

Information, Advice, Support and Parent Carers Assessments

Legislation defines parent carers as:

“A person aged 18 or over who provides or intends to provide care for a disabled child for whom the person has parental responsibility”. (Children and Families Act 2014)

Some parents may still define themselves as a ‘parent carer’ when their child is an adult.

Worcestershire County Council have commissioned a Worcestershire’s Carers Hub which provides information, advice, and support for all unpaid carers (of all ages) within Worcestershire. This is currently provided by Worcestershire Association of Carers. Worcestershire’s Carers Hub also provide peer support, training, emergency planning and carer wellbeing sessions.

This is a virtual Carers Hub which can be accessed via self-referral:

- to Worcestershire Association of Carers online using the [Worcestershire Adults Portal](#)
- by visiting Worcestershire’s Carers Hub website [Worcestershire Association of Carers \(carersworcs.org.uk\)](http://carersworcs.org.uk) or
- give the Carers Hub a call [0300 012 4272](tel:03000124272) (Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm, Saturday 9am to 12pm).

Parent carers (do not always see the importance of getting the support right for themselves (for example meeting their own mental or physical health needs) for them to maintain their caring role. That is why carer assessments are important for the unpaid carer and depending on the person the unpaid carer is caring for, there are different legal requirements in place. Adult carers (of an adult) have the right to a Carers Assessment under the Care Act 2014. Parent Carers (of children 17 years old or younger) have the right to a Carers Assessment under the Children and Families Act 2014. Parent carers can request an individual stand-alone assessment of their needs at any time.

Parent Carer Assessments:

Parent Carers have rights to stand-alone assessments under the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 97 of the Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to assess parent carers on the appearance of need or where an assessment is requested by the parent. This is called a “parent carers need’s assessment”.

Where asked, then the local authority must assess whether that parent has needs for support and, if so, what those needs are. The assessment must include an assessment of whether it is appropriate for the parent to provide, or continue to provide, care for the disabled child, in the light of the parent’s needs for support, other needs and wishes. The requirement is that the carer ‘may have needs for support – whether currently or in the future’.

The assessment must also have regard to:

- The well-being of the parent carer; and
- The need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child and any other child for whom the parent carer has parental responsibility.

The assessment must consider:

- Whether the carer is able/willing to provide and continue to provide the care.
- The impact on the carer’s ‘well-being’ of their caring role
- The outcomes the carer wishes in day-to-day life.
- Whether the carer works or wishes to work (and/or) to take part in education, training, or recreation.

Following assessment, the local authority must then decide:

- Whether the parent has needs for support
- Whether the child has needs for support
- And if so whether those needs could be met (wholly or partly) by services under Children Act 1989, s17.

Assessments can be holistic and combined with other assessments and throughout the continuum of need. For example, this assessment can be incorporated into a Social Work Assessment or an Early Help Assessment, often this will be a more holistic assessment. The legislation supplements the Assessment Duty by allowing the Local Authority to combine the Parent Carers Needs Assessment with any other assessment of the parent care or disabled children.

The process Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Association of Carers (WAC) follow is set out below.

1. Parent carers of children (under 17 years old).

- a. Parent carers of those under 17 years old need to make a request to children's services for a Parent Carers Needs Assessment via the Family Front Door (Tel no. 01905 822666). These assessments are completed by Worcestershire Children First (WCF) Children with Disabilities Team (if your child is open to the Children with Disabilities Team). If not, go through the Family Front Door (Tel no. 01905 822666). These assessments are done under the Children and Families Act 2014.
- b. Worcestershire's Carers Hub (provided by WAC) also signpost parent carers of children to Herefordshire and Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) who provide information, advice, and support - [Welcome to SENDIASS Herefordshire and Worcestershire | Worcestershire County Council](#)

2. Parent carers of children who are between children's and Adults social care services.

- a. Worcestershire Carers Hub can complete 'parent carer transition assessments' for adult/parent carers and young adult carers under the Care Act 2014, where it is felt this would help the carer and/or the carer requests on.
- b. A strength-based approach is used which focuses on the carer's strengths and the help available within the community.

3. Adult/parent carers of adults (18 years plus)

- a. The Council has delegated its legal duty to Worcestershire's Carers Hub (provided by WAC) to undertake carers assessment.
- b. Further information regarding carers support can be found on the Worcestershire County Council website - [Support for carers | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Table to summarise who can help carers with information, advice, and support and for Carer assessments and reviews.

Carers Age	Cared for age	Who can help me with information, advice & support?	Who will do my carers assessment & review?
25 years and above	Over 18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub provided by WAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub (on behalf of Adult Social Care) provided by WAC.
18 – 25 years old (young adult carers)	Over 18 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Hub YSS <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub provided by WAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub (on behalf of Adult Social Care) provided by WAC.
18 years and above	Children and young adults in transitions 16- to 25-year-olds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub provided by WAC. • SENDIASS for children and young people with (SEND) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Hub (on behalf of Adult Social Care) provided by WAC. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcestershire Children First.
18 years and above	17 years old or under (if child open to the Children with Disabilities Team) If not go through the Family Front Door.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services and Carers Hub provided by WAC. • SENDIASS for children with (SEND) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester Children First - Children with Disabilities Team - Tel no. 01905 844343. • Family Front Door - Tel no. 01905 822666.
17 or under (young carers)	Any age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers and Young Adult Carers Hub provided by YSS. • SENDIASS for children and young people with (SEND) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YSS • Worcestershire Children First Early Help Team - Tel no. 01905 822666.

- Where YSS and WAC can both provide information, advice, and support, they work well together and ensure the person receives the relevant support.