

# Assessment and eligibility

Care Act 2014



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# Assessment

- Assessment is both a **key process** AND a **critical intervention**
- An assessment should identify:
  - care and support **needs**
  - what outcomes the individual is looking to achieve to maintain or improve their **wellbeing**
  - how care and support might help in achieving those **outcomes**



# Carer's assessment

- A carer's assessment must explore:
  - the carer's needs for support AND
  - sustainability of caring role
- It must also consider impact on the carer's activities beyond their caring responsibilities, including the carer's:
  - desire and ability to work
  - Ability to partake in education, training or recreational activities
  - opportunities to have time to themselves



# Refusal of assessment

- The local authority is not required to carry out assessment where a person with possible care and support needs or a carer:
  - feels that they do not need care
  - may not want local authority support
- This can be overridden where they:
  - lack capacity to take that decision **and** an assessment would be in their best interests
  - are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, any abuse or neglect



# Appropriate and proportionate assessment

- People should receive an assessment that is appropriate and proportionate
- The process can be flexible and include e.g. telephone, on-line and combined assessments
- To be appropriate assessments should meet the person's communication needs
- Appropriate assessments can include a pause to check the value of preventative services or interventions, reablement, or aids and adaptations



# Integrated assessments

- All of the agencies involved should work closely together to prevent a person having to undergo a number of assessments at different times
- To achieve this local authorities should:
  - ensure healthcare professionals' views and expertise are taken into account
  - work with healthcare professionals to ensure people's health and care services are aligned and set out in a single care and support plan
- In cases of abuse, the local authority should lead the assessment and ensure that all agencies follow the local multi-agency procedures to ensure coordination of information and possible evidence



# Fluctuating needs

- In establishing the on-going level of need local authorities:
  - must consider the person's care and support history over a suitable period of time to take account of potential fluctuation of needs
  - may also take into account at this point what fluctuations in need can be reasonably expected based on experience of others with a similar condition





# Supported self-assessment

- The local authority **must** offer the individual the choice of a supported self-assessment if they are able and willing.
- The person **should** be asked to complete the same assessment questionnaire that the authority uses in their needs or carer's assessments
- The individual **must** have capacity to fully assess and reflect their own needs
- The local authority **must** assure itself that the person's supported self-assessment is an accurate and complete reflection of their needs because there may be a difference of opinion
- Regardless of the format a needs assessment takes, the final decision on eligibility is with the local authority



# Preventing needs

- Assessment is a key element of any prevention strategy
- The assessment must consider whether the person concerned would benefit from the available preventative services, facilities or resources
- The guidance refers to three levels of preventative activity:
  - primary prevention, which involves promoting wellbeing
  - secondary prevention, which involves early intervention
  - tertiary prevention, which involves maximising independence



# A strengths-based approach

- The local authority must also consider what - other than the provision of care and support - might help the person in meeting the outcomes they want to achieve: a strengths-based approach
- This strengths-based approach recognises personal, family and community resources or 'assets' that individuals can make use of

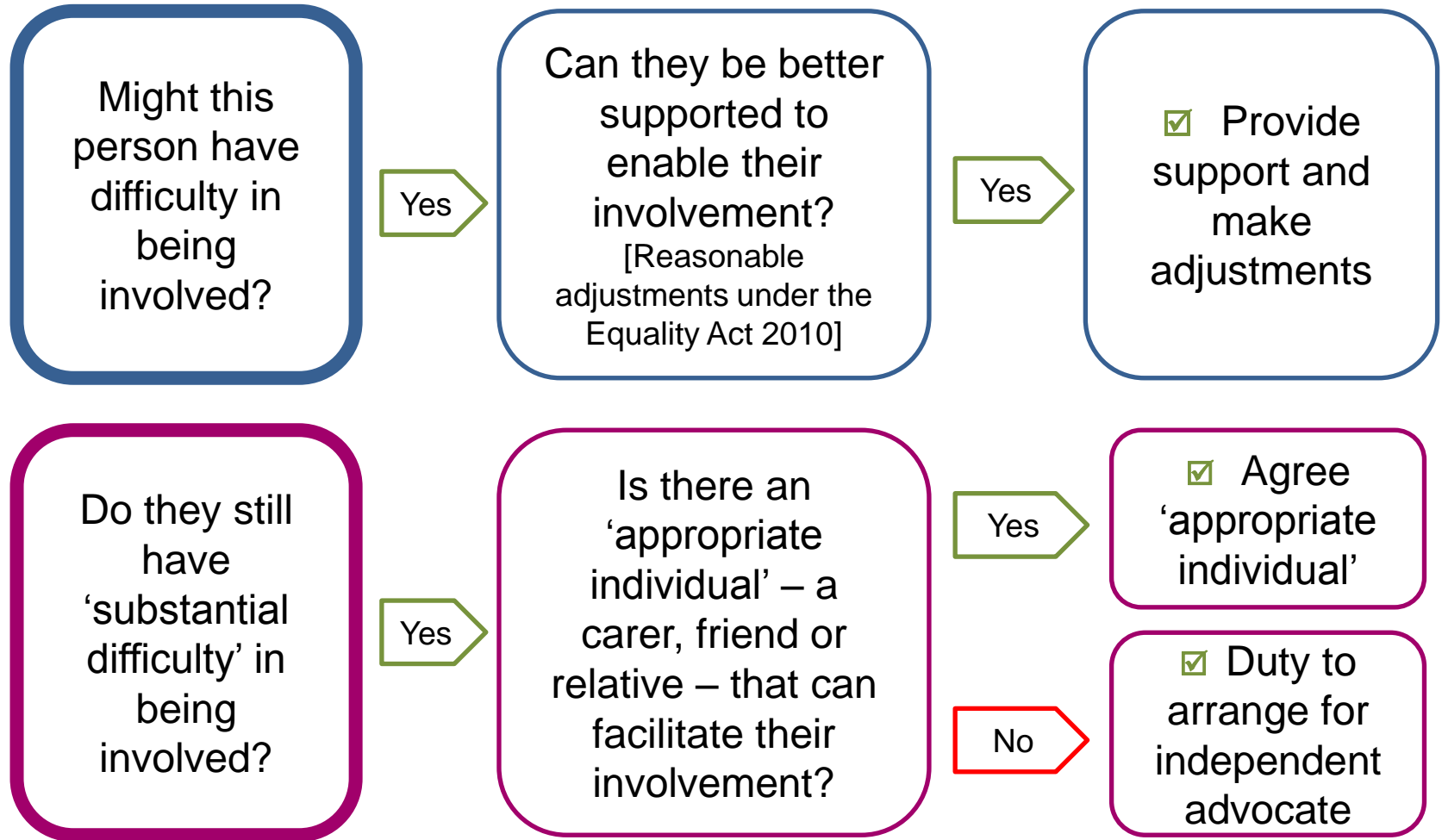


# Whole family approach

- Takes a holistic view of a person's needs
- Considers the impact of needs on family and wider networks, in particular any children providing care:
  - The impact of the person's needs on the young carer's wellbeing, welfare, education and development
  - Whether their caring responsibilities are appropriate
- Sees the family and wider network as a source of support, where they are willing and able



# Supporting a person's involvement



# Roles, responsibilities and expertise

Care Act learning and development materials



# National eligibility framework

- After completion of the assessment process, the local authority will determine whether the individual has **eligible needs**
- The Act introduces a national eligibility threshold:
  - whether the person has needs due to a physical or mental impairment or illness
  - whether those needs mean that they are unable to achieve two or more specified outcomes
  - as a consequence there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on their wellbeing
- Local authorities can also decide to meet needs that are not deemed to be eligible if they chose to do so



An adult meets the eligibility criteria if:

- Their needs are caused by physical or mental impairment or illness
- As a result of the adult's needs they are **unable to achieve** two or more **specified outcomes**
- As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the person's well-being

→ The **specified outcomes** are:

- 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 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 the adult has for a child





# Interpreting the eligibility criteria

An adult meets the eligibility criteria if:

- Their needs are caused by physical or mental impairment or illness
- As a result of the adults needs they are **unable to achieve** two or more **specified outcomes**
- As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the person's well-being

An adult is to be regarded as being **unable to achieve** an outcomes if the adult:

- is **unable** to achieve it without assistance;
- is **able** to achieve it without assistance **but**:
  - doing so causes them significant pain, distress or anxiety;
  - doing so endangers or is likely to endanger health or safety;
  - takes significantly longer than would normally be expected.



# Eligibility threshold

An adult meets the eligibility criteria:

- Their needs are caused by physical or mental impairment or illness
- As a result of the adults needs they are **unable to achieve** two or more **specified outcomes**
- **As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the person's well-being**

An adult is to be regarded as being **unable to achieve** an outcome if the adult:

- is unable to achieve it without assistance;
- is able to achieve it without assistance but doing so causes the adult significant pain, distress or anxiety;
- is able to achieve it without assistance but doing so endangers or is likely to endanger the health or safety of the adult, or of others; or
- is able to achieve it without assistance but takes significantly longer than would normally be expected.

The **specified outcomes** are:

- 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 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 the adult has for a child



- After completion of the assessment process, the local authority will determine whether the carer has **eligible needs**
- Carers can be eligible for support in their own right
- The Act introduces a national carers' eligibility threshold:
  - whether the carer's needs are due to providing **necessary** care for an adult
  - whether those needs puts the carer's health at risk **or** means that they are unable to achieve specified outcomes; **and**
  - as a consequence there is, or is likely to be, a significant impact on their wellbeing
- Local authorities can also decide to meet carers' needs that are not deemed to be eligible if they chose to do so



# Interpreting the carers' eligibility criteria

A carer meets the eligibility criteria if:

- Their needs are caused by providing necessary care for an adult. As a result:
  - **their health is at risk**
  - or they are **unable to achieve specified outcomes**
- As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the carer's well-being

→ The **specified outcomes** are:

- Carrying out any caring responsibilities the carer has for a child
- Providing care to other persons for whom the carer provides care
- Maintaining a habitable home environment
- Managing and maintaining nutrition
- Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
- Engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including recreational facilities or services
- Engaging in recreational activities



# Interpreting the carers' eligibility criteria

A carer meets the eligibility criteria if:

- Their needs are caused by providing necessary care for an adult. As a result:
  - **their health is at risk**
  - or they are **unable to achieve specified outcomes**
- As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the carer's well-being

A carer is to be regarded as being **unable to achieve** an outcome if the carer:

- is **unable** to achieve it without assistance;
- is **able** to achieve it without assistance **but**:
  - doing so causes them significant pain, distress or anxiety
  - doing so endangers or is likely to endanger health or safety



# Carers' eligibility threshold

A carer meets the eligibility criteria if:

- Their needs are caused by providing necessary care for an adult. As a result:
  - **their health is at risk**
  - or they are **unable to achieve specified outcomes**
- **As a consequence there is or is likely to be a significant impact on the carer's well-being**

The **specified outcomes** are:

- Carrying out any caring responsibilities the carer has for a child
- Providing care to other persons for whom the carer provides care
- Maintaining a habitable home environment
- Managing and maintaining nutrition
- Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
- Engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including recreational facilities or services
- Engaging in recreational activities

A carer is to be regarded as being **unable to achieve** an outcome if the carer:

- is unable to achieve it without assistance;
- is able to achieve it without assistance but doing so causes significant pain, distress or anxiety, or is likely to endanger health or safety



# Record-keeping and informing individuals

Informing the individual of their eligibility determination

- The local authority must:
  - produce a written record of whether any of the individual's needs meet the eligibility criteria, and the reasons for why they do and why they do not

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Informing individuals who are not eligible

- Where the individual does not have eligible needs, the local authority must also provide:
  - information and advice on what support might be available in the wider community; or
  - what preventative measures might be taken to prevent or delay the condition progressing



# Next steps

Care Act learning and development materials

## Assessment

- What are the needs and outcomes the person wants to achieve?

## Eligibility determination

- Are the person's needs eligible?

## Met needs

- What needs can be/are being met through non-service provision?

## Unmet needs

- Are included in the personal budget





- Assessment based on appearance of need for care and support:
  - Consider the person's needs and the outcomes they want to achieve
  - Be appropriate and proportionate
  - Take a strengths-based approach
  - Involve the person needing care in the assessment, and consider if they would have substantial difficulty being involved
- Throughout the process, also consider if the person lacks capacity or is at risk of abuse
- National eligibility threshold, for people needing carer and carers, based on outcomes and wellbeing

