

Care in the city



Happy new year

Welcome to the first newsletter to help keep you up to date with the latest news on social care services in the city.

It's an exciting time, as we get used to new ways of doing things, and working closer with our partners in the NHS, private and community sectors.

We're all working hard to get the first phase of the Care Act implemented by this April, and continuing with our plan for Better Care in the city.

Best wishes,
Denise D'Souza
Executive Director
of Adult Social Services

The care act - what you need to know



From April 2015, the new Care Act will help make care and support consistent across England.

As people are living longer the care and support needs they have are different. The way care and support is provided has to change to reflect this.

Three key reforms

- Changes to the needs assessment - There will be a national level of care and support needs that we will consider when assessing what help to give people.
- Continuing deferred payment agreements - After April 2015, we will be changing the scheme in line with the Care Act which allows us to charge interest and admin fees on deferred payment agreements.
- New support for unpaid carers - Carers may get more help so that they can carry on caring and look after their own wellbeing.



Learning Disability Review

A new strategy for adults with learning disabilities has been developed in partnership with stakeholders, including people with learning disabilities and carers. This puts the needs and aspirations of people with learning disabilities at the heart of our planning. The strategy called "a good, happy, and healthy life" will be presented to the health and well-being board 3 February.



Key dates

3 February

Learning disability service review on the future provision of the service goes to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4 February

The council's in-house Provider Services staff conference takes place on Feb 4 at the Brighton Centre.

17 March

The Council Assessment services Care Act summit takes place from 9am-1pm in the Brighthelm Centre.

1 April

Care Act changes implemented

Dementia Café at Hangleton Library

The Alzheimer's Society's new Dementia Café, De-café, will take place on the last Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm at Hangleton Library, West Way, 01273 726266. The library also has books selected to support people living with dementia, their families and carers.

Polices & procedures update

The 10th edition of Adult Social Care policies & procedures manual 'TRI-X' with lots of helpful info and national guidance is now available online. You can access it at work, at home, or on the go. Check out brightonadults.proceduresonline.com and register for update alerts.

Plan for supporting 'frail' and homeless people gets government go-ahead

The government has signed off our Better Care Plan. This outlines how the council, the NHS, and the independent and community sectors will provide joined-up health and social care services from shared local budgets. This will affect up to 15,000 local patients of social care services.

GP practices will be at the heart of co-ordinating care, supported by multi-disciplinary teams (MDTs) that will include specialists such as community nurses, physiotherapists, social workers, mental health experts and substance misuse support workers. Each 'frail' person will have a designated care co-ordinator from an MDT.

They will support people living with multiple long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, asthma or dementia, people with mental health problems and our homeless population, aiming to minimise time spent in hospital and supporting people to recover and return home as soon as they can.

The best bits of 2014

Despite some of the biggest ever changes to how we provide care, we've risen to the challenge to improve the lives of vulnerable citizens in the city. Here are some of the best bits from last year:

- We were successful in bidding for £990K to improve environments for people with dementia living in care homes and hospitals.
- Commissioned a new supported living service for four people with very complex needs.
- Increased the number of people using telecare so that 5,400 people are now supported by Carelink Plus.
- Reduced the length of stay for people in hospital once they are fit to return home by improving our joint working.

