



Whole Family Approach

The Care Act 2014 introduces a Whole Family Approach to assessment. The Whole Family Approach ensures a holistic view of an individual's needs is ascertained. The Act states that HBC must consider the impact of caring for the individual on the whole family.

This approach to assessment enables workers to identify any informal carers within the individual's family. If a carer is identified during the assessment of the individual's needs HBC must provide them with information, advice and guidance that may help them continue their caring role, if they are willing.

Alongside information, advice and guidance the carer must be offered an assessment of their own needs. This is particularly important when a Young Carer has been identified.

Young Carers

HBC is required to identify any young carers providing care. The young carer has a right to have their own needs assessed. Any young carer should be offered a needs assessment and referred to Children's Services. Children and Adult's Services must work together to share their knowledge and expertise to ensure the best possible outcome for any identified young carers.

The young carers needs assessment must consider:

- The impact of the individual's needs on the young carer's wellbeing, welfare, education and development;
- Whether any of the caring responsibilities the young carer is undertaking are inappropriate; and
- How supporting the individual with needs for care and support can prevent the young carer from undertaking excessive and inappropriate care and support responsibilities.

Inappropriate caring responsibilities for a young carer can include:

- Personal care such as bathing and toileting

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- Carrying out strenuous physical tasks, such as heavy lifting;
- Administering medication;
- Maintaining the family budget; and
- Emotional support to an adult.

A young carer becomes vulnerable when their emotional or physical wellbeing or their prospects in education and life are affected by their caring role. This may include:

- Preventing the young carer from accessing education, for example because the individual's care and support needs result in the young carer's regular impact from school or impacts on their learning and development;
- Preventing the young carer from building relationships and friendships; and
- Impacting on any other aspect of the young carer's wellbeing.

HBC should, wherever possible and appropriate, take into account the young carer's view about their caring role.

Parent Carers

The Children and Families Act defines parent carers as a person 18 and over who provides or intends to provide care for a disabled child for whom the person has a parental responsibility.

HBC must assess whether a parent carer has needs for support if they meet the below criteria:

- It appears to HBC that the parent carer may have needs for support;
- HBC receive a request from a parent carer to assess their needs for support; and
- HBC are satisfied that the disabled child cared for and the disabled child's family are persons for whom they may provide and arrange for the provision of services under Section 17.

A parent carer's needs assessment must include an assessment of whether or not it is appropriate for the parent carer to provide care for the disabled child, in light of the parent carer's needs for support, other needs and wishes.

When carrying out a parent carers' assessment the following must be considered:

- The wellbeing of the parent carer; and
- The need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the disabled child cared for and any other

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Child for whom the parent carer has parental responsibility.

Individual's who must be involved in the parent carers' needs assessment:

- The parent carer;
- Any child for whom the parent carer has parental responsibility; and
- Any person the parent carer requests to be involved.

A written copy of the parent carer's assessment must be given to the parent carer and anyone they request to have a copy.