



Factsheet

Adult Social Care Assessments

A factsheet for parents/carers of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The changes brought about by the Care Act 2014 are wide-ranging and cover all adults with care and support needs, and their carers. Some of the changes strengthen the ways that councils already work and some are new responsibilities.

Eligibility

Newcastle City Council will determine a person's eligibility for care and support based on the National Minimum Eligibility Criteria. As part of the needs assessment, they will determine if they are eligible for support.

The Local Authority will provide a care and support plan if **all** of the following apply:

1. The adult's needs arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness, and:
2. as a result of the adult's needs the adult is unable to achieve two or more of the specified outcomes, and:
3. as a consequence of being unable to achieve these outcomes there is, or there is likely to be, a significant impact on the adult's wellbeing.

Specified outcomes

As a result of the adult's needs, they would be unable to achieve two or more of the following outcomes:

- Managing and maintaining their nutrition
- Maintaining their personal hygiene
- Managing their toilet needs
- Wearing appropriate clothes
- Maintaining a habitable home environment
- Being able to make safe use of their home
- Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
- Accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- Making use of necessary services or facilities in the local community, including public transport and recreational facilities
- Carrying out any caring responsibilities they have for a child

The criteria regard the adult as being unable to achieve an outcome if they are:

- Unable to achieve it without assistance
- Able to achieve it without assistance but doing so causes them significant pain, distress or anxiety
- Able to achieve it without assistance but doing so endangers or is likely to endanger the health or safety of themselves or of others
- Able to achieve it without assistance but takes significantly longer than would normally be expected

Further information available on these websites:

- NHS - www.nhs.uk and search for "Carers' Rights and the Care Act"
- Newcastle City Council - www.newcastle.gov.uk search for "Care assessment"
- Carers UK - www.carersuk.org and search for "Getting care"

How are needs assessed?

The assessment could be face to face, between the person and an assessor, or a supported self-assessment online or by phone assessment. A trained assessor will ask questions to:

- Help identify what the adult's needs are (based on the 'Outcomes')
- Find out how those needs impact on their wellbeing
- See if their ability to achieve what they want to in life is affected

The assessment will also look at the person's wider circumstances, including whether they have an existing wider support network and which services they might already be using. The assessment will be person-centred, and the Local Authority should provide an advocate where appropriate to ensure that an individual can be involved in the process.

There will also be a financial assessment, and some people might have to contribute towards the cost of their care.

Wellbeing

The Local Authority has a duty to promote a person's wellbeing by:

- Maintaining their personal dignity (including treating them with respect)
- Looking after their physical and mental health, as well as their emotional wellbeing
- Protecting them from abuse and neglect
- Supporting them to take control over their own day-to-day life (including care and support and the way it is provided)
- Supporting them to participate in work, education, training or recreation
- Supporting their social and economic wellbeing
- Supporting them to balance their domestic, family and personal relationships
- Making sure their living accommodation is suitable for them and their needs
- Supporting the way they contribute to society

Carers

Carers have the right to a Carer's Assessment under the Care Act 2014, with a focus on maintaining wellbeing and support to continue their caring role.

There is also a new expectation to involve carers in developing a person's support plan.

Assessed as not meeting the eligibility criteria

If you do not agree with the decision about your eligibility, please contact your local adult social care department to appeal the decision.

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