

Adult Social Care

Best Practice Guidance for Care Act Assessments

Adult Social Care Assessments completed under the Care Act should follow legislative guidelines to ensure assessments are legal, proportionate and meaningful.

The Care Act should not be used in isolation; consideration needs to be made throughout your assessment to the Mental Capacity Act, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Community Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Safeguarding, Equality Act, Children and Families Act, and Human Rights Act.

Care Act Section 9 - Assessment of an adult's needs for care and support

An assessment should clearly identify the care and support needs of an individual and the outcomes they wish to achieve, in the long term and in their day to day life. Completion of **'My Person Centred Plan'** should be considered as part of the assessment process. The adult must be offered advice and information to reduce, prevent or delay future needs, including when they have no eligible needs.

You must consider who else needs to be involved in the assessment. This can include the following:

- Carer – **Care Act Section 10**
- Advocate – **Care Act Section 67**
- Someone important to the individual **Care Act Section 9**
- Other Agencies, Police, Housing Education Health professionals – **Care Act Section 9**

The assessment will include a **Professional Summary** - this is a holistic and inclusive summary of the individual and their circumstances.

If information is used from previous assessments/reviews/support plans this must be clearly identified where the information is from, who completed the assessment and why it is now still relevant.

Remember consider all the individual can achieve not just what they cannot achieve.



Clear identification of diagnosis and the impact; other professionals involved; other personal relationships; care and/or support networks should all be captured.

The assessments should be held as a conversation with the individual and their carer.

Care Act Section 1, 2, 4 and 9

A **strengths based approach** to meeting identified needs. Who are the person's network; family, friends, carers, professionals or services already involved. Valuing the abilities, skills and knowledge of the adult and the networks available to them.

Areas of support that the person is managing and how these are managed, areas of support that are currently not being managed and why. Who else needs to be included in their life?

Identified need discussed with reference to how community assets, voluntary organisation, enablement, prevention and assistive technology, occupational therapy and social work/practitioner intervention have been utilised or need to be considered and why.

Consider the following:

- How can I connect you to things that will help you get on with your life – based on your strengths and those of your family and neighbourhood? What do you want to do? What can I connect you to?
- What needs to change to make you safe and regain control? How can I help make that happen?
- What do I have at my disposal, including small amounts of money and using my knowledge of the community, to support you? How can I pull them together in an emergency plan and stay with you to make sure it works?
- What is a fair personal budget and what are the other sources of funding?
- What does a good life look like? How can I help you use your resources to support your chosen life? Who do you want to be involved in support planning?

Care Act Section 9 and 13

What are the eligible needs under the Care Act – how are these being met currently? Which eligible needs are not being met and why?

Which needs can be met from their existing network and which need to be considered for funded support?

What are the risks? Further details to be captured under a positive risk assessment.

The adult's capacity must be documented, and a separate **Mental Capacity Assessment** completed when required.

Where an adult lacks capacity and refuses an assessment, a decision should be made as to whether it is in their best interests for an assessment to be completed. If it is, a Capacity Assessment and Best Interests Decision should be recorded that includes the individuals consulted.

The assessment should be carer neutral – the adults' eligibility should not be determined by taking needs met by the carer in to account.

Carers should be offered their own assessment - refer to Best Practice Guidance for Carers Assessment.

A copy of the Assessment is sent to individual/family/provider within **10 working days** from completion.

Remember Defensible Decision Making and Professional Curiosity should be applied throughout any intervention – please refer to good practice guidance tools for these principles.