



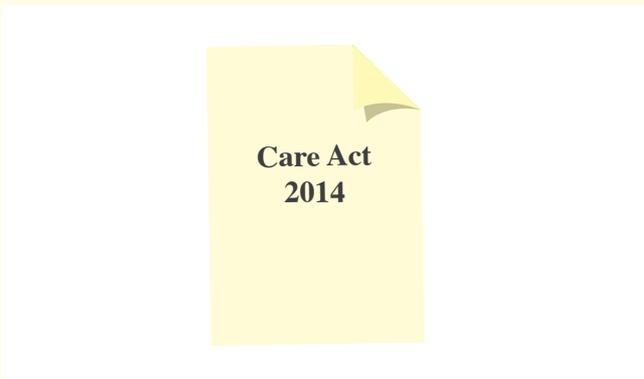
An easy read guide to
**Care Act easements
in Wolverhampton**

How local services may change
because of Coronavirus and
how it may impact you

The Care Act Easements



The **Coronavirus Act 2020** is a new law which has been written to help councils during the coronavirus pandemic.



It says that councils can decide not to follow some parts of the Care Act. **The Care Act is the law about care and support for adults.**



But before councils can stop using the Care Act they have to follow government guidance called "**Care Act Easements**"



This guide explains what this means and **how it might affect you in Wolverhampton.** We want you to **tell us what you think** about our guide and our plans if we ever have to use the Care Act easements.

What changes might happen?

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There are **four ways** changes may happen. These are called “**Stages**”



Stage 1

Things are the **same**, but you might see some **small changes**. This might be having to speak to your social worker on the phone and not in person.



What impact will this have on you?

None – things will continue as normal



Stage 2

You may not be able to go to day centres or respite, but if you need other support this can be provided in your own home



What impact will this have on you?

We will speak to you and make sure you have any support you need.



Stage 3

If we don't have enough social workers, we might have to **change how we work**.

This may mean social workers may stop:

- Writing detailed assessments
- Using the eligibility criteria from the Care Act
- Reviewing your support
- Doing financial assessments



But we will still:

- Make sure we think about your Human Rights and make sure you are safe
- Tell you if you may need to pay towards your care after the crisis is over



What impact will this have on you?

We will speak to you.

We will still do everything we can to meet your needs.



You may not get a review as usual.

There will be changes to our processes and how we write things down.



We will still involve you and your carer in any decisions

We will still respond as quickly as we can



Stage 4

There may be more people who need support because of the virus but not enough carers to support everyone.

This means that we might have to **help only those people who need it the most.**



Human
Rights Act
1998

We will make sure we think about your **Human Rights** and make sure you are safe.



What impact will this have on you?

We will speak to you and explain what will happen.



Your support could have to change, or it might stay the same.

We will involve you, your carer and family before we make any decision.

We will still do everything we can to meet your needs.

What needs to happen before any changes are made?



We hope that we don't have to use this guidance.

We will do everything we can to make sure we only make changes if we really have to.



If we have to make changes we would check every day to see if they are still needed.

If we think we can go back to normal we would stop the changes straight away



Before changes can happen:

The council would need to explain why we have made the decision



This would involve:

- The **Director of Adult Services**, the **Principal Social Worker** and others in the council recording their decision
- They would need to tell others about the decision, like **Councillors** and people who work in **Health**
- Making sure they have thought about the impact on you and others who have care and support

What won't change?



- Your Human Rights
- The wellbeing duty under the Care Act
- Safeguarding



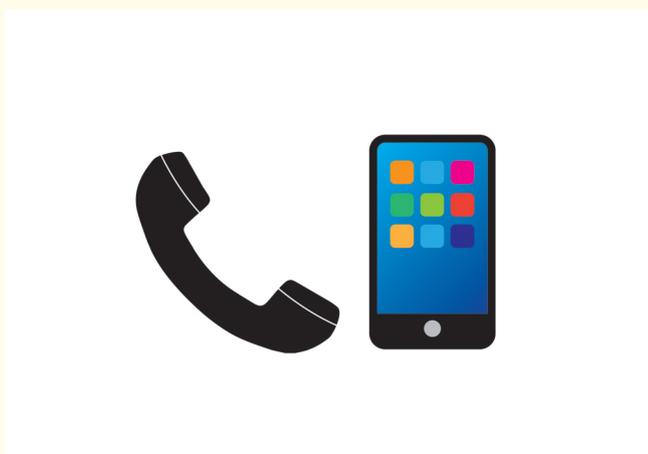
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – if you live in a care home or are in hospital
- The Mental Capacity Act
- The Equality Act

Some questions you might have



Will I still be able to have an advocate to support me?

You will still be able to have support from an advocate as usual. They may not be able to meet you in person but will find other ways to support you.



What if I am not happy with the changes to my support plan?

If you are not happy with any changes we make, tell your social worker or you can make a complaint.

If you think we have not thought about your Human Rights tell us straight away

If you require assistance or need this information in large print, Braille, audio/CD or in another language, please use contact us.

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