



Care
Navigators

CARE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2025/26



HOW DOES THE COUNCIL ASSESS CARE NEEDS?

Adult Social Care or Social Care support services can be provided/arranged by the Local Authority if you need help because of illness or disability and/or care for someone. You can arrange your own care and support without the Council being involved but this may mean that they do not make a financial contribution and you may be missing out on FREE services.

Types of social care and support may include:

- care and support at home
- hot meals
- Laundry
- Aids and Adaptations to the home
- Equipment and house hold gadgets
- personal alarms and home security systems
- access to different types of housing, such as sheltered housing and care homes

Adult Social Care Assessment

You can arrange care and support privately yourself but if you want the council to arrange or pay towards your care a needs assessment will be needed.

The Council or Local Authority must assess your care needs and those of a carer following the Care Act 2014, the relevant Regulations and Statutory Care and Support Guidance. Their priority may not be the same as yours or that of a medical professional or care provider who may have a different perspective or duty.

A care needs assessment should come before a financial assessment and done regardless of whether you are paying for your own care or not. It will help to form a 'Care Plan' that tells you what type of care will meet your eligible need and how much it would cost the Local Authority (Personal Budget) if they are required to or choose to arrange the care and support needed.

[Find your Local Authority](#) to request a Care Needs assessment

The Local Authority can do an assessment of your care needs (FREE) and are often able to help with other services such prevention and support services that could include help with the garden, getting a pendant alarm or an advocate who may be able to do things like organise a tradesman, write a letter or ring a utility company.

[Find your Local Authority](#) to request a Carers assessment

This is different to a care needs assessment as it looks at what care and support is being provided, by who and what support they may need to enable them to continue. It is especially valuable if for any reason the carer isn't able to provide this whether temporarily for example a hospital stay or because you may need more help that they can manage.

HOW DOES THE COUNCIL ASSESS CARE NEEDS?

Care Act 2014 'Eligibility' criteria

Criteria

An adult meets the eligibility criteria if their needs:

- Are caused by physical or mental impairment or illness
- As a result of the adults needs they are **unable to achieve two or more specified outcomes**
- As a consequence there is or is likely to be a **significant impact** on the person's well-being

Unable to achieve

An adult is to be regarded as being **unable to achieve** an outcome if the adult:

- Is unable to achieve it without assistance
- Is able to achieve it without assistance but doing so causes the adult significant pain, distress or anxiety
- Is able to achieve it without assistance but doing so endangers or is likely to endanger the health or safety of the adult, or of others; or
- Is able to achieve it without assistance but takes significantly longer than would normally be expected.

Specified Outcomes

The **specified outcomes** are:

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

HOW DOES THE COUNCIL ASSESS CARE NEEDS?

Significant impact

Local authorities must determine how the adult's inability to achieve the outcomes above impacts on their wellbeing. Does the inability to achieve the specified outcomes impact on:

- At least one of the areas of wellbeing in a significant way or
- A number of the areas of wellbeing with a significant impact on the overall wellbeing

Wellbeing

- Personal dignity (including treatment of the individual with respect)
- Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Protection from abuse and neglect
- Control by the individual over day-to-day life (including over care and support provided and the way it is provided)
- Participation in work, education, training or recreation
- Social and economic wellbeing
- Domestic, family and personal relationships
- Suitability of living accommodation
- The individual's contribution to society

If you would like help to understand how the Council will assess your needs or a care plan, financial assessment or contribution please [make an appointment](#) or contact us to discuss how we can help you.

Written using English law and guidance. April 2025 – 2026. Correct at time of printing, reasonable care and skill has been taken but no responsibility accepted for individual interpretations or decisions made based on the information or for any loss occasioned by a person acting or refraining from acting based on this information. Revised March 2025.