

Community Care

Community Care for the person you care for

Many people at some time in their lives will need extra help with everyday tasks, either because of a disability, illness or frailty. The purpose of Community Care is to help people live safely and comfortably in the community by providing extra support, which they may need. This may be help with personal care; getting a hot meal; moving around their own home or opportunities and support meeting other people.

To get a Community Care Assessment you should first contact Cheshire West and Chester Council, and speak to the Access Team. Depending on the type of support the person you care for needs, there may be more than one type of service involved in making the assessment and providing support.

A Community Care Assessment will look at the needs of the person you are caring for.

Following the assessment a Care Plan is written. The Care Plan will outline the type of help required and how it will be provided. This might include practical help in the home including help with bathing and dressing; equipment to help with a disability; help with adapting the home, for example by installing grab rails; getting a hot meal; and help with using educational and recreational facilities including visits to a day centre. The assessment should also look at the health or nursing needs of the person you care for.

A Community Care Assessment is an important part of getting the most appropriate services and support for the person you care for and in turn may provide you, as a Carer, with a break.

You do not have to be on a low income to be entitled to a Community Care Assessment. However, the income and savings of the person who will receive the services will be assessed and a contribution towards the cost of the services may be required. Services provided by the National Health Service are free. These services might include visits from the District Nurse or Health Visitor, Chiropodist or Physiotherapist.

Direct Payments is another way of organising and paying for services where an assessment has been made. Briefly, this involves the payment for services being managed by the individual, or an appointee, but paid for by the Unitary Authority. Further information is available from Cheshire Centre for Independent Living or Age Concern Cheshire.

Cheshire West and Chester Council is currently conducting a government led consultation about how social care will be provided. The government hopes to enable people with care needs to have greater choice and flexibility in how their needs are met. Further information will be available later in the year.

If the person you care for refuses to have a Community Care Assessment, they can still obtain support in their home by organising and paying for services privately.

A Brief Outline of some of the services available to support Community Care

Cheshire West and Chester Council works in partnership with other organisations to provide the most appropriate type of help to enable adults with assessed needs to live independently. Some of these services may be offered following a Community Care Assessment. Below is an outline of some of the different types of services available:

- Assistance may be provided with personal needs, such as bathing and dressing or help making a meal.
- The Community Meals Service provides a hot meal for those unable to prepare or reheat a hot meal.
- Day Care Centres provide social activities, life skills and a hot meal.
- Short breaks for respite or a long-term stay can be provided in Residential Care or Nursing Homes.
- Family Based Care provides day care through to short breaks in the home of an Approved Carer.
- Telecare/Careline - technology is available to enable people to live independently by monitoring falls, wandering and medication while other sensors can help to ensure their safety in their own home. These services are available through Community Services and or the Local Housing Trusts.
- Home based palliative care and personal care or day and night time domiciliary services, are available and can provide the Carer with a break.
- Home from hospital schemes to support people who require additional help following discharge from hospital or a short illness are available.
- Support Brokerage Services support people who have been assessed as needing

non residential services by a social worker, but are required to pay the full cost of services. Support Brokers help to plan and organise care, while ensuring that the person they are supporting remains in control of the care package.

Details of some of the organisations providing these services are provided in Factsheet 14 Contacts for Carers. Cheshire Carers Centre has details of many more organisations and services who may be able to provide assistance. Contact the helpline for further information.

Private Care

Services may be bought and paid for privately. There are many agencies in the North West who provide different types of care. It is important to seek detailed information about services, how they are going to be provided and the cost before agreeing to receive services in your home. For more information please contact Cheshire Carers Centre.