

21/03/2017

Dear Carer

### **Supporting carers in Derbyshire**

Thank you to those of you who have commented on our proposals about how to improve services for carers. This letter sets out what the main types of support will look like in the future. More detail about the support available to carers can be found on the new carer's website <http://www.carersinderbyshire.org.uk/> . If there is anything you do not understand, or you have any further queries, please contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, **Derbyshire Carers Association** will be the lead provider of the new Carers Service for all carers residing in Derbyshire.

**Carer Assessments** - Assessments will be carried out by Derbyshire Carers Association. Thinkcarer and the Alzheimer's Society will no longer carry out carer assessments.

**Carer Personal Budgets** – More money is being invested in Carer Personal Budgets. Payments will be available to meet agreed outcomes for carers with eligible needs. Levels of payments will be linked to levels of need and need would be determined by an assessment. We believe this will be a fairer system and give carers more flexibility.

**Sitting Services** – This type of service provides planned short-term support when you cannot carry out your normal role, for example, if you need to attend an appointment. Previously we paid money in advance direct to organisations to provide sitting services to carers. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, if a sitting service is needed, this will be paid for from the money allocated to you, following an assessment, through a **Carer Personal Budget**, so the money can pay for a service of your choice. You will have the option of arranging the service yourself or you can get support to make arrangements.

**Self-Help and Peer Support Groups** – The new Carers Service will support existing groups to continue to support carers and will help new carer groups to become established.

**Better information for carers** – We will continue to produce the booklet called Guide to Carers Services. This booklet is widely available in public places such as doctors' surgeries and council offices. You can also request a copy from Call Derbyshire (01629) 533190.

If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer a carer, please accept our apologies for sending this letter to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Vollar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Vollar  
Assistant Director  
Commissioning and Performance

