

Implementing the Care Act in Shropshire

- A significant change to Adult Social Care, replacing a number of pieces of legislation with a single modern law and legal framework.
- Changes come into effect from April 2015 onwards, with second phase April 2016 (Funding Reforms)

*The Act is **built around people**:*

- people's **well-being**, and the outcomes which matter to them, will be at the heart of every decision
- puts **carers** on the same footing as those they care for;
- focus on **preventing and delaying needs for care and support**, and building on the strengths in the community;
- embeds rights to choice, through care plans and **personal budgets**

*The Act makes care and support **clearer and fairer** :*

- financial support to those who need it most, protection from catastrophic care costs through a **cap on the care costs** that people will incur.
- new universal **deferred payments** scheme; people will not have to sell their homes in their lifetime to pay for residential care
- provides for a **single national threshold for eligibility** to care and support;
- supports people with **information, advice and advocacy** to understand their rights and responsibilities, access care when they need it, and plan for their future needs;
- gives new guarantees to ensure **continuity of care** when people move between areas
- protections to ensure that **no one goes without care if their provider fails**, regardless of who pays for their care.

- Puts carers on the same footing as those they care for
- Carers will be entitled to a carers' assessment of their own care needs
- Once an assessment has been completed then a decision will be taken as to whether the carer's needs are eligible for support
- There will be a national eligibility threshold for carers
- The local authority and the carer will agree a support plan which sets out how the carer's needs will be met
- Some carers may be entitled to receive some of this support in the form of a personal budget
- The local authority can decide to charge for some types of care

In readiness for the Care Act Adult Social Care has been changing to focus on:

- Enabling people to be more independent - looking at what they can do rather than what they cannot do
- Providing more choice and control so that services are tailored to meet individual needs
- Enabling people to be part of their community - keeping friends, family and place
- Making the most of council's resources - making sure that services are delivered as creatively and cost effectively as possible

What it looks like

