

## Call for evidence

We have been contacted by a number of families who have been through reviews of their relative's support packages and have had their budgets cut. If this has happened to you please get in touch with OxFSN and tell us what happened. We are trying to compile evidence so we can get a clearer picture of what is happening and if necessary challenge.

If you have recently had a review for your relative or have one booked in the coming months, please could you get in touch with OxFSN so we can advise.

You should be aware that review can only focus on assessing whether the current care and support plan is meeting the person's needs. If it isn't then a new needs assessment should be undertaken in full.

*'Although local authorities should review care packages at least once a year, the revised Statutory Guidance stresses that the 'review must not be used as a mechanism to arbitrarily reduce the level of a person's personal budget' (para 13.4). If, as a result of a reassessment, the support package is reduced or changed in a significant way, then the law requires that the council provides a detailed and convincing explanation as to why this is happening (for example, because the person's condition has improved substantially)' (<http://gettingheard.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Care-Support-Statutory-Guidance-Department-of-Health.pdf>)*

In the meantime please be aware that if something sounds unfair or just plain wrong, it usually is (legally)

You can check out yours and your relatives rights by visiting our website and downloading our guide to the care act <https://www.oxfsn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/A-Guide-to-the-2014-Care-Act.pdf>

Or by downloading HFT's guide on getting the right support here [https://www.hft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Hft-Care-Act\\_2018.pdf](https://www.hft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Hft-Care-Act_2018.pdf)

Best wishes

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