

Care Act Assessment

What is the assessment process?

An assessment is how we (the Council) decide whether you need care and support to help you live your day-to-day life.

The assessment must be carried out by a trained assessor, for example a social worker, who will consider a number of factors, such as:

- Your needs and how they impact on your wellbeing – for instance, a need for help with getting dressed or support to get to work
- The outcomes that matter to you – for example, whether you are lonely and want to make new friends
- Any other circumstances – for example, whether you live alone or if someone supports you. The aim is to get a full picture of you and what needs and goals you may have.

After carrying out an assessment, we will then consider whether any of your needs are eligible for support using an eligibility framework.

What are the requirements for assessment?

The Care Act gives us a duty to carry out an assessment in order to determine whether you have care and support needs. The assessment:

- Must be provided to you if you appear to need care and support, regardless of your finances or whether we think your needs will be eligible
- Must be of your needs and how they impact on your wellbeing, and the outcomes you want to achieve
- Must be carried out with your involvement and, where appropriate, your carer or someone else you nominate, which may include an independent advocate provided by us.

As part of the process, we must consider other things besides services that can contribute to your desired outcomes, and whether any other services available locally could help you stay well for longer. For example, we may offer you a period of reablement to reduce needs and regain skills, before completing the assessment.

What happens next?

After you have been assessed and we are clear what your support needs are we will work out if you are eligible for any support. We do this using the guidelines and rules set out by the government, these are called Eligibility Criteria. A fact sheet is available on Eligibility Criteria.

If we provide support to you, we will discuss the options available.

If we are unable to support you we will offer you advice and information of other organisations that may be able to help.

Assessment reviews

A review happens at least once a year unless your circumstances change or you feel things are not working well.

Is there a charge for a Care Act Assessment?

The assessment and any information and advice are free. The services you receive as a result of the assessment are not free. Depending on your financial circumstances you may have to contribute to the cost of any support provided. To find out if you are eligible for financial support we will complete a financial assessment.

What is a financial assessment?

This looks at your income, including pensions, savings and benefits.

The information you give us will be treated confidentially and will only be shared with other people with your permission.