7 Carers

Are you a carer? Your guide to the carers' assessment and what services you may be entitled to.
Direct Payments & Brokerage For Carers

Help for carers
If you are looking after someone who needs support due to a disability or are elderly, you are a carer. Carers are more likely to suffer stress, depression and anxiety as well as backache and lack of sleep. But there are people and organisations who can help.

The support that you may get includes respite care to give you a break; emotional support at carers’ groups; and help with your caring duties.

Carer assessments & direct payments
If you are a carer you are entitled to a free assessment of your needs from the Council, just like the person you care for is entitled to one for their own needs. The assessment will cover a number of things, including:

• how much care you are providing
• how caring affects your health and wellbeing and ability to study or work
• if you have support in case of an emergency or if you needed to have a break.

Following your carer's assessment you may be entitled to a Carer’s Direct Payment to support you in your caring role.

What could I use carers direct payments for?
What support you choose depends on your circumstances, in the past carers have:

• paid for a flight to visit family living abroad
• gone to the theatre or for a meal out
• had regular therapeutic treatments
• paid for a cleaner, gardener or washing machine
• bought a shed for some ‘quiet space’

How can Brokerage help carers?
If you are given a one-off direct payment, Brokerage can help relieve the extra stress of deciding how to use it. Our support broker will discuss your needs with you in a way that best suits you. They will help you choose the best options to relieve the pressure of your caring role and develop a support plan that says how you will use your direct payment.

Our support brokers will also be able to tell you about other services that may not incur charges, but could give you additional support. Support brokers can also help you plan for the future or an unplanned event like sickness. They will discuss with you what options could be put in place to support you if you were unable to care for your loved one.

How do I get support?
For a Carer’s Assessment please contact Buckinghamshire County Council on 01296 383204.
For a referral to Brokerage please contact the social worker who completed your assessment or Buckinghamshire County Council on 01296 383204.