Carers Partnership Wandsworth
Working Together

youth legal
& resource centre

Are you a Carer?

If so, you have RIGHTS

A **Carer** is someone who provides unpaid help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour, who could not manage without their help. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability.

The help and support you provide for the person you care for can be emotional support and/or help with practical tasks such as shopping, housework, paper work, etc.

A Carer can be an adult or a young person under the age of 18. Depending upon your age and the person you are caring for, you may be entitled to:

- **A Carer's Assessment**
- **A Parent Carer's Assessment**
- **A Young Carer's Assessment**
- **Rights to Financial Support**
- **Rights at Work**

Carer's Assessment

Anyone who gives, or is going to give, support, care and help on a regular basis has a right to have a Carer's Assessment. The assessment considers your needs as a Carer and how caring for someone affects your life. It looks at what you need in order to continue in your caring role and to have a life outside of caring; including work, education, leisure, social life and the ability to practise your faith or aspects of your culture.

A Carer's Assessment may result in more or different services being provided for the person you care for, that will also help you. Your role as a Carer should however always be recognised when the needs of the person you care for are being assessed and you should be treated as a partner in care.

If the outcome of the assessment is that you are eligible for services from the Council in your own right, you can ask for a direct payment so you can arrange the services yourself. This gives you more choice and control.

The Council is responsible for Carer's Assessments. Tell the social worker or care coordinator dealing with the person you care for that you want a Carer's Assessment. Alternatively, you can contact the Access Team at Adult Social Services directly on **020 8871 7707** or email accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk.

Parent Carer's Assessment

A Carer for a child under 18 with a disability or health condition is known as a Parent Carer. They have a right to a Parent Carer's Needs Assessment. This is similar to a Carer's Assessment and will look at the Parent Carer's wellbeing and need for support, as well as their other needs and wishes.

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If you are a Parent Carer, you can contact the Referral & Assessment Services on **020 8871 6622** or email cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk to ask for an assessment.

Young Carer's Assessment

A Young Carer is any Carer under 18. They are also entitled to an assessment. This is carried out to assess whether it is **appropriate** for a Young Carer to provide or continue to provide care for the person in question. It should consider the Young Carer's need for support, as well as their other needs and wishes, such as their participation in education, training, recreation, and work.

If you are a Young Carer or someone working with a Young Carer contact the Referral & Assessment Services on **020 8871 6622** or email cssduty@wandsworth.gov.uk to ask for an assessment.

In addition, most Wandsworth schools have a member of staff who is the first person of contact for support for Young Carers. To find out if your school has one, call the Family Information Services (FIS) on **020 8871 7899**.

You can also contact the Children's Society where you will get information and resources for Young Carers – www.youngcarerssociety.org.uk .

The right to financial support

Caring for someone can be expensive so it is important that you make sure you claim your full entitlements. The main benefit is Carer's Allowance, but be aware that any existing benefit you have might be affected. To claim Carer's Allowance you must be 16 or over and meet certain other conditions, for example, you must be looking after someone for at least 35 hours per week. You can get advice as the any benefits you might be entitled to by contacting Wandsworth Carers' Centre on **020 8877 1200** or email: info@wandsworthcarers.org.uk

Rights at work

If the person you care for is a relative or lives at the same address as you, you have the right to request a flexible working pattern from your employer to help you balance your work and caring responsibilities. You also have the right to take a 'reasonable' amount of time off work to deal with an emergency involving a dependant.

Where to get further information on Carers' rights.

NHS Carers Direct has a guide to Carer's rights – call 0300 123 1053 or visit www.nhs.uk/CarersDirect/guide/rights.

Or you can contact one of us for further information and/or assistance at:

- **Wandsworth Young Carers Project (Up to 18 yrs.) Tel: 020 7228 2566 or download a copy of Carers UK guide Looking after someone: at** https://www.carersuk.org/images/publications/Carers_UK_LAS2018_Digital_40pp_WEB_reduced_1.pdf

- **Youth Legal & Resource Centre Tel: 020 3195 1906 / 07956 039039**

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