

What is a social care assessment?

A social care assessment is carried out by Kirklees Council to find out what help and support you may need to live the life that is important to you.

What this means for you

- I am confident that I understand what the assessment is about, what will be discussed and how I will participate in the process.
- I am listened to about the things that are important to me and how I want to live my life and my wishes are respected.
- I understand that I will be asked things about how I live my life and I am comfortable sharing this information.
- I am prepared for the assessment, with a good idea of why it is happening; what I will say and timelines.

What this means for Kirklees Council

- We are committed to supporting people to fully participate in their own assessment.
- We focus on the outcomes you would like to achieve, in addition to your needs.
- We use good supporting evidence and are compassionate to a person's situation, without personal judgement.
- We have a sound understanding of a person's situation before the assessment, having spoken to them and their representatives to build rapport and trust.

You will be contacted before the assessment, to go through what the process is about and you will be invited to take some time to consider what you would like to discuss, in terms of what you can do, what you may need support with and the outcomes you would like to achieve.

This could include:

- how I can best live my life
- the things I need support with
- why certain things are important to me.

You may choose to be supported by your Nominee (where relevant) but could choose someone else, who you trust, to help you with this process (e.g., a peer support worker or an advocate).

The next step is for a social care practitioner to carry out an assessment in partnership with you (and your carer/representative where relevant), to decide if you have care and support needs which should to be met.

The assessment considers:

- what is important to you
- what you can and cannot do (with or without assistance).
- what assistance you need and how this impacts your wellbeing
- any support you already have, whether this is paid support or from family or friends, and whether this will be continuing.

Adults

Assessments are guided by The Care Act. This is the legislation that sets out how health and social care and people who are the subject of an assessment (or their representative) can work in partnership, to explore whether there are care and support needs (also known as establishing eligibility).

The Care Act states that the Council must provide for needs that relate to the following three criteria:

1. The needs arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness;
2. As a result of those needs the adult is unable to achieve two or more of the following specified outcomes:
 - 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 and/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 an adult has for a child (up to the age of 18).
3. As a result of not being able to achieve these outcomes there is, or there is likely to be, a significant negative impact on the person's wellbeing. This includes where the person can achieve the outcome, but it takes them significantly longer than would normally be expected; it causes them significant pain; distress or anxiety, or it poses a risk to health or safety.

You will generally find out the outcome of your assessment within 28 days of it taking place, in some circumstances this might take longer if there are existing arrangements to be considered, such as transitions.

Children and Young People

Individuals under the age of 18 are assessed to find out if they have an unmet need and therefore in need of services under:

- the Children Act 1989 and/or
- the Children and Families Act, 2014 (section 49), and/or
- the Statutory Guidance Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0 to 25 years (2014).