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

Capita Conference 26 March 2015
Jo Moriarty
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)
  - Range of different services have developed
  - Care Act 2014 and guidance
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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### References and sources (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Acknowledgement & disclaimer

The Social Care Workforce Research Unit receives funding from the Department of Health Policy Research Programme. The views expressed here are those of the author and not the Department of Health.