



## **COUNCIL OF THE ISLES OF SCILLY SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### ***INFORMATION FOR CARERS***

#### **Social Care and Health Factsheet**

#### **Are you a carer?**

**A carer provides help to someone else who needs it. This may be physical, emotional or social care. It may involve a lot of daily input or more occasional help.**

**A carer may live with the person that they help, or they may be some distance away. Carers can be of any age and provide the help voluntarily.**

The person they help may be:

- A child or older son/daughter
- A spouse or partner
- A parent or other relative
- A brother or sister
- Someone who is not related to them

#### **Some facts about carers....**

- 1 in 8 adults cares in some way
- 30% of these provide care for more than 20 hours a week
- Some children also help care for a family member

#### **Rights for carers**

Carers have the right to an assessment of their need in their own right.

Local authorities must carry out a separate assessment to that of the person being cared for, and the needs of the carer are taken into account when deciding what services to provide to the person in need of care.

A carer does not have to be the sole carer in order to ask for an assessment.

### **Under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995.**

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### **Under the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.**

Carers can now receive services in their own right. They will have the right to their own assessment, even if the cared for person has refused an assessment, or is not receiving any services. This gives local authorities a power to provide services to carers to support them in their caring role. Potential carers can also ask for an assessment if they are planning to start providing care in the near future, for example, if an older relative is about to be discharged from hospital.

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The legislation also includes children and young people who care for someone, and parent carers of disabled children.

### **What is an assessment?**

This is a way of getting a clear picture of the circumstances of a carer and the person they care for. It looks at the restrictions; difficulties and pressure both are under. It acknowledges the help already given, and looks at what help both may need.

It can be difficult for carers to explain how they feel about their caring situation in the presence of the person they care for, so it is suggested that the carer and the person completing the assessment talk in private.

### **Support to carers in Scilly**

- If you would like advice and/or a carers assessment, please contact your local Social Services Department on Tel. 01720 422148.
- Carers may also be identified and referred to Social Services via their GP and the primary care services they provide.
- The Department for Work and Pensions give advice about Disabled and Sickness benefits on free phone Benefit Enquiry Line 0800 882200 and on line [www.dwp.gov.uk](http://www.dwp.gov.uk). For advice or carers allowance application please contact 01253 856123.
- Websites for carers [www.carers.gov.uk](http://www.carers.gov.uk)

[www.carersonline.org.uk](http://www.carersonline.org.uk)  
[www.dementia.com](http://www.dementia.com)  
[www.youngcarers.net](http://www.youngcarers.net)