



Eligibility criteria:

Different ways of meeting carer needs should be identified during the assessment and planning processes. It may be appropriate to support the carer by providing services to the cared for person, with the agreement of both parties, which may involve additional services to those already in the cared for persons support plan. It may also be the case that currently identified services are delivered differently. Many supports can be provided in the community and through universal services.

Having a DUTY, as opposed to the POWER, to provide support depends on the extent to which a carer's needs for support meet the local eligibility criteria. The 2016 Act defines a process that must be worked through before deciding if there is a duty to provide support to a carer to meet their identified needs.

This process involves –

- (i) preparing an Adult Carer Support Plan (ACSP), setting out the carer's identified personal outcomes and identified needs (if any).
- (ii) consider which of the needs can be met through services or assistance to the cared -for person (other than replacement care to provide a break from caring) or provided generally to persons in the area (e.g. by information provision).
- (iii) if the needs are met wholly by (ii), then no further action is required, although the situation should be kept under review.
- (iv) if needs are not met, or only partly met by (ii), the local eligibility criteria should be applied to the 'outstanding' needs to assess if they meet the criteria.

- (v) if the eligibility criteria is not met, then it must be decided if the discretionary power to provide support should be used- this may include a break from caring.
- (vi) in the case of (v) and (vi), the carer should be given the opportunity to choose one of the Self-Directed Support Options (unless they are ineligible to receive Direct Payments)

How do we assess eligibility?

The eligibility for services and the level of support required will be decided in terms of the **impact** of their caring role and **risk** to the carer.

The level of impact and risk is to be categorised as follows:

No impact	i.e. no quality of life issues as a result of the caring role &, at this moment, no need for support or advice
Low impact	i.e. there may be some quality of life issues results from the caring role but low risk to the carer's capacity for independence or health & well-being. There may be some need for universal &/or preventative support or advice.
Moderate impact	i.e. there is some risk to the carer's capacity for independent living & health/ well-being. This may call for the provision of some health &/or social care services.
Substantial impact	i.e. indications of a major risk to the carer's capacity for independent living & health/ well-being- likely requiring urgent provision of health &/or social care services.
Critical impact	i.e. indications that there are significant risks to a carer's capacity for independent living & health/ well-being- likely requiring immediate provisions of health &/ or social care services.

This will be assessed across **eight areas**:

	No impact (of caring role)	Low impact (of caring role)	Moderate impact (of caring role)	Substantial impact (of caring role)	Critical impact (of caring role)
Physical health & well-being	No impact.	Minor impact on physical health.	Negative impact on physical health- becoming at risk if no intervention.	Considerable negative impact on physical health- high risk without urgent attention.	Crisis point reached - physical health breaking down.
Emotional / mental health & well-being	No impact on emotional/ mental health.	Beginning to have impact.	Negative impact - becoming at risk if no intervention.	Considerable negative impact; requires urgent attention.	Crisis point reached – emotional/mental health broken down.
Life balance	Have regular opportunities to achieve the balance in life they want.	Some opportunities to achieve balance in life.	Limited opportunities to achieve balance.	Few and irregular opportunities to achieve balance.	No opportunities.
Finances	No financial hardship caused (eg can afford housing/ utility costs).	There is a risk of financial hardship (eg some difficulty meeting these costs).	Some detrimental impact on finances (eg difficulty in meeting housing or utility costs).	Significant impact (eg difficulty in meeting both housing & utility costs).	Severe hardship (eg cannot afford household essentials, payment, utility costs).
Relationships	Good relationship with cared for person & with other key people.	Carer has some concerns about relationship with cared for person / maintaining other key relationships.	Carer identified relationship issues with cared for person that need addressing/difficulties in maintaining key relationships.	Relationship with cared for person at risk of breaking down/ not able to maintain key relationships.	Relationship with cared for person broken down; no longer sustainable and/ or have lost touch with key people.

Living environment	Suitable & posing no risk to physical health/ safety of carer & cared-for person.	Mostly suitable-could pose risk to health & safety in longer term.	Unsuitable but poses no immediate risk.	Unsuitable & poses imminent risk to health & safety of carer and/or cared for person.	Unsuitable & immediate & critical risk to health & safety of carer/cared for person.
Employment/ training/ educ	No difficulty in managing caring +employment/ training/educ; carer does not want paid work/ educ etc	Experiencing some difficulty with a risk to both continuing; the carer is not in paid work/ training/ ed but would like to be in the long term.	Has difficulty & risk to sustaining both in medium term; carer would like to move into paid work/ training/ ed in medium term.	Significant difficulty in managing both in the short term; carer not in paid work etc but would like to be soon.	Significant difficulty managing both & imminent risk of giving up work/ training/ ed; carer not in paid work etc but would like to be now.
Emergency/ future planning	Carer confident about emergency / future planning & has no concerns about managing carer role	Carer largely confident about planning & has minor concerns about managing caring role.	Carer not confident about planning & has some concerns about managing caring role.	Carer is anxious about planning & has significant concerns about managing caring role.	Carer very anxious about planning & has severe concerns about managing caring role.

How is 'eligible need' determined?

If the carer is experiencing a substantial or critical impact across one or more of the eight domains, then it is deemed that they have an eligible need(s).

What if carer does not have eligible needs?

If a carer does not have an eligible need across any of the domains, they should be signposted or supported to access universal and/ or preventative services and information and advice services, Carers Centres and services in the area that may help to support their identified personal outcomes.

If you have any queries about this document, please contact

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