Guidance on completing Carers Assessments

Also please see chapter 8 (pg. 365 – 388) of Disabled Children *a legal handbook (S Broach & L Clements).*

**Children and Families Act 2014**

Places a duty on a local council to provide an assessment to a carer of a disabled child aged under 18, if it appears that the parent carer has needs, or the parent carer requests an assessment.

The Children and Families Act also places a duty on Local authorities to undertake a young carer’s assessment, where a person under 18 years of age is providing or intends to provide care for another person.

**Carers Assessment**

Carers of disabled children have a legal right to request a separate carer’s assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to help sustain the caring role and support parent carer to work or access education, training or leisure.

Derbyshire County Council’s policy is that carer’s assessments are to be included within the child’s single assessment. If a parent / carer requests a separate assessment then please discuss this with your Practice Supervisor / Team Manager.

You need to be clear when undertaking a Single Assessment whether you are also conducting a Carers Assessment. If carers do not want to share information regarding caring responsibilities, this needs to be recorded in the assessment. The assessment should be explicit in terms information carers have provided for the assessment and whether this is backed up with any evidence. Carers should agree the content of what is being recorded in the assessment as being accurate.

It order to make the carers part of the assessment explicit you will be expected to add additional headings to Section 4 (Parent or carers profile and how they look after the home and children) of the Single Assessment. These sub-headings will be:

* **Carer's circumstances** – partnership arrangements (if any) between parent carers, any additional caring responsibilities for wider family, and any contributions from other family members to caring tasks. What support has already been tried to support carer’s needs? Other pressures including work, family etc.
* **Carers description of the child** – How do they describe the child and what is the carers understanding of the child’s needs.
* **Carer's tasks** – the routine tasks which each carer undertakes including personal care, washing, dressing, feeding, laundry etc. and the span of these throughout the day/night. Are there any moving and handling issues / use of restraint or restrictions – is a POT referral needed? Consider which tasks are over and above what you would expect when caring for a non-disabled child. Consider a typical day / week to gain a clear understanding of the scale of the tasks. Are the tasks split with a partner / other family member? Longevity of the tasks – how does this impact? You can’t assume that parents are happy to continue with the existing support to their disabled child. Are there any specific tasks that cause the carer frustration?
* **Carers needs** – Health, leisure, education / training, employment, religious needs.
* **Impact of the Caring Role** – the degree to which this has a bearing (both now and in the foreseeable future) on the emotional and physical health and well-being of the carer(s), on family relationships and on opportunities in leisure, education, training and employment, and in expressing their faith. How does the caring role impact on the carers sleep pattern. Are finances impacted with the caring role?
* **Analysis and Outcome** – The assessment must consider whether the care given to the child is appropriate in light of the carers needs, taking in to account wishes and feelings of the child / carer. Are the carers happy to provide the level of care they do – which areas do they feel they need support with? The analysis will identify the needs of the carer and how best their needs and aspirations might be met. Appropriate reference should be made to the outcomes of the Framework assessment in order to ensure consistency. Support may include signposting to other services, providing information and advice, holding a CIN meeting to devise a plan which will include carer’s needs / practical support.

The parent /carers views will be contained in Section 6 (family contribution and views) of the single assessment.

* **Parent or Carer’s views** – this should include the comments of the carer on what services they would hope the family might receive to benefit the disabled child which would also serve to improve their own quality of life as a carer.

**Young Carers Assessment**

These assessments would be completed by way of a Single Assessment. However there are additional areas for consideration e.g. whether the arrangements are suitable, the impact on the young carer and their support needs. Refer to Children’s Services online procedures (Tri.x) for further guidance.

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