

# Adult Social Care Services

A presentation for family carer's by Sarah  
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Warrington Borough Council

# Carer's Assessments

- A Carer's Assessment is for carers over 18 years old who are looking after another adult over 18 years old who is disabled, ill or elderly. It is an opportunity to record the impact caring has on your life and what support or services you need. The assessment will look at your physical, mental and emotional needs, and whether you are able or willing to carry on caring
- Any carer who appears to have needs for support can have an assessment by the local authority. You don't necessarily have to live with the person you are looking after or caring full-time to have an assessment. You may be juggling work and care and this is having a big impact on your life
- You can have an assessment whether or not the person you are looking after has had a needs assessment, or if the local authority have decided they are not eligible for support
- The outcome of contacting the Local Authority for Carers Assessment maybe that an Adult Assessment for the Cared for is the most appropriate pathway which can be actioned at the point of contact
- If you and the person you are looking after agree, a combined assessment of both your needs can be undertaken at the same time or you can request a Separate Carer's Assessment

# Carers Assessment Continued

- Your Carers Assessment should cover:
  - Your caring role and how it affects your life and wellbeing
  - Your health – physical, mental and emotional issues
  - Your feelings and choices about caring
  - Work, study, training and leisure
  - Relationships, social activities and your goals
  - Housing
  - Planning for emergencies (such as a Carer Emergency Scheme) – the local authority should be able to tell you more about what they can do to help you plan for an emergency
- The aim of a Carers Assessment is to identify the support you provide for another, how this impacts on your wellbeing, your willingness or ability to continue as a carer. If eligible, together with the carer support worker will help you get the support that you need.

# Carers Assessment Eligibility for Support

- Following your assessment, to be able to receive support from the local authority, you will need to meet the national eligibility criteria and therefore have what the law calls 'eligible needs'
- Generally speaking, you will meet the eligibility criteria if there is (or likely to be) a significant impact on your wellbeing as a result of you caring for another person
- There are three questions that the local council will need to consider when making their decision:
  - 1. Are your needs the result of you providing necessary care?
  - 2. Does your caring role have an affect on you?
  - 3. Is there, or is there likely to be, a significant impact on your wellbeing?
- If the answer to all three questions is yes, then you will have eligible needs
- If your local council decides that you do not have eligible needs, then you must be given a written decision explaining this and you must be given advice and information about what could be done to prevent or reduce your needs either now or in the future. This advice and information should be based on your specific circumstances

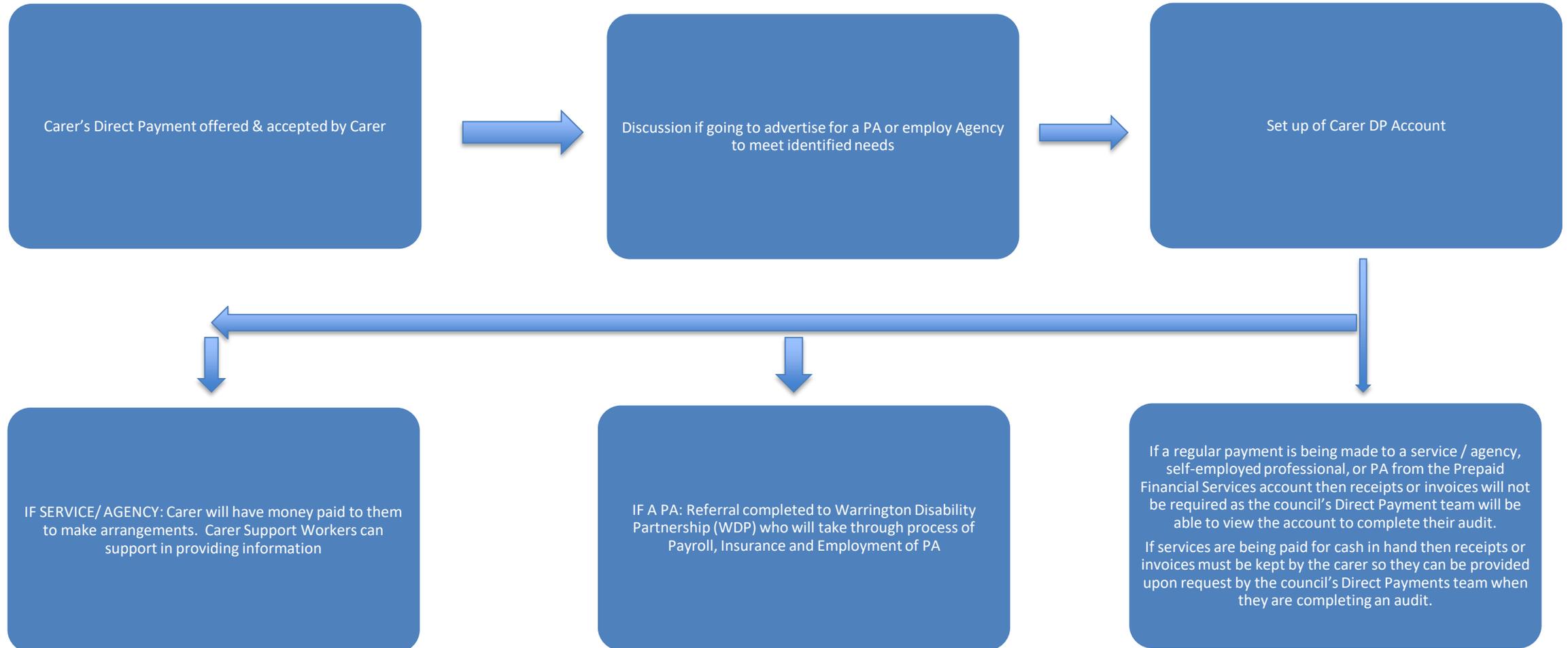
# Support for Carers with Eligible Needs

- If the local council decides that you do have eligible needs, then providing you want them to, they have a legal obligation to meet these needs and must draw up a support plan detailing how these needs will be met
- It may be agreed that the best way to help you as a carer is by providing services directly to you, by providing services to the person you are looking after, or a combination of both
- The local authority can provide services themselves, or arrange services through another organisation. Alternatively, you or the person you are looking after can access direct payments, which are payments to enable you to buy services to meet your eligible needs
- In Warrington, services provided directly to you as the carer are not means tested so a Financial Assessment would not be required

# Commissioned Services for Carers in Warrington

- Depending on what your individual needs are as a carer, if you are eligible for support following a Carers Assessment then you could be offered:
  - A Carer’s Leisure Card – this provides you with an all-inclusive leisure pass to any of the Livewire centres in Warrington
  - A Carer’s Direct Payment – this enables you to purchase services to meet your needs as a carer, for example, cleaning or gardening services to take pressure from you in your caring role, or hiring a Personal Assistant to sit with the person you care for to enable you to go out without worrying about leaving the person you care for alone (note – a sitting service may need to be put in place via an Adult Assessment for the person you care for, it depends on the circumstances as to why this type of support is required)
  - Professional Support from a Carer Support Worker – Your Carer Support Worker could be involved for up to 12 weeks, sometimes longer depending on the circumstances, and may liaise with other professionals involved in the care of your loved one on your behalf, refer you into other services that are going to be of benefit to you with your consent, and phone or meet with you weekly or fortnightly to discuss matters of concern. The professional support will be tailored to your individual need. If the support you require is mostly emotional support then you are likely to be referred to Wired Carer’s Centre for on-going support

# CARERS DP FLOWCHART



# Carers Direct Payment Case Study 1

- Anne cares for her husband who has an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and now requires lots of support with prompting, meals, medication and he can't be left on his own as he becomes confused
- Anne has her own health problems alongside being a full-time carer to her husband and as a result of being a carer she has developed problems with depression and anxiety
- Her husband has had an Adult Assessment and a support worker takes him out 4 times a week to provide Anne with some respite to enable her to run errands, go shopping and take some time for herself but despite this support being in place she was still struggling so a Separate Carer's Assessment was requested to explore other support options
- Following Anne's Carers Assessment she was offered a Carer's Direct Payment to purchase cleaning and gardening services to take pressure from her in her caring role and to pay for taxi's to enable her to access services in the community when her husband was with his support worker as she doesn't drive and lives on the outskirts of Warrington making it difficult to rely on public transport. When her support plan was reviewed, it was agreed for her to use some of her direct payment money for art supplies as she was finding this beneficial to her wellbeing

# Carers Direct Payment Case Study 2

- Bob cares for his wife who has dementia. She requires lots of prompting, he has to provide all of her meals and medication and she can't be left on her own. Bob supports his wife during the night as she gets up a number of times confused and she follows him round the house everywhere he goes
- Bob didn't feel the need for his wife to have an Adult Assessment as he wants to continue to provide all of her care needs for as long as he can. Following his Carers Assessment, he was offered a Carer's Direct Payment to enable him to hire a Personal Assistant to come and sit with his wife 2 or 3 times a week for a couple of hours at a time so he could simply go for a walk, go to the gym, do some stuff around the house or go and spend some time in his wood turning workshop in his garage as these are activities he is unable to do when she is following him around