



Understanding the Impact of the Care Act 2014 on People Caring for those with Dementia

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Review

Mapping support policies for informal carers across the European Union

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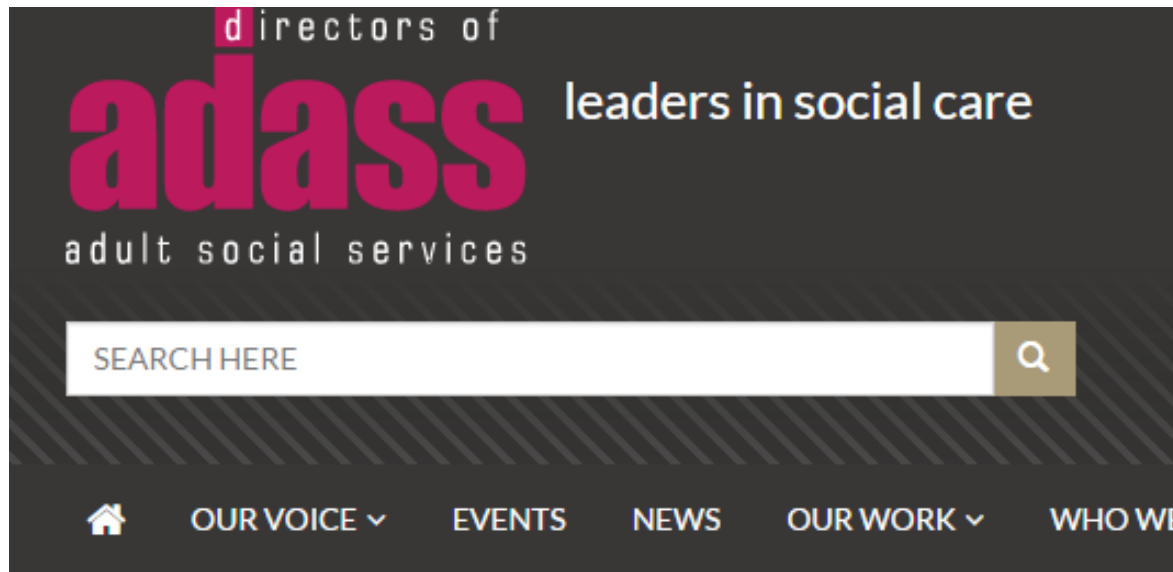
ABSTRACT

Context

UK among the EU states in which policies designed to support carers are among the most developed

Legislative and policy context

- ▶ UK one of first countries to recognise carers' rights
 - ▶ Through benefits system (1992)
 - ▶ Through rights to an assessment (1995) and services in their own right (2004)
 - ▶ Central government strategies (1999, 2008, 2010)
 - ▶ Range of different services have developed
 - ▶ Care Act 2014 and guidance



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Norman Lamb's speech from Spring seminar



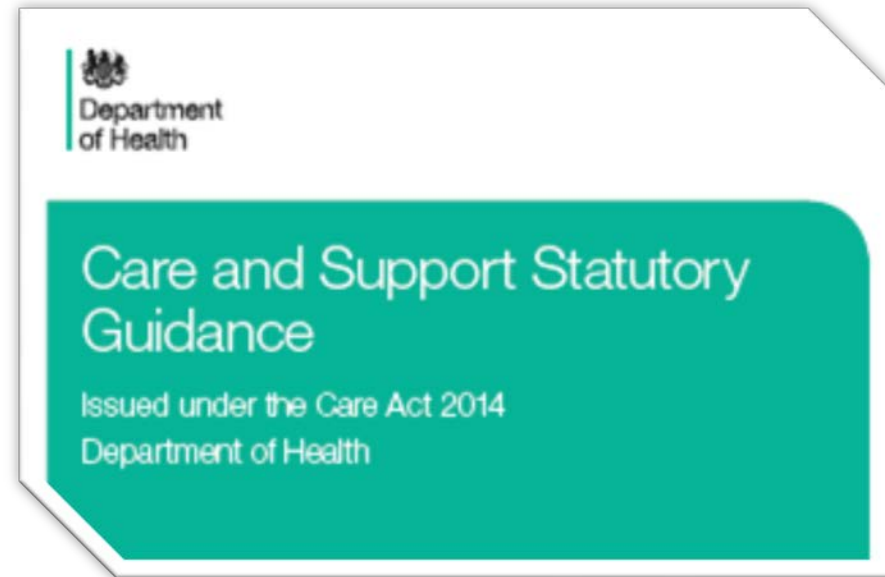
Speech from Care and Support Minister (2014)

'And its goal - to put carers' needs on an equal footing with those that they care for - is historic'

Care Act 2014 & Guidance

Simplifies, consolidates and improves existing legislation

Consequence of 'equal footing' is that guidance applies equally to adults with care and support needs



General responsibilities and universal services

- ▶ Three especially important aspects for carers
 - ▶ Information and advice - delays in accessing timely and relevant advice
 - ▶ Promoting wellbeing - wellbeing levels compared with general population
 - ▶ Preventing, reducing or delaying needs - impact of long term caring ('dripping tap' comparison)

First contact and identifying needs

- ▶ Local authorities have a responsibility to assess a carer's own needs for support
 - ▶ Replaces existing requirement that carer provides "a substantial amount of care on a regular basis"
 - ▶ Carer doesn't have to request an assessment
 - ▶ Carer can still have an assessment even if the person for whom they care doesn't want to be assessed

Assessment and eligibility

- ▶ Assessment must consider impact of caring on carer and carer's own wishes (paid employment, leisure and so on)
- ▶ Assess whether carer is 'eligible' for support
 - ▶ Aims to reduce variation between different parts of the country
 - ▶ Fernandez et al (2014) estimate that number of eligible carers broadly similar to that under FACS
 - ▶ More entitled to universal support - information & one-off payments
 - ▶ But King & Pickard (2013) point out support unlikely to be enough to sustain full time paid employment
- ▶ Can decide whether to charge carers for support
 - ▶ Not new power, consolidates trend

What will happen in practice?

Opportunities?

- ▶ Clarifies ambiguities in earlier legislation
 - ▶ Practitioners unsure about when to offer carers an assessment (Mitchell et al, 2013)
- ▶ Moving away from 'firefighting'
 - ▶ Rare to see preventative work (Seddon & Robinson, 2015)

Threats?

- ▶ Concerns that councils will not have additional money to implement changes
- ▶ Carers may be put off by additional 'bureaucracy', especially if they think they will not get the help they want

References and sources (1)

Number	Source
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8	Fernandez, J.-L., Snell, T., & Marczak, J. (2014). Evaluation of the June 2014 Draft National Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Social Care. Canterbury: Personal Social Services Research Unit. http://www.pssru.ac.uk/archive/pdf/4736.pdf

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Number	Source
8	King, D., & Pickard, L. (2013). When is a carer's employment at risk? Longitudinal analysis of unpaid care and employment in midlife in England. <i>Health & Social Care in the Community</i> , 21(3), 303-314, http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/hsc.12018 .
9	Mitchell, W., Brooks, J., & Glendinning, C. (2013). Carers and personalisation <i>SSCR Research Findings</i> . London: NIHR School for Social Care Research. http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/2620/ .
9	Seddon, D., & Robinson, C. (2015). Carer assessment: continuing tensions and dilemmas for social care practice. <i>Health & Social Care in the Community</i> , 23(1), 14-22, http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/hsc.12115 .

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