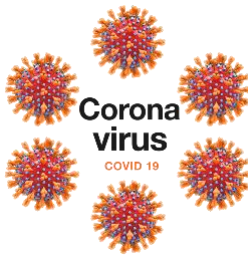


Easy read guide about the Care Act easements.



Why has there been changes to the Care Act?

Coronavirus is making people ill.



This means it can be more difficult for
people to get the right support because
their carers are ill or unable to work.



This is putting a lot of pressure on Local
Authorities and care providers.



Social care is important for lots of people.
It gives people the support that they need
to live happy and healthy lives.



To help Local Authorities and care providers prioritise what they do and give the best care the Government has made temporary changes to the Care Act.



The Care Act is a law. The law is all about the care and support that adults get from the government.



The Government's changes are known as the **Care Act easements** created under the Coronavirus Act 2020.

This is temporary – only for a short time while Coronavirus is making people ill.

The Government says the changes will be stopped as soon as possible.

What are the changes?



The changes mean that the way care assessments, care reviews and care plans are done might be different.



This is so people with the most urgent and serious care needs can get what they need to stay safe.



Any care assessments, care reviews and care plans that are delayed will be done at a later date.



There are 4 main changes

1. Local Authorities will not have to carry out detailed care assessments as they did before.



They should still try and do them as much as possible. They will still have to listen to the needs and wishes of you and your family



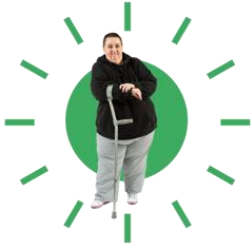
They will still need to respond to people asking for care and support as soon as possible.



2. Local Authorities will not need to ask you to pay towards your care and support until later

They will be able charge people afterwards for the care and support they receive during this time.

They do have to tell you if they think you will have to pay later.



3. Local Authorities will not have to prepare or review care plans like they used to.

They should still try and record the support that you need as much as possible.



But if they do want to change your plans, they must talk to you and your family.

4. Local Authorities may not HAVE to meet all your care needs, but they must TRY their best.

The Government has said that they still need to do all they can to meet people's needs and they can only stop doing that if they have to help other people with very serious needs stay safe.



If you have very important support needs they must still meet them. They still have to make sure your most important needs are met.





This could be things like getting support to have food and drink, take medication, keep in contact with family and friends.

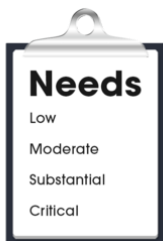
Will people still be safe?



Local Authorities still have to keep you safe and try to give you the care you want. They still have to talk to you and your family about what you need.



They have to make sure you have your human rights.



Local Authorities and care providers will have to ask you about your needs and wellbeing and involve you in decisions.



The Care Quality Commission – that makes sure care is safe for people who use social care - will still be there to do this.

What does this mean for you?



This might be a worrying time for you.

A lot of things are changing. But, whatever happens, if you have very important support needs you should get the support you need to stay safe.



Your local authority should get in touch with you if they want to make changes during this time.

They must let you know if they want to change any of your support.



You should be able to have your say about any changes that are made to your support.

If a family member helps to care for you, the support they get might change too.



If you have any worries about the changes to your support, you can contact Mencap's helpline and they might be able to help you.

When will this happen?



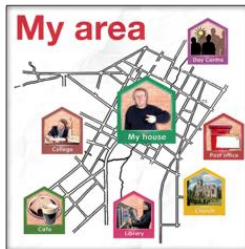
The law that allows this started on 31st March 2020. These changes don't all come in at the same time. Each local authority will decide when they need to make these changes. Some may not make these changes at all.



It is only temporary.

The Government says the changes will be stopped as soon as possible.

Who decides if it will happen to me?



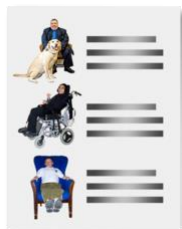
Each Local Authorities decides when they need to do that and they need to involve lots of people.



The Director of Adult Social Care and the Principal Social Worker take the decision.



The Health and Wellbeing Board and the Local NHS and Clinical Commissioning Group are involved.



They need to tell the Department of Health and Social Care.



Local Authorities should write down why they have made their decisions



They need to tell everyone who is affected including you and your family.



If you do not like the decision you can talk about this with the local authority.

You might want some support with this and Mencap or one of your local groups might be able to help you.

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