

# New Care Act introduced

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## Changes that may affect carers

From April 2015, changes to the way care and support is provided in England mean a change in rights for carers. All adult carers will be entitled to a Carer's Assessment under the Act. The assessment will look at the different ways that caring affects carers lives and work out how carers can carry on doing the things that are important to them and their families. Their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing will be central to this assessment. As a result, they may be eligible for support from the council, who will also offer advice and guidance to help carers with their caring responsibilities.

Carers can have a Carer's Assessment even if the person they care for is not eligible for support from the council.

At the heart of the Care Act is the principle of wellbeing both for the carer and the person they care for. Carers will be recognised, in law, in the same way as those they care for.

Support following a Carer's Assessment may include a direct payment to spend on the things that make caring easier; or practical support, like arranging for someone to step in when they need a short break. Or carers may prefer to be put in touch with support groups in Swindon so they have people to talk to.

Cath Johnston, CEO of Swindon Carers Centre says "Carers being recognised in law in the same way as the person they care for is a great leap forward. We need to ensure that we can provide the support carers are eligible for to improve their quality of life."

## Ends

### Notes to editors

- Swindon Carers Centre is part of the national network of the Carers Trust
- SCC offers help and support to people in Swindon who have caring responsibilities
- There are approximately 19,500 carers of all ages (including children and young people) in the Borough of Swindon and Swindon Carers Centre is available to provide them with much needed support, help and information

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