



Information Governance Team

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28 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: REQ07114**

Thank you for your request for information relating to Care Act easements.

You have requested the following information:

1. What stage of the Easements, as defined in Annexe A of the guidance to local authorities, has the Council implemented?

Coventry City Council has implemented Stage 2 and Stage 3 easements with the nature of the easements detailed on our website, which can be viewed via the following link:

https://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/72/health_and_social_care/3595/adult_social_care_-_coronavirus_act_2020_and_care_act_easements

2. What changes will use of the easements make to:

- **adult social care demand**
- **workforce requirements to delivery care services**

The easements themselves will not impact on the demand for Adult Social Care but will enable our service to meet the requirements of social distancing, applying extra vigilance to vulnerable groups including those over 70 years old.

3. What steps have been taken to mitigate against the need for the council to use the Care Act easements?

We are still able to undertake our assessments, eligibility decisions and support plans remotely using telephony, digital technology and trusted assessor approaches. However, the usual level of detail cannot be maintained and our ability to operate in a strength-based way will be reduced.

4. What is the expected impact of the measures taken?

Using the easements does enable us to complete work in a less detailed manner and prioritise. This means we can get support to people quicker which should have positive impact.

Although we will not be completing scheduled annual reviews, we will undertake a review if it is identified as urgent and keep this position, along with other aspects of the easements under review.

5. How will the changes help to avoid breaches of people's human rights at a population level?

Coventry City Council is not operating at Stage 4, or reprioritising services and therefore are not acting in such a way as to risk breaching an individual's human rights.

6. Who was consulted prior to the decision being taken (including officers and members of the council, the NHS and any other organisations)

Those stated within the guidance plus additional and specific Councillors included the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board.

7. What amendments or reasonable adjustments have been made as a result of these consultations?

None, these consultations did not propose any changes.

8. When and by whom was the decision taken?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

<https://edemocracy.coventry.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2918&ID=2918&sch=doc>

9. When will this decision be reviewed again? Please provide information to the nearest date possible.

The decision will be periodically reviewed. As we have not reduced or removed care and support from individuals there is no requirement for a two-weekly review.

10. On what date was the formal decision made?

Please refer to Question 8.

11. On what date(s) was the decision communicated to:

- people who use services, their families and carers.
- adult social care providers, advocacy organisations and the local voluntary sector.

28 April 2020.

12. How was the decision communicated to:

- people who use services, their families and carers.
- adult social care providers, advocacy organisations and the local voluntary sector.

The decision has been published on the Council's webpages and a stakeholder communication and engagement plan enacted.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email casework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance