



Introducing changes to adult social care

We want to help people in Gloucestershire stay healthy and live in their own homes for as long as possible. These information sheets will provide a clear picture of how, together, we can achieve this goal.

Introducing the changes to social care

Adult social care services are changing across England to give people, family and carers much greater **choice** and **control** over the support that they receive and who delivers it.

We realise that people who receive social care have the same right to opportunities as everyone else – whether keeping their independence, living in their own home or playing an active role in their family or wider community.

*“I may need help,
but I am somebody”*

This change reflects a more personal approach to adult social care services – ensuring that:

- people’s changing needs and wishes are met, according to their own individual circumstances;
- people feel in control of decisions about their own support;
- support and services are flexible and reflect individuals day-to-day requirements.

A phased introduction of change

Change will be gradually introduced throughout Gloucestershire over the next two years, from April 2010.

For those of you new to adult social care services

From 1st April 2010, we will start to introduce these changes for those of you new to adult social care. Information sheets are available to guide you through the different steps, from working with you to assess your needs to arranging your ongoing support.

For those of you already using adult social care services



If your circumstances haven’t changed, things will continue as before. You may like to use the information available in our information sheets and on our web information portal to help you think differently about how you meet your needs and consider alternatives to traditional services.

After October 2010, we will gradually move over to personalised assessment, personal budgets and support planning during your annual review.

Introducing 'Your Circle'

'Your Circle' is the name of our approach to this more flexible and personal method of support in Gloucestershire.

Rather than assess your needs and then allocate resources to meet those needs, from a limited and inflexible range of services, Your Circle puts *you* at the centre:

- You make the decision about the support you need - *with help if you want it*
- You determine who, or what, makes up Your Circle – your personal network of trusted people, places and services – *with help if you want it*
- You decide how to spend your personal budget - *with help if you want it*
- You design a support plan based on what's most important in your life - *with help if you want it.*



What should be included in Your Circle?

Your Circle of support might include a mix, ranging from:

- 1 Trusted people (from family members to care professionals)
- 2 Established care and support services (traditional, voluntary and / or statutory)
- 3 Certain places (from community colleges to fitness centres).

In time, Your Circle will extend further

Whilst statutory health and social services will often be essential elements in a person's circle of support, they will be increasingly complemented by support from voluntary and private sector organisations as well as family members, friends, neighbours and local community groups.



We want to help rebuild and strengthen community networks, for example through the network of Village Agents, which support people living in isolated or rural communities, and through working closely with a range of local voluntary and community groups.

In time, the Your Circle symbol will also help you identify where to find information and support.

Ultimately, **Your Circle** will help you live your life the way you want to.