

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003609
Date 254 May 2019

Carers Grants and Assessments

Request:

Please provide the name(s), email(s) and telephone number(s) of the individual(s) responsible for carer's services

As a local authority we all have responsibility to support carers, we have a specific carer support team, their manager is Lesley Johnson 01902 553412 and Head of Adult Services with responsibility for carers team is Sandra Ashton Jones 01902 555377

What is the current process for carers completing a carer's assessment?

Carers can be referred to the carers team via several routes. Self-referral, health professional, social worker, voluntary organisation. We have self-referral forms which are part of the information we distribute across Wolverhampton; this form is also available on line and can be down loaded and completed. We have a carer support e mail address and carers often contact via that route requesting an assessment.

When we receive a referral, we contact the carer straight away we confirm they are aware of the referral discuss process and allocation time. We give the carer the team contact number and advise them to ring if they need support in the meantime or if they feel they need the assessment quicker. The case is allocated generally four weeks, quicker if identified or requested, assessment completed and identified needs supported. Carers assessments are reviewed every 12 months and carers are encouraged to contact the team for ongoing support if required at any point.

Is there the ability for carers to do/request this online?

With reference to question 6, your request for information has now been considered and the City of Wolverhampton Council is not obliged to supply the information you requested for the reasons set out below.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires City of Wolverhampton Council, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) states the fact,
- (b) specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies:

In relation to your particular request, the following exemption applies:

Section 21 – Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means

We can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for in relation to the above. However, the information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI Act because it is reasonably accessible to you. There is a carer support e-mail and link within 'WIN' Wolverhampton Information Network which offers carers the opportunity to request an assessment. You can access this on our website via the following link: <http://win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/adult.page?adultchannel=11>

Section 21(1) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts disclosure of information that is reasonably accessible by other means, and the terms of the exemption mean that we do not have to consider whether or not it would be in the public interest for you to have the information.

You can find out more about Section 21 by reading the extract from the Act, available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21>

Do you offer carer's grants? If so, what are the eligibility criteria?

We offer a one-off direct payment for items which are identified in the assessment.

If you do not provide grants, is provision for carer's wellbeing available as a direct payment if eligible for support?

Yes, if identified we offer home based respite via a direct payment and regarding wellbeing we have a wellbeing café which meets monthly and other events which promote wellbeing.

Are there plans to review / change the policy for provision of carer's grants and/or direct payments? If so what are these plans?

We actively encourage carers to access direct payments.

If yes, please provide details of amount of grant available per person and total value of grants issued for 2017/2018

We offer direct payments. There isn't a limit as it is an identified need.

What is the total budget available for carers' grants if different to above?

During the last financial year, we spent £166,917.92 on carer direct payments. This was mainly spent on carer respite offering weekly breaks for carers from the pressure of their caring role.

Is this managed in-house or via a third-party organisation? If a third-party organisation please provide name of supplier, total value of contract and contract end date

We have an in-house direct payments team.

What is the process for carers applying for a grant? Are there any restrictions on what the grant can be spent on and is there a requirement for carers to submit receipts?

Carers access funding via a carer's assessment were the need would be identified.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]