Am I a carer?
A Carer is anyone who helps to look after another person – for example, a husband or wife, partner, a relative, a friend or neighbour.

In Staffordshire, thousands of people provide unpaid care or support to an adult family member or friend, either in their own home or somewhere else. Caring for someone covers lots of different things, like helping with their washing, dressing, or eating, or taking them to appointments.

What does the Care Act mean for me as a Carer?
It means that you are entitled to an assessment of your needs, not just an assessment based on the needs of the person you care for. It will consider the impact of caring on you and the things which you want to achieve in your life, such as work, study or getting out and about more.

What is a Carers Assessment?
A Carers Assessment will look at the different ways in which caring affects a person’s life. Carers may be able to get support, such as respite or replacement care. The council also has a duty to provide personalised information and advice to meet any needs which are not eligible for funded support.

Carers should also receive a support plan when their physical or mental health is deteriorating, is at risk of deteriorating or when the person is unable to achieve the outcomes likely to impact on their wellbeing as a result of their needs.

The new law gives more emphasis on the needs of Carers and, rather than the previous law which required that Carers must provide regular and substantial amount of care to be eligible for a Carers Assessment. The new law therefore means that more Carers will be able to have a Carers Assessment.
I’m a Carer for someone under 16; will I still be able to have an individual assessment?

The Care Act relates mostly to adult Carers, people over 18, who are caring for another adult. This is because young Carers and adults who care for disabled children can be assessed and supported under children’s law.

However, the Act means that whole family circumstances will be looked at when assessing the needs of an adult for care. This means, for example, making sure that the position of a young Carer will not be overlooked. The Children and Families Act gives young Carers similar rights to an assessment as other Carers under the Care Act.

An adult caring for a disabled child can get support through children’s services.

How do I get a Carers Assessment?

The Carers Hub supports Carers in Staffordshire. The Hub is a single point of contact which coordinates and improves access to local information and support for Carers and professionals.

To contact the carers hub please call: 0330 123 1937.

Address Staffordshire: The Carers Hub - Stafford - SGI Offices, Madford Retail Park, Foregate Street, Stafford ST16 2QY

Address Stoke-on-Trent: The Carers Hub - Hanley, Suite 9, The Forecourt, Albion Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 1QH

Email: carershub@peopleplus.co.uk

Website: www.thecarershub.co.uk

Will I be eligible for support?

“The Care Act has introduced the National Eligibility Threshold for Carers where Carers can be eligible for support in their own right. In considering whether a Carer has eligible needs, local authorities must consider whether:

- The needs arise as a consequence of providing necessary care for an adult;
- The effect of the Carer’s needs is that any of the circumstances specified in the Eligibility Regulations apply to the Carer; and
- As a consequence of that fact there is, or there is likely to be, a significant impact on the Carer’s wellbeing.

A Carer’s needs are only eligible where they meet all three of these conditions.”

Carers do not need to meet this eligibility criteria to access ‘Universal Carers Services’ e.g. via the Carers Hub.
Will I have to pay?

It is the council’s duty to carry out an assessment of your needs at your request free of charge. As part of this assessment the council will assess your eligibility for support. See Care and Support Plans fact sheet for more details.

The Care Act states that in some circumstances, arrangements should be made to give carers a longer break from their caring responsibilities. For example respite care (care in a residential setting for a short time).

What if I’m not happy with the assessment?

If you are not happy with the outcome of the assessment, ask for a copy of it, including the reasons why the help cannot be offered. You can then use the appropriate complaints procedure to challenge the assessment. See Fact Sheet: Feedback and complaints on Staffordshire Social Care Services.

Still Not Sure What You Need?

If you would rather talk to someone about this please call one of our friendly Staffordshire Cares advisors on 0300 111 8010.