

Dudley carers hub

Carers national eligibility threshold factsheet

The Care Act 2014 introduced new rights for carers, including the right to an assessment of their own needs and a right to support if it is determined that the carer has eligible needs.

To determine eligibility the Act, introduced a national eligibility threshold, which all councils use. Where it is determined that the carer does have eligible needs they can ask the council to support them.

If the council decides that a carer is not eligible for care and support, they still have a duty to provide information and advice. In Dudley carers are also able to access support through Dudley Carers Hub and Wellbeing Service

The national threshold consists of three questions, all of which must be met for a carer's needs to be eligible. The carers eligibility threshold is based on identifying:

- whether a carer's needs are a consequence of providing necessary care for an adult;
- to what extent the carer's needs affect their ability to achieve specified outcomes (see below), or puts their health at risk; and
- whether as a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impacts on the carers own wellbeing

If the answer to all three questions is yes, then the carer has eligible needs.

You are a carer if you provide regular, unpaid care to a family member, friend or neighbour, whether you are a child, parent or adult.

Supporting people who care for a family member or friend



Carers can be eligible for support whether the adult for whom they care has eligible needs or not. The eligibility determination must be made based on the carer's needs and how these impact on their wellbeing.

The council will only decide whether a carer has eligible needs once a carers assessment has been completed.

Carers Eligibility Threshold

Are your needs a result of providing necessary care?

Your needs must be a result of providing 'necessary' care to another adult. The council must consider whether the carer's needs for support arise as a consequence of **providing necessary care** for an adult.

Necessary has been determined as:

'Activities that the individual requiring support should be able to carry out, as part of normal daily life, but is unable to do so. However, necessary care includes care provided to support needs that are not eligible.'

The council may decide that the care you are providing is not necessary and that the person you are caring for can do the things you are helping them with themselves. They may also decide that your needs or problems are the result of something other than your caring role.

Is your caring role affecting your physical or mental health and/or your life outside of caring?

If the council has decided the carers needs are as a consequence of providing necessary care, they must then consider whether:

- the carers physical or mental health is affected, or is it likely to get worse, OR
- the carer is unable to achieve any one or more of the following outcomes:
- **Carrying out caring responsibilities for a child.** The council will consider whether the carer has caring responsibilities for a child, which may be affected by the caring role for example the carers is caring for a child who has additional support needs who requires their care.
- **Providing care to another person.** The council will consider whether the carer has additional caring responsibilities for another person, for example are they are caring for a partner as well as having to care for an elderly parent or grandparent?

- **Maintaining a habitable home environment in the carers own home.** The council will consider whether the carer is able to maintain their own home and it is a safe environment, for example is it safe and does it have essential amenities such as water, electricity and gas?
- **Managing and maintain nutrition.** The council will consider whether the carer has time to do essential shopping and prepare meals for example does the carer have to support the person they care for during meal times but also have to prepare meals for their family at home?
- **Developing and maintaining relationships with family or personal relationships.** The council will consider whether caring prevents the carer from maintaining key relationships with family and friends or from developing a personal relationship, for example is the carer unable to visit close family because they have to be constantly available to provide care?
- **Engaging in work, training and education or volunteering.** The council will consider whether caring is affecting the carers work commitments; their wish to return to work, attend training or volunteer, for example as a result of the care they are providing are they considering stopping or reducing their hours at work to be able to continue caring.
- **Make use of necessary local community facilities or services.** The council will consider whether the carer has the opportunity to use necessary local community services and facilities, for example their GP, hospital appointments, church or local community services (i.e. libraries and leisure centres).
- **Participate in recreational activities.** The council should consider whether the carer has leisure time to take part in leisure activities, for example is the carers unable to have any free time to just do a hobby or read a book?

In considering whether a carer is able or unable to achieve any of the above outcomes the Care Act states that the council must take into account any difficulties they may have. The carer will be considered unable to achieve the outcome if they:

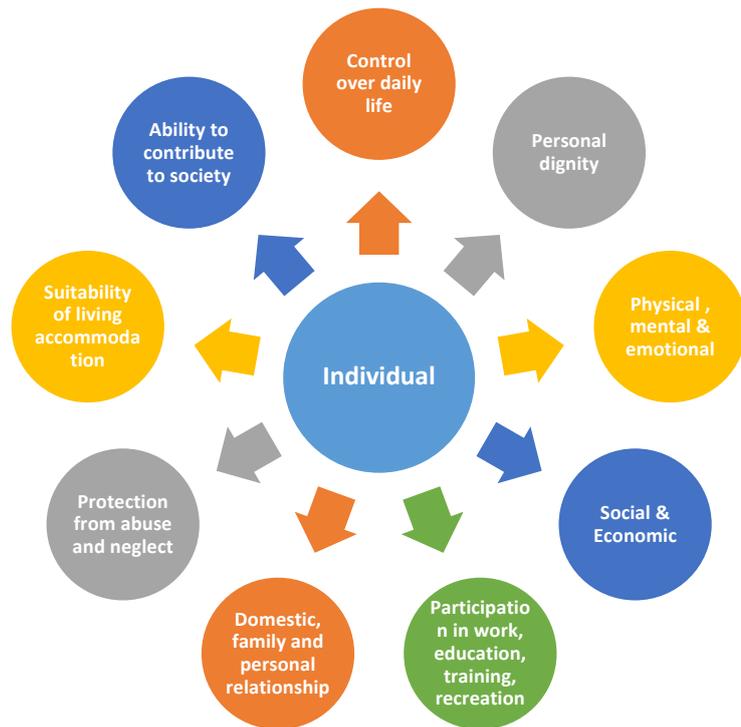
- need assistance to achieve the outcome
- can achieve the outcome without assistance but in doing so they are likely to experience significant pain, distress or anxiety OR it endangers, or is likely to endanger their health or safety and/or the health and safety of any adults or children they may be caring for.

If the council decide that the carer is unable to achieve any of the identified outcomes, the council will consider whether there is, or there is likely to be a significant impact on their wellbeing.

What does the term wellbeing mean?

Finally, and crucially, the council must consider whether, as a consequence of being unable to achieve an outcome there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on the carer's wellbeing. The council will determine whether:

- the carer's needs impact on an area of wellbeing in a significant way or,
- the cumulative effect of the needs impact on a number of the areas of wellbeing to such an extent that they have a significant impact on the carer's overall wellbeing.



The council should consider how the carer's needs impact on the nine areas of wellbeing shown on the diagram above.

In making this decision, the council should look to understand the carer's needs in the context of what is important to them. The impact of needs may be different for different individuals, because what is important for one individual's wellbeing may not be the same for another individual. Circumstances, which create a significant impact on the wellbeing of one individual, may not have the same effect on another.

If the carer's level of need varies the council must also take this into consideration, so a full picture of the level of need is developed. This variation may be due to the condition of the cared person changing from day to day or week to week, or because the carer has other responsibilities that can affect them from time to time.

If you do not have any eligible needs, the council will still be able to provide information, advice and guidance on services and support available to you and the person you care for.

Get in touch

Pop in and see us at the hub between 9.30am and 3pm or ring to book an appointment (evening appointments available)

Queens Cross Network, Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1RB

Call us on 01384 818723

email us at carers.network@dudley.gov.uk

www.dudley.gov.uk/carers

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

NHS

Dudley

Clinical Commissioning Group