

CAREERS ASSESSMENTS

Marsha Begley

Social Worker Disability Division

CARERS & DIRECT PAYMENTS ACT (N.I) 2002

Section 1 - Outlines a carer's right to an assessment.

An authority should “*carry out an assessment of the carer's ability to provide and continue to provide care for that person*” so as to decide: (1) What services should be provided directly to a carer and (2) be provided to a person who is cared for.

A carer is someone aged 16 or over; who provides a substantial amount of care on a regular basis.



Purpose of Carer's Assessments

- Recognition & value of the caring role
- Identify help, support or training required
- Assess eligibility for service provision such as short breaks
- Provide information on local support services
- Explore work related issues
- Discuss & agree future planning and contingency plans
- To provide a safe environment for carers to discuss their needs.
- To provide a therapeutic intervention to carers



Potential Benefits of a Carer's Assessment

Carers state that the positive outcomes to an assessment are:

- Recognition of their role
- An opportunity to talk through issues, worries and concerns
- Information about specific conditions or illnesses
- Information on other supports available
- Increased confidence to take up services
- Peace of mind from having a contact person



What Carer's told us they wanted

- ❑ To feel listened to
- ❑ A move away from tick box exercises
- ❑ Professionals to engage in conversation with carers
- ❑ Focus on support not assessment or judgements



Useful Contacts

▶ Learning Disability Carers Coordinators

- ▶ Bernadette Marshall 07557819172
- ▶ Majella Gorman 07557858749

▶ Adult Learning Disability Teams

- ▶ Armagh & Dungannon 028 3756 4688
- ▶ Craigavon 028 3834 8811
- ▶ Newry 028 3025 6780

- ▶ If you care for someone who is receiving health and social care services from the Trust and you have not been offered a Carers Assessment, contact their key worker, speak to your GP or
- ▶ Contact the Trust's Carer Coordinator
- ▶ Tel: 028 3083 4252 Email: carers.coordinator@southerntrust.hscni.net