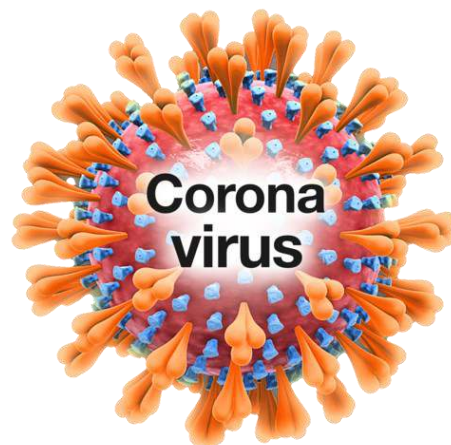




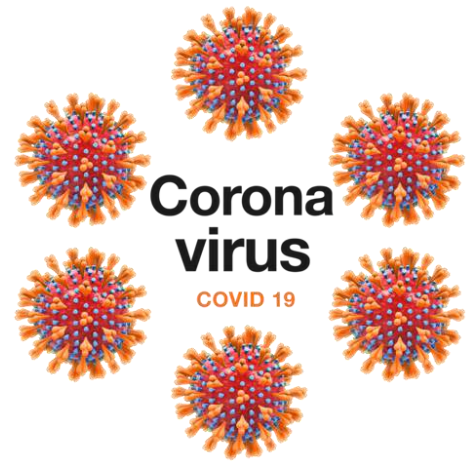
Dorset Advocacy

Coronavirus Act 2020

*An Easy Read guide to how
the Coronavirus Act might
affect your care and support.*



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“Easy Read” does not mean that everyone will find this booklet easy to understand.

Many people will need lots of help and support to go through it.

1. Introduction



The Care Act 2014 says that Local Authorities must:

Find out about the care and support you need.

This is done using a **needs assessment**.



Work out how much money you have to spend on your care and support.

This is called **financial assessment**.

Write your care and support plan.

And review it every year, or sooner if needed.

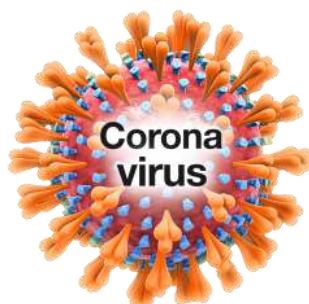


Ask an Advocate to support you.



You are entitled to an advocate if you find it difficult to take part in assessments & planning, and you have no family or friends who can help.

The Coronavirus Act 2020

This has been written to help the country cope with the coronavirus pandemic. It says that **Local Authorities (councils) can decide not to follow parts of the Care Act**. This guide is about the changes that might need to happen.



3. What might change?

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>The Coronavirus Act says that Local Authorities will <u>not</u> have to do these things:</p> | <p>But they <u>will</u> have to do these things:</p> |
| <p>Detailed assessment of needs.</p>  <p>The image shows a man in a dark suit and glasses holding a clipboard. On the clipboard is a checklist titled 'Needs' with 10 items. Items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 have green checkmarks. Items 3 and 9 have red X marks.</p> | <p>Respond as soon as possible when you ask for care and support.</p> <p>Respect your human rights.</p> <p>Consider your needs and wishes. <i>(presumably with help from an Advocate if needed – but this is not in the guidance)</i></p> |
| <p>Financial assessments.</p>  <p>The image shows a hand holding a fan of several £20 banknotes. The notes are purple and white, with the number '20' and the text '£20' visible.</p> | <p>Tell you if you might need to pay back money for your care and support after the coronavirus crisis is over.</p> <p>Do a financial assessment after the crisis is over.</p> <p>Make sure that charging money for services is fair overall.</p> |
| <p>Write and review care and support plans which follow the rules in the Care Act.</p> | <p>Do enough planning to make sure your human rights are respected, and your life is not at risk.</p> <p>Involve you and your carers in decisions.</p> |
| <p>Meet all eligible care and support needs <u>Easy Read information about this here</u></p> | <p>Provide as much care and support as possible.</p> <p>Help people who need it the most.</p> |

4. Why change is needed



The Care Act depends on having enough:

- Social Workers
- Family carers
- Care staff
- Day services
- Employment support, voluntary work...etc
- Community support



Day services, colleges and other community services have been shut.

Social workers and carers may get symptoms of Coronavirus and will have to stay off work for two weeks to prevent spreading the virus.



Family carers might get sick.

At the same time, people may need **more care and support**.



All of this means that it may become **impossible** to give **everyone** all of the **care and support** they need.



Imagine that because of coronavirus, you only have enough carers to help one of these people:

Person 1: Needs help in the **shower** every day



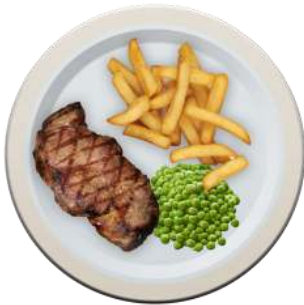
Person 2: Needs help to **eat** and take **medication**

If you had to choose, which person would you help?



The person who needs help in the shower **might be smelly** if they don't wash. You could decide to help them **once a week**, not every day.

This decision would not be allowed under the Care Act, if it is their support plan.



The person who needs help to eat and to take medication **will die without support**. Their support **cannot** change because their life would be at risk.

Nobody wants to have to make these choices.

But the **Coronavirus Act** allows Local Authorities to make these kinds of decisions **if they have to**.

The decisions are likely to be much more complicated than the example above.



5. How it will work



The Care Act has not changed.

Local Authorities must still follow the Care Act until they can prove things like:

- There are **not enough carers and social workers** in the local area
- **More people** are needing **social care**
- Following the Care Act puts **lives at risk**



Even if these things **can** be proved, local authorities cannot just stop following the Care Act overnight, and only some things in the Care Act can change.

To change the rules, local authorities have to first:



- Show how the **Director of Adult Social Services** and the **Principal Social Worker** made their decision, and the evidence they used.
- Involve **Councillors**, the **Health and Wellbeing Board** and **NHS commissioners**.
- Work out what the **effect on people** will be.
- **Report the decision** (and the reasons why the decision was made) **to the government**.
- **Tell all the care providers, service users and carers** in the local area about the decision. **Information about this should be accessible.**



5. Things that won't change



The Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect your human rights, for example:



The right to life

No-one can be deprived of life intentionally



The right to not be tortured

Freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment



The right to not be discriminated against

No-one can treat you differently or unfairly because of your sex, race, skin colour, language, religion, or where you were born.



Other things that will not change include:

- Safeguarding
- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- The Equality Act

6. Keep Safe Website

www.keepsafe.org.uk

keep safe

Info

Resources

Help

To Do
Events

Get Help



Easy Read information and guidance about coronavirus:

- Staying at home
- Keeping safe
- Health issues
- What if you get ill?

Coronavirus Staying at home

You may need to stay at home for a while on your own. Make sure you have

- * Food and supplies
- * Medicine
- * Phone credit
- * Support

Taking care

- Get a food delivery to your home
- Use video chat to keep in touch
- Do things you enjoy - music, puzzles, films
- Exercise if you feel well enough
- Don't be afraid to ask for help!

CALL 111
111.nhs.uk

If you are ill
Stay at home for 7 days
If you feel worse
Phone NHS 111
or visit 111.nhs.uk

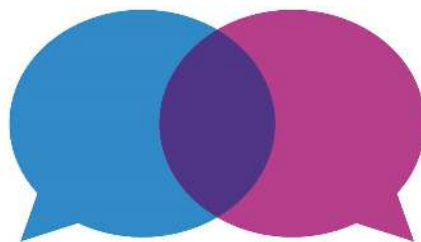
Adapted from Government Guidance:

Care Act easements: guidance for local authorities

March 31st, 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities>

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