**Carers Assessment Points to Consider…**

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| **Legislation.** | Care Act 2014  Ensure the carer understands their legal right to an assessment and possible services, even if the person they care for does not want to receive services themselves. [Understanding and Applying Eligibility Criteria (Carers) (proceduresonline.com)](https://www.proceduresonline.com/swindon/adults/chapters/community_supp/p_under_apply_carers.html)  Eligibility:  The needs arise as a consequence of providing necessary care to an adult;  As a result, they must be unable to achieve specified outcomes; and  As a consequence, there is (or there is likely to be) a significant impact on their wellbeing. |
| **Carers assessments.** | Carer's assessments should be a positive, empowering process that values the carer’s strengths and helps them build on their existing capabilities, while ensuring their well-being and ability to manage their role in a sustainable, healthy way.  Carers assessments are not and should not be led by requests for statutory services. Carers assessments should focus on the carer, what support they provide, can continue to provide, how this impacts their wellbeing, then once completed revisit how they could be supported. Signposting, formal support, advice ETC. [Introduction, Legal Requirements and Tools (Carers) (proceduresonline.com)](https://proceduresonline.com/swindon/adults/chapters/community_supp/p_intro_leg_req_tools_carers.html)  [Supporting social work with carers – resources and tools | Research in Practice](https://www.researchinpractice.org.uk/adults/news-views/2023/november/supporting-social-work-with-carers-resources-and-tools/) |
| **Strength based approach**. | Identify the carer’s strengths and existing coping mechanisms. Use a strengths-based approach to empower them, considering what is working well.  Questions to consider as part of a carer’s assessment;  *What support do you provide?*  *What’s going well?*  *Are you able / willing to continue to provide support?*  *What outcomes would you like to achieve in your day-to-day life?*  *What is the impact of your support on your wellbeing (including health, relationships, social activities, finances)?*  *Do you work or participate in education, training or recreation (or wish to)?*  *Do you have cultural or spiritual beliefs that are impacted by your caring role?*  Acknowledge what the carer is doing well in their role. Look for skills, coping mechanisms, and the carer’s ability to maintain a positive outlook, even in challenging situations.  Focus on what the carer hopes to achieve outside of their caring role, such as education, work, hobbies, or social connections. Encourage them to set realistic goals that will contribute to their well-being and fulfilment.  [Strength based tools & documents (sharepoint.com)](https://sbcintra.sharepoint.com/sites/AdultSocialCare/SitePages/Strength-based-tools-%26-documents%E2%80%99.aspx) |
| **Charging.** | Carers services are not a chargeable service in Swindon. The charging conversation must still be had and recorded in ROC, evidencing the carer has understood.  [Paying for home care (sharepoint.com)](https://sbcintra.sharepoint.com/sites/AdultSocialCare/SitePages/Paying-for-home-care.aspx) |
| **MCA.** | Acknowledge that not all carers may want to continue their caring role long-term. Assess their capacity and willingness to provide care, especially if it affects their own life significantly.  Look into any additional support available to the carer, such as help from family, friends, or community services.  Consider; Does the cared for person require a care act assessment in their own right? Does the cared for person have the capacity to consent to care and support in place of the carer (replacement care)? If not progress to MCA/BID. [Introduction, Purpose and Principles of the Act (trixonline.co.uk)](https://mca-adults.trixonline.co.uk/chapter/introduction-purpose-and-principles-of-the-act) |
| **Carer’s centre.** | Have you considered support available through the carers centre? [Home - Swindon Carers Centre - Supporting Carers in Swindon](https://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/)  Is the carer registered? If they are of working age this may be entitled to additional support at work (depending on individual work place polices)  Think Family - Are there children affected by a carers role or providing care themselves? They may eligible young carers, an assessment of their needs can lead to support in wellbeing, education, peer support etc.  Work with the carer to co-create solutions, ensuring they feel ownership of the outcomes and decisions. |
| **Contingency planning.** | Explore contingency plans and future aspirations, ensuring that the carer feels supported if their circumstances or the cared-for person’s needs change.  Have you discussed with Carer what would happen if they are no longer able to provide support? Is there extended family that could support? Have you considered if there are alternatives to meeting the cared for persons needs that may then support the carer? EG, assistive tech, continence service, LiveWell.  Have you considered/discussed the carers emergency card from the Swindon Carers Centre or others in the voluntary sector?  [Emergency Card Scheme - Swindon Carers Centre](https://www.swindoncarers.org.uk/emergency-card-scheme/)  [Carers Card UK - Carers ID Card](https://www.carerscarduk.co.uk/?utm_campaign=&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_term=uk%20carers%20card&gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI2c-cte2AiQMVwZJQBh1N1wanEAAYASAAEgKBgvD_BwE)  [Getting help in an emergency | Carers UK](https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/practical-support/getting-help-in-an-emergency/) |
| **Direct Payments.** | Have you considered offering direct payments to carers? This option provides greater flexibility, allowing carers to access formal services in a way that better suits their individual needs and lifestyle. For example, subscribing to a fixed weekly break of two hours may not offer the level of flexibility needed to meet the carer’s personal outcomes. Direct payments enable carers to tailor support to their specific circumstances, offering more control over when and how they access respite or other services.  Carers are often experts in the needs of the person they care for. Respect their knowledge and insight about the person’s condition, preferences, and the most effective ways to provide care. [Direct Payments (proceduresonline.com)](https://proceduresonline.com/swindon/adults/p_arr_serv_direct_pay.html) |
| **Case note recording.** | Case notes; Do case notes clearly reflect the interaction with the carer, decisions made? Ongoing plans- Clear history of worker involvement and any activity related to the case but not relevant to the assessment? Case notes should relate to the carer. SBC ASC Recording Policy: [sbcintra.sharepoint.com/sites/AdultSocialCare/Local Resources Content under review/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FAdultSocialCare%2FLocal Resources Content under review%2FAdult Social Care Performance%2C policies and resources%2FAdult Services Case Recording Guidance%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FAdultSocialCare%2FLocal Resources Content under review%2FAdult Social Care Performance%2C policies and resources](https://sbcintra.sharepoint.com/sites/AdultSocialCare/Local%20Resources%20%20Content%20under%20review/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FAdultSocialCare%2FLocal%20Resources%20%20Content%20under%20review%2FAdult%20Social%20Care%20Performance%2C%20policies%20and%20resources%2FAdult%20Services%20Case%20Recording%20Guidance%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FAdultSocialCare%2FLocal%20Resources%20%20Content%20under%20review%2FAdult%20Social%20Care%20Performance%2C%20policies%20and%20resources) |
| **Eligibility Criteria.** | Clearly capture the cares eligibility criteria- refer back to the legislation; The needs arise as a consequence of providing necessary care to an adult;  As a result, they must be unable to achieve specified outcomes; and  As a consequence, there is (or there is likely to be) a significant impact on their wellbeing. [Understanding and Applying Eligibility Criteria (Carers) (proceduresonline.com)](https://www.proceduresonline.com/swindon/adults/chapters/community_supp/p_under_apply_carers.html) |