

Dear

### **Caring for Bristol – what the Care Act means to you**

The Care Act 2014 comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> April of this year. It's the biggest change in legislation for care and support in England for over 60 years and brings a consistent approach across the whole country.

I would like to bring to your attention what this means for Bristol and how we can support you to answer questions from your service users.

#### **For individuals:**

- **Preventing and delaying the onset of care:** Developing the wellbeing and resilience of individuals and building on what is good in their lives to address problems.
- **Promoting independence:** To enable older and disabled people to stay as independent as possible for as long as possible and supporting them to be active in their community.
- **Providing the right balance between help and support:** Enabling citizens to make the right choices and live by them whilst getting value for money.
- **Safeguarding:** New statutory safeguarding duties for protecting adults from neglect and abuse, past or present, and ensuring young people have a smooth transition from children's services into adult care.
- **Partnership work:** Integrating our services with healthcare and other providers to ensure citizens have a good range of joined up, quality services.
- **Needs and eligibility:** A new, consistent level of care and support needs for all councils to consider during the assessment process.
- **Paying for care:** There are new rules around deferred payments, meaning citizens do not need to sell their home to pay for care costs. We have offered this in Bristol for some time. From April 2016 no one will have to pay more than £72,000 for their care.

#### **For carers:**

The last census highlighted 40,138 unpaid carers in Bristol. The new Care Act provides more support to these carers:

- **Help and advice:** Looking after the wellbeing of carers so that they can carry on caring.
- **A right to ask for an assessment:** Carers may be eligible for financial, practical or emotional support to help continue with caring.

#### **Supporting Bristol citizens**

[Wellaware www.wellaware.org.uk](http://www.wellaware.org.uk) is a local organisation which provides free information, advice and signposting to local services. Over 5,000 services are listed from lunch clubs and counselling to personal health and help around the house or garden.

[Bristol City Council website www.bristol.gov.uk/careandsupport](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/careandsupport) has a comprehensive range of information and ways to find out more. This includes in depth information about needs and eligibility, assessments, paying for care and support for carers.

**Care Direct** is Bristol City Council's own front door service for adult care and support.

Email: [adult.care@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:adult.care@bristol.gov.uk)

Tel: 0117 922 2700

### **Keeping up to date with the care and support changes in Bristol**

We will shortly be launching our care and support e-newsletter to enable professionals like yourself to keep up to date. We plan for this newsletter to be emailed out every two-three months until all of the changes are implemented.

**[Register for the newsletter here!](#)**

Alternatively you can email [careact@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:careact@bristol.gov.uk) to be added to the list.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hennessey  
Service Director, Care and Support Provision (Adults)