be more in control of decisions that affect you, and in putting together a support plan, tailored to your needs. Your support plan will set out how you can do the things that are important to you and your family, with the right level of care and support.

We will also work out how much it will cost to meet your needs and how much the council will contribute towards the cost. You will have more control over how that money is spent.

Emotional, mental and physical needs

Everyone's needs are different. They may be physical, mental or emotional. You may find that the support you need could be met by something going on in your local community, for example, services organised by local charities or other support networks.

Whatever your level of need, we will be able to put you in touch with the right organisation to support your wellbeing and help you remain independent for longer.



Deferred payment agreements

Planning for care home costs

From April 2015, all councils in England including Barnet Council will offer deferred payment agreements.

This means that people should not have to sell their homes in their lifetime to pay for their care, as they have sometimes had to do in the past.

Choosing a deferred payment agreement

A deferred payment agreement is an arrangement with the council that will enable some people to use the value of their home to pay for their care home costs. If you are eligible, we will help to pay your care home bills on your behalf. You can delay repaying us until you choose to sell your home, or until after your death.

We may charge a small amount of interest on the amount owed to us, and there may also be a fee for setting this arrangement up. These charges will cover the council's costs and not make a profit.

A deferred payment agreement is only one way to pay for care.



To find out more about the options available, you can speak to a financial adviser or seek advice from an independent organisation such as **My Care My Home** on **0800 731 8470** or visit **www.mycaremyhome.co.uk**.

Supporting you in caring

Thousands of people in Barnet provide unpaid care or support to an adult family member or friend, either in their own homes or somewhere else.

'Caring' for someone covers lots of different things, like helping with their washing, dressing or eating, taking them to regular appointments or keeping them company when they feel lonely or anxious.

If you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from the changes.

The right help at the right time

If this sounds like you, from April 2015, changes to the way care and support is provided mean you may be able to get more help so that you can carry on caring and look after your own wellbeing.



You may be eligible for support, such as a direct payment to spend on the things that make caring easier; or practical support, like arranging for someone to step in when you need a short break.

You may prefer just to be put in touch with local support groups so you have people to talk to.

In order to find out if you qualify for support from us, you may need to have a **carer's needs assessment**.

Assessing your wellbeing

A carer's needs assessment will look at the different ways that caring affects your life and work out how you can carry on doing the things that are important to you and your family. Your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing will be at the heart of this assessment.

You can have a carer's assessment even if the person you care for does not get any help from the council, and they will not need to be assessed. For information, advice and support about being a carer, please contact **Barnet Carers Centre** on **020 8343 9698** or visit **www.barnet.gov.uk/carers**.





For more information on the changes and how you might benefit from the changes visit www.barnet.gov.uk/careact.

If you cannot find the answers to your questions on our website, please contact Social Care Direct on 020 8359 5000.

This leaflet is available in accessible formats such as large print and audio. Contact the Communications Team at Barnet Council on 020 8359 7150 for details.