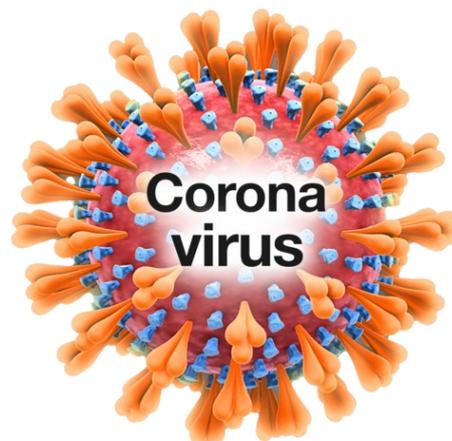


**Down's Syndrome  
Association**

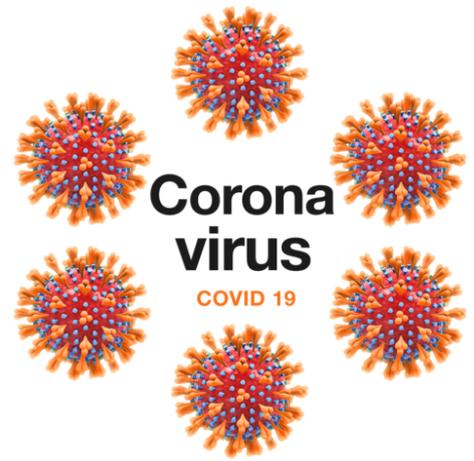
A Registered Charity No. 1061474

# Coronavirus Act 2020

*An Easy Read guide to how  
the Coronavirus Act might  
affect your care and support.*



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**“Easy Read” does not mean that everyone will find this booklet easy to understand.**

Many people will need lots of help and support to go through it.

# 1. Introduction



The Care Act 2014 says that Local Authorities must:

**Find out about the care and support you need.**

This is done using a **needs assessment**.



**Work out how much money you have to spend on your care and support.**

This is called **financial assessment**.

**Write your care and support plan.**

**And review it every year, or sooner if needed.**

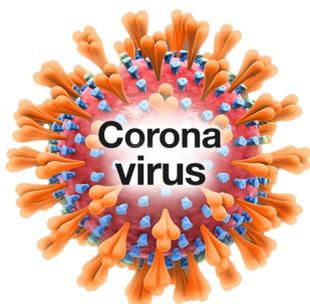


**Ask an Advocate to support you.**

You are entitled to an advocate if you find it difficult to take part in assessments & planning, and you have no family or friends who can help.

## The Coronavirus Act 2020

This has been written to help the country cope with the coronavirus pandemic. It says that **Local Authorities (councils) can decide not to follow parts of the Care Act**. This guide is about the changes that might need to happen.



# 2. What might change?

<p>The Coronavirus Act says that Local Authorities will <u>not</u> have to do these things:</p>	<p>But they <u>will</u> have to do these things:</p>
<p>Detailed assessment of needs.</p>  <p>The image shows a man in a dark suit and glasses holding a clipboard. The clipboard has a checklist titled 'Needs' with 10 items. Items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10 have green checkmarks. Items 3 and 9 have red X marks.</p>	<p><b>Respond as soon as possible</b> when you ask for care and support.</p> <p>Respect your <b>human rights</b>.</p> <p>Consider your <b>needs and wishes</b>. <i>(presumably with help from an Advocate if needed – but this is not in the guidance)</i></p>
<p><b>Financial assessments.</b></p>  <p>The image shows a hand holding a fan of several £20 banknotes. The notes are purple and white, with the Bank of England logo and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II visible.</p>	<p>Tell you if you might need to pay <b>back money</b> for your care and support after the coronavirus crisis is over.</p> <p>Do a <b>financial assessment</b> after the crisis is over.</p> <p>Make sure that <b>charging money</b> for services is <b>fair</b> overall.</p>
<p><b>Write and review care and support plans</b> which follow the rules in the Care Act.</p>	<p>Do enough <b>planning</b> to make sure your human rights are respected, and your life is not at risk.</p> <p><b>Involve you and your carers</b> in decisions.</p>
<p><b>Meet all eligible care and support needs</b> <a href="#"><u>Easy Read information about this here</u></a></p>	<p><b>Provide as much care and support as possible.</b></p> <p><b>Help people who need it the most.</b></p>

# 3. Why change is needed



The Care Act depends on having enough:

- Social Workers
- Family carers
- Care staff
- Day services
- Employment support, voluntary work...etc
- Community support



**Day services, colleges and other community services** have been shut.

**Social workers and carers** may get symptoms of Coronavirus and will have to stay off work for two weeks to prevent spreading the virus.



**Family carers** might get sick.

At the same time, people may need **more care and support**.



All of this means that it may become **impossible** to give **everyone** all of the **care and support** they need.



Imagine that because of coronavirus, you only have enough carers to help one of these people:

**Person 1:** Needs help in the **shower** every day



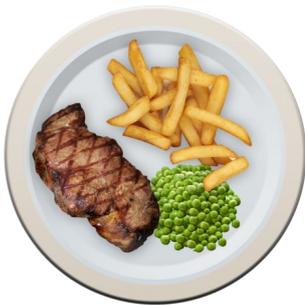
**Person 2:** Needs help to **eat** and take **medication**

If you had to choose, which person would you help?



The person who needs help in the shower **might be smelly** if they don't wash. You could decide to help them **once a week**, not every day.

This decision would not be allowed under the Care Act, if it is their support plan.



The person who needs help to eat and to take medication **will die without support**. Their support **cannot** change because their life would be at risk.

**Nobody wants to have to make these choices.**

But the **Coronavirus Act** allows Local Authorities to make these kinds of decisions **if they have to**.

The decisions are likely to be much more complicated than the example above.



# 4. How it will work



**The Care Act has not changed.**

Local Authorities must still follow the Care Act until they can prove things like:

- There are **not enough carers and social workers** in the local area
- **More people** are needing **social care**
- Following the Care Act puts **lives at risk**



Even if these things **can** be proved, local authorities cannot just stop following the Care Act overnight, and only some things in the Care Act can change.

**To change the rules, local authorities have to first:**



- Show how the **Director of Adult Social Services** and the **Principal Social Worker** made their decision, and the evidence they used.
- Involve **Councillors**, the **Health and Wellbeing Board** and **NHS commissioners**.
- Work out what the **effect on people** will be.
- **Report the decision** (and the reasons why the decision was made) **to the government**.
- **Tell all the care providers, service users and carers** in the local area about the decision. **Information about this should be accessible.**



# 5. Things that won't change



**The Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect your human rights, for example:**



## **The right to life**

No-one can be deprived of life intentionally



## **The right to not be tortured**

Freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment



## **The right to not be discriminated against**

No-one can treat you differently or unfairly because of your sex, race, skin colour, language, religion, or where you were born.



**Other things that will not change include:**

- Safeguarding
- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- The Equality Act

# 6. Keep Safe Website

[www.keepsafe.org.uk](http://www.keepsafe.org.uk)

keep safe

Info

Resources

Help

To Do  
Events

Get Help



## Easy Read information and guidance about coronavirus:

- Staying at home
- Keeping safe
- Health issues
- What if you get ill?

### Coronavirus Staying at home

You may need to stay at home for a while on your own. Make sure you have

- \* Food and supplies
- \* Medicine
- \* Phone credit
- \* Support

#### Taking care

Get a food delivery to your home

Use video chat to keep in touch

Do things you enjoy - music, puzzles, films

Exercise if you feel well enough

Help Don't be afraid to ask for help!

**CALL 111**  
111.nhs.uk

**If you are ill**  
**Stay at home for 7 days**  
**If you feel worse**  
**Phone NHS 111**  
or visit 111.nhs.uk

**Adapted from Government Guidance:**

*Care Act easements: guidance for local authorities*

*March 31st, 2020*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities>

**Booklet by Clare Tarling**

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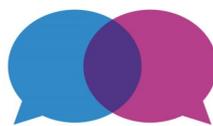
In association with:

**Self Directed Futures**

**The Centre For Welfare Reform**



**Self Directed Futures**



**Dorset Advocacy**

