

## One minute guide

### The Care Act Easements

April 2020

The Government has published guidance for the Care Act easements which can be locally implemented to help local authorities with COVID19.

The easements have been created under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and aim to ensure support is given to the people who need it most. When an authority decides to operate under the easements, temporary changes are made to the responsibilities of local authorities set out in the Care Act 2014 including:

#### One

Local authorities will not have to carry out detailed assessments of people's care and support needs. They are expected to respond as soon as possible to requests for care and support and to consider the needs and wishes of people needing care and their families and carers, and they must still make an assessment of what care needs to be provided.

#### Two

Local authorities do not have to carry out financial assessments at this time. They are however able to charge people retrospectively for the care and support they receive during this period as long as 'reasonable' information is given around this and once a financial assessment has ultimately been carried out.

### Three

Local authorities do not have to prepare or review care and support plans until further notice. They are however still expected to carry out proportionate, person-centred care planning.

Where authorities choose to revise plans, they must continue to involve people using services and their carers.

### Four

Local authority duties to meet eligible care and support needs, or the support needs of a carer, are replaced with a power to prioritise the most pressing needs. Local authorities should take all reasonable steps to continue to meet needs, but if they are unable to the powers will enable them to offer, for example, enhanced support for people who are self-isolating and to temporarily delay or reduce other care provision.

### Five

The power to act under the easements became law on 31 March 2020, but a decision to operate under the easements should only be taken by Local Authorities where this is essential in order to maintain the highest possible level of services. They should comply with the pre-amendment Care Act provisions and related Care and Support Statutory Guidance for as long and as far as possible.

### Our Local Position

If you want to know more about how Coventry City Council is enacting the easements, please see the city council's website [here](#)

#### Key Contacts and Further Information

[Full Care Act Easement guidance](#)

[COVID19 CSAB resources-](#)

[Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board website](#)