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Parent Carers Assessments and Carers Assessments for other Adults caring for children

Carers Rights to an Assessment

A parent carer or an adult caring for a child is entitled to a Carer’s Assessment to find out what help they need. As assessment should mean support to ensure that their well-being is promoted to enable them to care for the child/children.

# Parents and carers have a stand-alone right to assessments and services under the Children and Families Act 2014.  This is called a Parent Carer Needs Assessment (PCNA)

# The Children and Families Act 2014 amends the Children Act 1989 requiring local councils to assess parent carers;

Parent carers assessments or other carers assessments are undertaken by the team responsible for the assessment of the child or young person they are looking after. ***This will normally be undertaken as part of the Children and Families Assessment which should take account, as appropriate, the needs of the whole family***. The part of the assessment concerning any carer(s) needs to be distinct and readily identifiable.

However, a parent /Carer has the right to request a separate standalone assessment and this is an available tool for workers to use in these circumstances.

The legislation requires that consideration must be given in **parent carer assessments** to the well-being of carers and how to support their:

1. physical and mental health and emotional well-being;
2. protection from abuse and neglect;
3. control over day-to-day life
4. participation in work, education, training or recreation;
5. social and economic well-being;
6. domestic, family and personal relationships;
7. contribution to society.

The Carers Recognition and Services Act 1995 gives a right to request a **carers assessment** to other adults (without parental responsibilities) who look after ill children, or children where the carer provides regular and substantial care.

It will be the norm to incorporate the needs of parent carer’s in a Child and family assessment where there is a disabled or a child has chronic long term ill health and is being assessed by Children’s social care . A carer’s assessment must also be offered to other adults with caring responsibilities in every situation where either:

* 1. The carer is caring for someone with high needs,
  2. The carer has multiple caring responsibilities; or,
  3. The carer requests this.

A carer’s assessment should be carried out in any situation where a carer has requested an assessment, irrespective of their level of need, and it would be unreasonable for us to refuse to do so.

**Undertaking the Assessment**

The Children and Families assessment must include discussion with the carer (or carers) about the parent carer’s own wellbeing and the factors listed below and there must be a record of the conclusions about these matters.

Optional tools for capturing carer's views are available (form SCS626A and the optional 24 Hour Diary SCS626B). This 24 Hour Diary is a tool to help carers focus on the demands placed on them and can also provide useful evidence of the impact of caring.

The assessment should consider whether the carer:

* + 1. Is getting enough sleep;

1. Is Finding their health has been actively affected;
2. Is able to get out and about;
3. Has any time for themselves;
4. needs information about benefits;
5. Is worried about having to give up work, or wants to return to paid employment.

It should also consider:

1. How other relationships are affected.

The impact of these issues should be taken into account when considering whether the threshold criteria have been met for support as things that damage the carers’ wellbeing are also likely to impact of their parenting ability. Parent carers and other carers should also be given information and advice whether or not the threshold criteria are met and, where they wish, be referred to other independent sources of help for carers.

If a parent requests a Parent Carers Assessment in cases where their child in not open to the service, then SCS will open a referral and undertake a Child and Family Assessment on the child for whom the parent is caring for. The Children and Families Assessment will incorporate the elements set out in SCS626A ( the 24 hour diary ).

**Carers and Early Help**

Where there is a carer involved but the circumstances do not otherwise warrant an assessment by Children’s Social care , the needs of the parent or other carer must still be addressed through the provision of appropriate information and advice and, if appropriate, through the Early Help system where the needs of the whole family can be considered. Parent carers should also be advised about the availability of short breaks services.

**Siblings**

It is important to consider whether any siblings in the family are young carers and if so whether a young carers needs assessment should be undertaken and/ or whether a referral to the independent young carers service should be made. Please refer to the Young Carers Needs Assessment Guidance for further details.

**Transition**

The Care Act 2014 has reinforced requirements to undertake transition assessments for disabled children who are likely to need care and support when they become adults. Where transition assessments are undertaken these must incorporate the needs of carers (whether of a parent, other adult carer or a young carer). The resulting care and support plan for when the young person reaches 18 should also identify where a need for support to the carer has been identified and say how this will be met.

**Information for Carers**

All carers who contact our service, irrespective of the level of need or risk, should be made aware of the independent support group [**“Action for Carers Surrey”**](https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/)**.** and advised of their right to a [Carer’s Assessment](https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/who-we-help/adult-carers/parent-carers/parent-carers-assessment/).

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