

The Care Bill - A new agenda for carers?

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Key principles to inform the Care Bill within the National Carers' Strategy 'refresh' [2010] and in forthcoming 'refresh of Action Plan [2014] and NHS Action Plan on Commitment to Carers (expected 2014)

- Early identification and support.**
- Enabling those with caring responsibilities to fulfil their educational/employment potential.**
- Personalised support for carers and those they support, enabling them to have a family and community life.**
- Supporting carers to remain physically and mentally well.**
- Ensuring young carers do not carry out inappropriate levels of care and can achieve in education and employment.**

The Care Bill: A new agenda for care and support for carers

- **'Parity of esteem' for carers and those they support, with a new National Assessment and Eligibility Framework** to give consistency across England.
- **Carers and users have equal rights to assessments and care/support plans.** We are first EU nation to formally recognise carers' rights as distinct (albeit inter-related) and of equal value compared to those they support.
- **Underlying principles of 'well-being' and personalisation**— a culture shift in focus from crisis intervention to life chances and outcomes, with recognition of the need for integrated and preventative approaches from health, social care, housing and the welfare system.

The Care Bill – key provisions

- **Universal rights to information and advice** – with carers increasingly becoming both micro-commissioners as well as micro-providers [a huge role for the voluntary sector].
- **Information and advice services** will be available whether or not the person is eligible for LA funding and support. **Financial advice and advocacy** included for first time.
- **‘Population level duties’**: New duty on local authorities to provide information and advice, prevention services and to develop and shape the market for care and support services.
- **New duty to cooperate and promote integration** (with *housing* brought into a care bill for first time)

The Care Bill - Assessments

- A statutory duty to provide **information and advice** (irrespective of financial position of family)
- **Focus of assessment on needs and outcomes.**
- **A National Assessment and Eligibility Framework:** The first entitlement to **support for carers** – on an equal basis to the person they care for.
- Removal of requirement for carer to be providing **substantial levels of care.**

More about assessment and care planning

- **Young carers** have greater protection and right to assessment.
- **Parent carers:** Amendment at Committee Stage to give parent carers greater rights to assessment to assessment and support.
- **Entitlement to a care plan for user/support plan for carer** (with new duties on portability).
- Right to a **record of the assessment and information and advice** on meeting and preventing needs for people who may not be eligible for funded local authority support.
- **Right to a personal budget** as part of care and support plan and a right to request a direct payment.

Whole Family Assessment for the first time

- **A new concept of FAMILY CARER and WHOLE FAMILY ASSESSMENT (if all parties agree)!**
- **Personalisation and Personal Budgets:** A shift to self directed support and a new flexibility in fitting services round people rather than people into services.
- **Personal budgets** can be taken as direct payments, or be managed by the LA, family or an external agency. Resource allocation will be transparent, however the funding is taken.

Some background on personal budgets

- **527,000 people and family carers now have Personal Budgets** (Personal Health Budgets coming in 2014) – most successful and most effective where there is local support.

- **Particular challenges** identified in evaluation of pilots for personal budgets for care and support *and* health include:
 - **Access to good information and advice;**
 - **Availability of advocacy and brokerage when required;**
 - **Help with financial and administration of budgets;**
 - **Market development: limited options**
 - **Workforce: Shortage of skilled Carers/PAs.**

The Care Bill – First Statutory Framework for Adult Safeguarding

- Government action on **Winterbourne View and Mid Staffordshire Hospital**.
- **Adult Safeguarding Boards** will have strengthened duties to investigate.
- **CQC** strengthened as a regulatory body. Inspections are all now including 'experts by experience' .
- **Healthwatch and Health and Well-Being Boards** should provide useful scrutiny role on local issues around risk and safeguarding.ing solutions (Remember that Public Health funding has now been given to Local Authorities!).

A challenge – Making the Care Bill work: paying for social care and support

- **Social care not necessarily free even if needs assessed and person or carer eligible.** Local authorities must now carry out a financial assessment if they consider charging for a service. There is currently no standardised set of fees for charging (eg day services, home care) and there are wide variations.
- **80% of care is currently provided through the family.** Carers cannot be charged for their relative's care and support.
- **Government response to Dilnot:** First steps towards a 'fair and reasonable' national policy on paying for care and support.
- **Total expenditure on long-term care services (including health, social care and disability benefits) currently 1.6% of GDP (£20.6 billion).** Private expenditure on care is currently **£6.8 billion.**

And a postscript about resources – but Carers UK report clearly shows the current unmet costs to carers.

- **Between 2011 and 2015** (as part of the Government's response to the Carers' Strategy) an additional **£400m** has been allocated to PCTs and now CCGs to improve support for carers of all ages.
- **Councils also receive a Carers Grant** in their general local government allowance grant.
- **Funding to support Care Bill** – Phased over 5 years, rising to £175m a year.
- **Carers estimated to save Councils/NHS up to £119b a year** – supporting their role, Co-producing planning and best use of resources, is an investment in the future!

Integrating care (and paying for it) – the Better Care Fund – an opportunity

- **Better Care Fund brings together existing NHS and Local Government resources. In 2015, the Fund will be created from:**
 - £1.9bn NHS funding:
 - £1.9bn funding based on existing funding for 2014/15 including:
 - £130m Carers Breaks funding
 - £300m CCG reablement funding
 - £354m capital funding (including £220m Disabled Facilities Grant)
 - £1.bn existing transfer from health to adult social care.
- **For 2014/15 NHS England will only pay out the extra £200m to councils if they have jointly agreed and signed off two year plans for the Better Care Fund.**

In conclusion.....

- **‘Our vision is that the Care Bill will transform people’s experience of care, by promoting their independence and well-being and putting them in control of their own lives.’**
[Care and Support White Paper]
- **The Care Bill has completed Committee Stage and will have Report Stage and Third Reading in March.** It should get Royal Assent this year, with implementation in 2015.
- **The Statutory Guidance and Regulations will be out for consultation in March – important that NVFF responds!**

Some questions for discussion (looking ahead to the consultation on regs/guidance)

- ❑ **What would a ‘good’ carer’s assessment and support plan look like?**
- ❑ **How can we best provide reliable and accessible information and advice services? Should they include advocacy?**
- ❑ **Whole family assessment:** What should guidance say (recognising interface between children’s and adult services and two separate Bills)?

More questions

- **How can we best manage transitions** between the Children and Families Bill and the Care Bill for carer/young person?
- **How can family carers play a strategic role in helping to ‘shape the market’ for personalised services?**
- **How can we best integrate housing, health and social care?**
- **Safeguarding issues:** How do we balance risk with self directed care and support in a more personalised care and support system?