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## About SCIE

- Launched in 2001 by Government, SCIE develops and promotes knowledge about good practice in social care
- SCIE works with people and organisations to identify useful information, research and examples of good practice
- SCIE produces free paper and web based publications and Social Care Online

[scie-socialcareonline.org.uk](http://scie-socialcareonline.org.uk)

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## About SCIE's work

- Our work centres on eight themes:
  - adults' services
  - children and families' services
  - e-learning
  - knowledge management
  - social work education
  - stakeholder participation
  - using knowledge to support social care.

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## Types of resources SCIE offers

- Knowledge reviews
- Resource guides
- Practice guides
- Position papers
- Reports
- Research briefings
- Training packs
- Web-based guides

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# Background to Carers Legislation

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## Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995

- The right to request an assessment at the time when the cared for person is being assessed
- Assessment of the carer's ability to provide care and to sustain the caring role
- Results of assessment taken into consideration when deciding what services to provide for the cared for person
- Applies to carers of all ages

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## Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000

- Applies to carers over 16 and those with parental responsibility for disabled children
- Maintaining carers health and wellbeing
- Independent assessment
- Provision of services
- Direct payments (including 16 + 17 yr olds)
- Voucher schemes
- Powers to charge for services

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## The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004

- Duty to inform
- Carer's assessment
- Cooperation between authorities



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## Duty to inform



- Local authorities must inform carers that they may be entitled to an assessment by:
  - Developing an information strategy
  - Targeting 'hidden carers'

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## Carers assessment

Must now include consideration of the carer's needs and wishes with regard to:

- Work



- Education and training



- Leisure



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## Co-operation between authorities



- The local authority can now request assistance from another public body (health, housing, education) in planning services for carers.
- Other authorities must give 'due consideration' to such requests

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## The online SCIE guide



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## SCIE Practice Guides

- Comprehensive
- Developed in partnership
- Easy to use
- Can be updated
- Can be downloaded in PDF format

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## SCIE Practice Guides

- Based on best available knowledge
- Drawn from a range of sources
- Make recommendations for practice and service delivery (practice points)
- Provide examples (ideas from practice)
- A free online resource

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## Development of guide content

- ADSS Carer's Group worked on subject areas
- SCIE Advisory Group (carers, practitioners, carer's leads, carer's organisations) developed and refined the content
- Other organisations (eg. CSCI, DH, DfES DWP, Parkinson's Disease Society) commented on draft copies

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## Essential Steps



- Participation
- Social services lead on carer's issues
- Clear, published eligibility criteria
- Multi-agency strategy
- Joint working between adult's and children's services
- Local profiling
- Joint commissioning

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## Duty to inform carers of right to assessment



- Providing information
- Identifying hidden carers
- Young carers

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## Assessment of carers



- Outcomes-focused assessments
- Promoting access to education, training, employment and leisure
- Signposting to other agencies
- Developing local resources

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## Co-operation between authorities

- Provision for carers by other organisations
- Guidance for human resource departments on carer-friendly employment practice



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## Contact us

- Download our free resources or order your copies at:

[www.scie.org.uk](http://www.scie.org.uk)

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