

Are you missing out on support as a carer?

All carers are entitled to an assessment that Hertfordshire County Council can carry out for you to help you get the support you need.

A carer is someone who provides unpaid care and support to another person who would not be able to manage without it.

We know that 1 in 9 working people have a caring responsibility. Hertfordshire County Council wants to make sure that carers in the county are getting the advice and support they need to look after themselves and the person they care for by providing assessments for carers.

Norman Phillips, 67, from Stevenage, has recently been helped by the new assessment process. Norman has been caring for wife Rosamund, 65, for the past 20 years. We have been funding respite, to give him a break from caring, since 2010, through Crossroads Care. In May 2015, Norman called to advise of a change in circumstances and was invited in for a new assessment.

“The new assessment is much more about the carer’s needs,” he said. “It focussed on how I was going to cope with caring.”

“My advice to anyone who is a carer is to get advice early on. Find out what’s available to you and what help can be got for you. It’ll save you a lot of stress, heartbreak and financial hardship in the long run.”

Support available to carers includes:

- Funded carers breaks
- Carers’ direct payments
- Carers’ Passport, offering more than 300 discounts and concessions to carers at businesses across Hertfordshire
- Learning and training opportunities
- Financial and employment advice
- Involvement in developing services and policy

You can find out more about the support available to you as a carer at www.hertsdirect.org/carers