



Assessments

This factsheet outlines how the council assesses a person's care and support needs and how the assessment process works.

What is a needs assessment?

A needs assessment is how the council decides whether a person needs care and support to help them live their day-to-day life. If you think you have any care and support needs, you can contact the council to ask for an assessment

Who does the assessment?

Lots of different people can carry out assessments - as long as they have the right training. The person doing your assessment could be a social worker or care manager. You could also be offered a supported self-assessment. This means you do your assessment yourself with help from the council. The council will support your self-assessment and ensure you have identified all of your needs, but you will have more control.

What is considered during a needs assessment?

A needs assessment looks at what care and support needs you have and how these affect your wellbeing. This will include identifying any physical needs, such as whether you need help to wash or dress, get in and out of bed or keep your home safe to live in. The assessment will also look at your mental and emotional needs and ask what is important to you in how you live your life, such as being able to carry on working or volunteering, or being able to meet your friends.

Can I get someone to help me with my assessment?

The assessment is about you and we will make sure that you are able to be involved. If you wish, your carer, a friend, or family member can help and support you. If you don't have a carer, family member or friend who you can ask, and you have difficulty doing the assessment yourself, the council will find an independent advocate to help you.

Will the council look into my finances?

Currently, as part of our assessment, we ask people if they have savings of more than £23,500, excluding certain assets. If you are eligible for care and support from the council, you may have to pay something towards the cost. To find out how much you might need to pay, we would ask you to do a financial means test where you would need to disclose more details about your savings, assets and income.

When the funding reforms come in as part of the second phase of the Care Act in 2016 this is likely to change.

Will I need to be re-assessed?

It is usual for most people to receive a review of their care needs about once a year, although it can be requested by you at any time. During this review, we will discuss any changes to your care needs and consider whether you require any changes to the care and support you receive.