

Assessment Services (Overview)

Policy and Procedure

1. The Councils approach to the Care Act 2014 is documented above in section 1 (How we are Planning to Implement the Care Act 2014). The Care Act provides a coherent national policy context for adult social care services.
2. The government has published extensive statutory guidance to assist Councils in their implementation of the Care Act. In addition further national guidance is being developed by organisations such as the Social Care Institute of Excellence and Think local Act Personal to further inform best practice in implementation.
3. The Care Act regulations provide detailed coverage of the assessment / support planning / review process and Council staff will be working within this guidance.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315993/Care-Act-Guidance.pdf The key sections of the guidance relate to ;
 - a. Chapter 3 Advice and Information
 - b. Chapter 6 Assessment & Eligibility
 - c. Chapter 7 Independent Advocacy
 - d. Chapter 10 Care & Support Planning
 - e. Chapter 11 Personal Budgets
 - f. Chapter 12 Direct payments
 - g. Chapter 13 Review of Care & Support Plans
4. Our existing policy and procedure have been reviewed in the light of this guidance. The extensive nature of the regulations, their clarity and their accessibility (such as the use of practical examples) is such that much current policy and procedure will be replaced by the guidance itself. In some cases our local policy is no longer necessary, for example in relation to eligibility for services, as national eligibility criteria are in place.
5. It is planned to produce local policies and procedures in relation; supported assessment, social work sign off of restricted practices, involvement of independent advocates and the Care Act as applied to members of the armed forces. The End to End Process in assessment previously on this site is subject to a current full review and will be published once this review is complete.
6. We will continue to review the need for any additional local policy and procedures in the light of experience on the ground, the redesign of our business processes in 2015/16 and the further development of national support tools and guidance
7. The Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) have also produced the following practice guides which staff can access the inform best practice:
 - a. Care Assessment & Eligibility
 - b. Ensuring Assessment is appropriate and proportionate
 - c. Supported Self Assessment
 - d. These can be accessed at <http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/assessment-and-eligibility/>, along with additional material including visual tools.