

# Supporting Carers Consultation

## Supporting Carers Consultation

### 1. Introduction

Birmingham City Council has a responsibility to support unpaid carers whose caring duties have a significant impact on their lives.

Nationally, all councils are moving to 'self directed support' as a way of providing adult social care services.

Service users will have more choice and control in choosing the activities or support they want to meet their assessed needs and achieve the things they want to do to improve their quality of life

We are currently reviewing the way we help and support carers in Birmingham.

We are carrying out this review because:

- Our Fair Access to Breaks for Carers Scheme (FASBC) ended in June 2009
- The Government are introducing a new way of delivering adult social care, known as personalisation. More information can be found here: [www.in-control.org.uk](http://www.in-control.org.uk)
- The National Carers Strategy, June 2008, ([www.carersuk.org/Newsandcampaigns/NationalCarersStrategy](http://www.carersuk.org/Newsandcampaigns/NationalCarersStrategy)) is clear that we should be offering choice for carers and the people they care for together
- We are changing the way we assess for and arrange adult social care services in Birmingham

### 2. Our proposal for a new way of working for carers

The aim of our proposed new way of working is to enable choice and control for carers and ensure that a support package that is put together meets the needs of both the carers and the person they are caring for.

Under the Fair Access to Short Breaks for Carers Scheme (FASBC) the needs, and any agreed support, for a service user and their carer were calculated separately.

As a result we are now revising the existing 'Carers Assessment' form and the carers assessment section to the existing 'Service User's Assessment' form.

The two forms being revised are:

- 'Carers Assessment'
- 'Service User's Assessment'

They can be downloaded from here:

**[www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers)**

We are proposing that assessing the level of care that the carer can continue to provide and the impact on the carer is done at the same time as the service user's assessment, in a new joint assessment.

The purpose of the joint assessment is so that a support package can be created that suits both people's needs.

A carer may still request an independent carers assessment if that is what they prefer.

### 3. Your views

We would like your feedback on:

- The idea that the carer and the person they care for should be assessed together, where the aim is to put together a support plan that suits the needs of both.
- Whether the carers section of the 'Service User's Assessment' form gives a full picture of the carer's situation.
- Whether the 'Carers Assessment' form gives a full picture of the carer's needs and things they would like to change in their life, and whether the questions are easy to understand.
- The current Birmingham City Council, Adults and Communities carer's leaflet called 'Help and Support for Carers'. This leaflet can be downloaded from here:  
**[www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers)**

Please complete the online questionnaire form, which can be downloaded from [www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/supportingcarers)

and return to us by email to:  
[carers@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:carers@birmingham.gov.uk)

or you can print a copy, complete, and return it by Freepost to:

**Freepost MIDI8897  
Customer Care and Citizen Involvement Team  
Supporting Carers Consultation  
Milton Grange  
16 Handsworth Wood Road  
Birmingham  
B20 2BR**

Thank you for your time. Your views are important to us.  
We look forward to receiving your feedback.

The deadline for providing responses to the Supporting Carers consultation is **15 February 2010**.

For any more information about the Supporting Carers consultation please:

Phone: **0121 675 0395**

Email: [carers@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:carers@birmingham.gov.uk)