



Care Act – An update

As stated in the [October newsletter](#), the final [Care Act guidance has now been published](#) and the final regulations will shortly complete their passage through parliament. To support the understanding of the Care Act the Department of Health has produced a series of [factsheets](#), these are one of many resources that the October newsletter stated would be signposted to you to help inform your teams of the Care Act. A further resource is the [Local Government Association website](#), this provides a wealth of accessible information including a regular e-bulletin that you can sign up to.

On 10th December, the National Audit Office visited County Hall to discuss the Care Act Implementation Plans for Devon. Areas of interest included:

- What opportunities we envisage in implementing the Care Act?
- How ready is the authority for April 2015?
- What have been the most significant risks and/or challenges for the authority to date?
- Looking ahead, what further risks and/or challenges do you face to implement the Care Act first stage reforms and how are you managing these?

In the New Year we are expecting the details of the second phase of the Care Act consultation, which focusses on the areas of the Care Act that will come into force in April 2016. These are the funding reforms that have also been known as the 'Dilnot reforms' that limit the life time care costs that people will pay. We are also expecting more details on care accounts and the new appeals system. The Department of Health has indicated that the consultation period will run from January through March.

January also sees the third and final stocktake exercise ahead of the Care Act going live. This helps the Government gauge the preparedness of local government for the implementation of the Care Act and assess where support might be needed. Devon County Council's response to this stocktake exercise will be made available.

Many Services and Teams across Devon County Council continue to work collaboratively to ensure that come 1st of April we will be in a good place to deliver the duties within the Care Act. Collaboration extends beyond County Hall and to the operational teams across the county; to our health colleagues and to our regional authority partners and national networks and forums to develop responses and solutions.

If you would like to ask any questions or make any suggestions as to how DCC should approach and implement the Care Act then please email the [Care Act mailbox](#)

Source: Social Care Commissioning