

Having a needs assessment

When you have a face to face assessment, the assessor will want to explore with you all the difficulties you are facing as well as the ways you currently manage these challenges. They will also want to know what you are hoping to be able to continue to do, or what you would like to be able to achieve.

To make the most of the time you will have with a KCC assessor, you may want to prepare for the assessment by thinking about the areas that you will be asked about.

This might seem like a lot of work but it is important to think about every aspect of your life to make sure that you get the right level of support. If you don't tell social care about the difficulties you have, you may not be given the right advice, information or support.

The assessor will also want to know about all the things you are getting help with and who helps you. This is to make sure that we fully understand the difficulties you are currently facing and plan ahead should your care/ support network no longer be able or willing to continue the level of support they are giving you.

Here is a check list of the areas you and the assessor will explore: (there is no hierarchy, they are all as important as one another). You may decide some of these areas are more relevant than others and that some do not apply to you, you do not have to go into detail if the topic is not relevant as the list just tries to capture what matters most to people in general.

1. Your day to day activities (managing nutrition, shopping, laundry, cleaning)
2. Your personal care (personal hygiene, toilet needs, being appropriately clothed)
3. Your mobility (getting out and about, falls, transfers)
4. Your home and living situation (being able to make use of your home safely , being able to maintain a habitable home environment)
5. Your physical health and wellbeing
6. Your relationships and social activities
7. Involvement in work, education or training
8. Your emotional wellbeing and mental health
9. Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport and recreational facilities or services
10. Carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child
11. Your safety and risk issues
12. The current support you receive (from friends and family as well as social care or health care services)

At the end of the assessment, the social care practitioner will apply the national eligibility criteria to determine whether you have eligible needs.

An adult's needs are only eligible where they meet all three of the following conditions:

1. The adult's needs arise from or are due to a physical or mental impairment or illness.
2. The effect of the adult's needs is that the adult is unable to achieve two or more of the specified outcomes (which are described in the list above)
3. As a consequence of the person being unable to achieve two or more of the outcomes, there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on the adult's well-being.

If you do not have any eligible needs, the assessor will share with you:

- Information and advice on what can be done to meet or reduce the needs (for example: what support might be available in the community)
- Information about what preventative measures might be taken to prevent or delay the development of needs in the future.

If you do have eligible needs, you will discuss with the assessor a wide range of options to meet those needs. This could include:

- Getting support from a voluntary organisation
- Help with making sure you are claiming all the benefits you are entitled to
- A piece of equipment to make you feel safe
- A sum of money for you to access a universal service in the community
- Getting support at home from a care agency.

If you have someone (a partner, a family member or friend for example) who is giving you support (such as help with managing daily activities, or helping you budget for example) and they appear to have a need for support themselves, they are entitled to their own assessment called a Carer's assessment or they can be assessed at the same time as you if you both agree to this. This is called a combined assessment where an assessor looks at both your needs and the needs of the person giving you help. For either a combined assessment or a carers assessment, talk to your assessor .