Adult Social Care Strategy FAQ

The following FAQ has been produced to help answer any questions you may have about Rutland County Council’s new Adult Social Care strategy:

**What is Adult Social Care?**
Adult social care services provide help and support for some of the most vulnerable people in our community – those with needs arising from illness, disability, old age or hardship.

**Who is responsible for providing this care in Rutland?**
Adult Social Care is provided by a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations, as well as individual carers. Rutland County Council has overall responsibility for ensuring the needs of adults living in the County are met. This responsibility became a legal requirement following the introduction of the Government’s Care Act 2014.

**What is the Council’s new Adult Social Care Strategy?**
The Strategy is a document that sets out our ambitions for social care for the next five years – right up to 2020. It also sits alongside a number of complementary strategies such as the Better Care Together programme and Rutland’s Better Care Fund plan, which are working to integrate social care with health services to help people to remain well and independent for longer.

**Why do we need a strategy?**
As our population grows older and young people with disabilities live longer, there will be additional challenges to keeping Rutland a healthy place to live.

By 2037 the total population of Rutland is expected to reach 41,0001. The greatest change will be in the over 65 age bracket and in future years more than a third of our population will fall into this category. Around 1,700 people aged over 75 in Rutland were predicted to live alone in 2010 but this number is expected to rise to 3,800 by 2030. Furthermore, the total number of people aged 65 and over who have a significant health problem is predicted to double between 2010 and 2030.

All of this means we need a radical shift in the way we deliver Adult Social Care in Rutland and a refocusing of available resources.

**How has this strategy been produced?**
The Strategy follows on from the Council’s People First Review – a wide-reaching consultation which took place in April 2014 to help us plan for:

- Demographic pressures posed by an ageing population with a high incidence of dementia
- Major changes in national policy with the introduction of the Care Act 2014

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1 Rutland’s population at the recent 2011 Census was 37,369. Further statistical data for Rutland can be found online at: [http://www.rutland.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census_informat.aspx](http://www.rutland.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/statistics_and_census_informat.aspx)
• An unprecedented financial environment in which the Council needs to deliver significant savings
• The need for a collaborative approach with health partners, to develop more seamless care and support

The review recommended a way forward for services that would meet the needs of individuals, families and our communities and has helped form the basis of the new Adult Social Care Strategy.

What is going to change as a result of this?
Our overriding aim is to enable and encourage people and communities to live healthier, more independent lives and to do this in a way that means they have to rely on us less. Our goal is to:

• Enable individuals and families within our community to achieve their full potential and be safe from harm
• Target services at the most vulnerable and those in greatest need
• Integrate services more closely with the Health and Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Sectors in a way that supports independent living
• Be clearer about what individuals, families and our community can expect
• Focus on finding different ways to do things rather than reduce or remove services
• Adopt an early help and prevention approach

When will these changes be introduced?
Work is already taking place to make sure people in Rutland receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time. This will continue over the next five years as we look to introduce further changes that will help people lead healthy, independent lives and make services more sustainable for the future.

Who will this affect?
Even if you are young and healthy now you may need these services in future so this strategy affects the vast majority of adults living in Rutland. It also affects carers, individual service users and various partner organisations. To make sure services are sustainable we are looking to work more closely and effectively with partners in the health, voluntary, community and faith sectors, while we also aim to change the way that we commission services to meet specific needs.

Why has the Council increased council tax to fund Adult Social Care?
Social care services are some of the most important services we provide and take up an increasingly large proportion of our overall budget. While the number of people in Rutland who rely on us for care is increasing as our population grows and elderly people live longer, Central Government has made major cuts to the funding it gives local Councils. Instead, the Government has as given Unitary Councils like Rutland the power to increase council tax by 3.99% in each of the next four years and assumes we will act accordingly to close this funding gap and pay for local services.
Why is the Council looking to change its Social Care Charging Policy?
Unlike healthcare, social care is not free for everyone so financial assessments are used by local authorities to decide whether individual care is funded by the Council or whether service users should pay for it themselves.

The Government’s Care Act 2014 introduced a number of ways that Councils can update their charging policies to make social care services more sustainable and ensure they can continue to support everyone who needs help. The changes we are considering will only affect those who are eligible to fund their own care, as determined national government thresholds.

A consultation is ongoing until 29th April 2016 and you can find out more or take part by visiting: www.rutland.gov.uk/asccharging

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