



### Initial Assessment at First Contact

The Care Act 2014 states that local authorities must now undertake an assessment for any adult who appears to have any level of need for care and support.

### Assessment

Assessment is both a key process and critical intervention

An assessment should identify:

- Care and support needs;
- What outcomes the individual is looking to achieve, to maintain or improve their wellbeing; and
- How care and support might help in achieving those outcomes.

### Appropriate and Proportionate Assessment

People should receive an assessment that is appropriate and proportionate to the severity of their care and support needs. The assessment process must be flexible and should be adapted to best fit the person's needs, wishes and goals. Assessment will not be the same for everyone and depending on the circumstances it could range from an initial contact to a more intensive ongoing process which requires input from a number of professionals over a longer time period.

### Preventing Needs

Assessment is a key element of any prevention strategy. The assessment must consider whether the person concerned would benefit from any available preventative services, facilities or resources.

The Care Act 2014 guidance refers to three levels of preventative activity:

- Primary prevention, which involves promoting wellbeing;
- Secondary prevention, which involves early intervention; and
- Tertiary prevention, which involves maximising independence.

# Hartlepool Borough Council

## Child and Adult Services: Adult Social Care

### Information for Staff

## Assessment



### Whole Family Approach

The Care Act 2014 introduces a new family approach to assessment in order to gain a holistic view of a person's needs.

This approach helps consider the impact of the person's needs on the whole family and wider networks, in particular any children providing care. It will support the identification of:

- The impact of the person's needs on the young carer's wellbeing, welfare, education and development;
- Whether or not the young carer's caring responsibilities are appropriate; and
- Family and wider networks as a source of support, where those involved are both willing and able to give support.

### Refusal of Assessment

Hartlepool Borough Council are not required to carry out an assessment where a person with possible care and support needs:

- Feels they do not need care and support; and/or
- They may not want help from the local authority.

Refusal of an assessment can be overridden when the person:

- Lacks capacity to take that decision and an assessment would be in their best interest; and/or
- Is experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, any abuse or neglect.