

**Children and Families Act 2014 Section 96 /
Care Act 2014 Section 12 (Assessments) and Section 58-66 (Transitions) Procedure**

Young Carers Assessments

Approved by	
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1. The Children and Families Act 2014

1.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 gives carers under the age of 18 the right to an assessment on the appearance of need, they do not have to request one.

1.2 Local Authorities must offer an assessment where it appears that a child is involved in providing care –under section 96 the Local Authority must assess whether a young carer within their area has needs for support and what those needs are.

1.3 Section 96 and regulations referred to below set out what a care related assessment means and what a Local authority must have regard to in carrying out the assessment. One of the considerations is whether the local authority considers the child to be a child in need.

2. The Young Carers (Needs Assessment) Regulations 2015

2.1 These regulations set out how assessments should be carried out and what must be considered in carrying out assessment by the Local Authority.

2.2 An assessment of a young carer must consider:

- The amount, nature and type of care provided;
- The extent the care is relied upon by the family;
- Whether the care provided impacts on the wellbeing of the young carer;
- Whether any of the caring tasks are excessive or inappropriate;
- Could the young carers need for support be prevented by providing services to either the cared for person or another family member;
- What the young carers support needs would be like if they were relieved of their caring tasks;
- Whether there have been other assessments carried out and the outcome of those;
- If the young person is a child in need;
- What the arrangements for further assessment and review are to be.

3. Carers Assessments and the Care Act 2014

3.1 The Care Act requires local authorities to consider the needs of young carers if it appears a child is providing or intending to provide care to an adult with care needs or adult carer. The Care Act also provides that where a disabled adult is being cared for, a local authority must consider whether there are any children involved in providing that care, and if so, what the impact is on that child.

3.2 Carer's assessment must identify and consider:

- The impact of caring on the carer.
- The things that a carer wants to achieve in their own day-to-day life.
- Other issues, such as whether the carer is able or willing to carry on caring, whether they work or want to work, and whether they want to study or do more socially

3.3 The threshold for carers consists of three criteria, all of which must be met for a carer's needs to be eligible based on identifying:

- I. Whether a carer's needs are a consequence of providing necessary care for an adult;
- II. To what extent the carer's needs affect their ability to achieve outcomes (specified in the regulations), or puts their health at risk; and
- III. Whether there is or is likely to be a significant impact on their wellbeing.

3.4 Carers can be eligible for support whether or not the adult for whom they care has eligible needs.

4. Responsibility for Assessment

4.1 A specific responsibility upon Children's or Adult Services is not specified in the legislation. The emphasis is on a whole family approach and on joint working because inevitably both services have different expertise and input is likely to be required from both.

4.2 However, primary responsibility for assessment and responding to the needs of a young carer rests with the service responsible for assessing the person they support. This means that generally it is appropriate for Children's Services to take the lead for young carers of children and Adult Services to take the lead where the cared for person is an adult.

- Point of contact in Adults Services is the Access Team 01908 253772
- Point of contact in Children Services is MASH 01908 253169/253170

5. Transition to adulthood Sections 58 – 66 Care Act 2014

5.1 Section 63 – 64 of the Care Act introduced new duties towards young carers making the transition to adulthood. A young carer's needs may change as they approach adulthood and the Care Act sets out that a transition assessment will be required at an appropriate stage prior to the transition into adulthood. This will include how to enable the young carer's aspirations for themselves to be fulfilled, e.g. a young carer may not feel able to start employment or go to university/college due to their caring role.

5.2 Which department carries out the transition assessment is not defined. Again there is emphasis on joint working to take a practicable approach.

References:

- [Children and Families Act](#) Section 96
- The Young Carers (Needs Assessment) Regulations 2015
- [Care Act](#)
 - Section 12: Assessments under Sections 9 and 10: further provision
 - Sections 58 – 66: Transition to adulthood
 - [Care Act Statutory Guidance](#) Ref Section 6 Assessment and Eligibility / Section 6.65 – 6.73 Whole family Approach