

# Your Care Your Rights Their Cuts



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# Care Services

Some examples of 'care services'



Day Centre



Care Homes



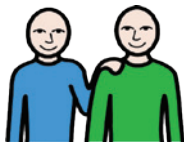
Help with cooking meals



Help with washing and dressing



Short Breaks (respite)



Support for carers

# Your Rights



**Health**

**Safety**

**Wellbeing**

**Independence**

# Assessments

An assessment is a way of finding out what care you need.

The person writing your assessment will ask questions like:



- What can you do for yourself?
- What do you need help with?
- Who helps you at the moment?

The law says that they must have the right skills and experience to assess your needs properly.

**Social Services must then “meet” your “assessed needs”.**

The Council has rules to make sure that care goes to the people who need it most. These rules are called ‘**eligibility criteria**’. Your social worker can tell you about what this means.

# Cuts



Less money is being sent to Dorset from the Government. Also, the cost of social care is going up.



So people at Dorset County Council will have to make some difficult decisions about how to save money.



Some of People First's members are worried about how this might affect people with learning disabilities in Dorset.



It might mean that people's care services might change. For example, the number of days that someone can go to a day centre.

# Things to do

If you are moving to a Personal Budget or Direct Payment, your care services must still “meet your assessed needs”.

**Here are some things to do if your services are being cut:**

**1) Talk to your social worker. Find out why your services are being cut.**

**2) Ask for another assessment**

*(doing a self-assessment form is not enough on its own)*

**3) Get letters from your family and GP about how your life will change**

**4) Follow Dorset County Council’s complaints procedure.**

*(The Council can give you information about how to do this)*

**5) Visit your Citizen’s Advice Bureau**

**6) Get legal advice**

# Useful Contacts



- **People First Dorset**

**01305 257600**

*Speak Up with People First!*

*Join the Forum, help with our campaigns and come to our Friendship Club events.*

- **Dorset Social Services**

*Contact your social worker at your local Social Services office.*

*Or call the Adults Access Team on:*

**01305 221016**

- **Citizen's Advice Bureau**

**08444 111 444**

*Use this number to find your nearest CAB.*

*Advice on benefits, rights, the law and more!*

- **Community Legal Advice**

**0845 345 4 345**

*Free legal advice for people on low incomes or benefits.*

- **Mencap Helpline**

**0808 808 1111**

- **Dorset Advocacy**

**[www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk](http://www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk)**

- **Luke Clements**

**[www.lukeclements.co.uk](http://www.lukeclements.co.uk)**

*More detailed information and resources about challenging cuts to care services.*