

Moving house and moving care

Information for people in receipt of social care support moving to a new local authority.

Introduction

This booklet provides information and suggestions for people who receive local authority funded social care and are moving, or considering moving house, to live in a new local authority area.

From April 2015, there have been some changes to the law that affect people moving house and moving their care and support in England. These changes are contained in the Care Act 2014 and are designed to help people to achieve greater continuity of care and support as they move. We have included the most important aspects of these changes into this information.

Everyone's situation and circumstances are different. The first five sections of this information suggest actions that you could take to help you, or your relative, to move house and move care and support. The final section identifies the steps that local authorities should be taking to support your move:

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First and foremost, plan and prepare for the move as far ahead and in as much detail as possible.

Secondly, expect the unexpected. However carefully you plan your move, it is likely that something will not go as smoothly as you hope. Having emergency arrangements and a 'Plan B' may prove to be essential.

We hope that this booklet will help to plan your move and we hope that your move goes as smoothly as possible.

1. Letting people and organisations know you are moving

Inform both the local authority you are leaving and the new local authority that you will be joining, that you are planning to move. As soon as you have made a provisional date for your move, it is helpful to inform both local authorities of this. Additionally, the local authority you are moving from should tell your new local authority you are planning to move.

Think about all of the other agencies involved in your support and let them know that you are moving. This may include:

- Health professionals, for example GP and Dentist
- Housing provider
- Equipment services
- Access to Work
- Student support services
- Direct Payment agency
- Carers' organisations
- The Department for Work and Pensions

Ask about being referred to an equivalent service in your new area. Keep a written record of your communication with the local authorities involved and other agencies.

2. Finding out about your new local authority

Local authorities can be different in many aspects, and may not arrange and deliver care and support in the same way. Try to find out as much as possible in advance about the new local authority and the range of services that is on offer in the area you will be moving to. The local authority you are planning to move to should send you information about the care and support available in your new area.

Before you move it may be useful to find out the following information about your new local authority:

- What services are available in your new local authority? Are these services similar to those you have been receiving in the local authority you are moving from?
- What support is available to help people manage Direct Payments? What is the usual hourly rate for Personal Assistants? Does the local authority provide any funding to help with recruitment expenses or help with the cost of background checks?
- What support is available for carers? How can carers access these services?
- What support is available to help manage the move, and contact the different agencies concerned, on your behalf?

3. Managing Direct Payments and Personal Assistants as you move

3.1 Direct Payments - If you receive Direct Payments, you may be able to use them differently at the time you move to support you with the tasks, costs and extra support needed when moving. You could discuss this with your local authority or Direct Payments agency.

3.2 Personal Assistants - If your Personal Assistant is not moving with you, they may wish to hand in their notice and move into new employment before you are ready to move yourself. Consider how you will manage if this happens. You could identify agencies which could provide short term support, or identify family members and friends who could provide support if necessary. If you will be making Personal Assistants redundant, seek advice on your responsibilities as an employer. Your social care worker will be able to help give you advice on this. If you need to find Personal Assistants in your new authority it is advisable to start the recruitment process as soon as possible. You may need to write new job descriptions and contracts, and begin advertising as soon as possible.

3.3 Think about how you will manage in the short term if there are delays in finding and recruiting new Personal Assistants. Find out in advance about care agencies in your new local authority which could provide short term support until you have found new Personal Assistants. The new local authority may be able to provide advice and information about this.

4 Preparing for new assessments

The local authority you are moving to will carry out an assessment of your needs for care and support. This may take place before you move, but most often will be completed when you are living in the new area. See page 5 for further information about assessments as you move.

Ensure you have copies of your most recent assessments, support plans and other important documents that might need to be shared with professionals in your new area.

If you are moving with a carer, moving in with a partner who will provide support or are moving closer to a family member who intends to provide support, remember to ask about support for carers and ask for a carer's assessment.

5 Important things to think about

- 5.1 Keep a list of useful contacts** - Before you move make sure you know who to contact if there are any last minute hitches, questions, problems or emergencies concerning your care and support. This may include getting contact details for out of hours support teams, your social care worker or social work team, and any care agency which will be providing support to you.
- 5.2 Think about the best time to move** - Try and move early in the week or at least try to avoid a Friday. If there are any problems, emergencies or last minute hitches, it may be harder to contact social care workers, health professionals, care agencies or trades people over the weekend.
- 5.3 Consider getting Lasting Power of Attorney or Deputyship** - You may wish to consider taking out a Lasting Power of Attorney in case, in the future, you become unable to make decisions yourself or develop a crisis plan or advanced care plan. If you are supporting a relative to move it may be helpful to secure Lasting Power of Attorney or Deputyship to ensure that you are involved in making decisions if they are unable, or become unable, to make decisions themselves.

You can get information about Lasting Powers of Attorney from:

<https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/overview> and about Deputyship from:
<https://www.gov.uk/become-deputy/overview>

6 The responsibilities of Local Authorities

The Care Act 2014, implemented in April 2015 in England, outlines responsibilities for local authorities to ensure that your care and support is not interrupted when you move. The Care Act talks about the 'first authority', which is the authority you are leaving, and the 'second authority', which is the local authority you are moving to.

The first authority should:

- tell the second authority that you are planning to move
- share your assessment, care and support plan and any other information requested with the second authority
- keep in contact with the second authority about the progress they are making and involve you in that contact
- keep you informed and up to date about progress
- enable you to take with you any equipment they have provided. The second authority may wish to reassess you with regard to this equipment.

The second authority should:

- provide you with information about the care and support available in the area
- carry out an assessment of your needs for care and support. They should take into consideration the care and support you received from the first local authority
- carry out an assessment of carers' needs where relevant
- give you a written explanation of any differences in your assessment or care and support plan
- involve you, and any carers, in your assessment.

If the second authority has not completed the assessment when you move then they must continue to provide the support package delivered by the first authority, until a new assessment has been completed and an updated care and support plan has been agreed.

Further information

Please note

This information is based on research with people with social care support who make a permanent move to a new local authority, this is known as changing their 'ordinary residence'. In these situations the person's care and support are usually paid for by their new local authority who may assess them to decide if they are eligible for support.

However, there are other possible situations in which the person's social care will continue to be paid for by the original local authority they are moving from, for example if:

- the person is moving to a new area to study during term time only
- the person is moving to an 'out of area placement' in a residential or nursing home
- the person receives aftercare under section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983

In these cases, or where you are moving from, or to, local authorities outside England, we recommend that you seek information and advice from your local authority, Citizens Advice and Law Centre or a disability or carers' organisation.

Acknowledgements

The information is based on a research project called "Relocation, Portability and Social Care Practice", which was undertaken in England between 2012 and 2014 by the University of Hull and King's College, London, funded by the NIHR School for Social Care Research.