

Fact Sheet on: Community Care Assessment



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(pronounced Kier-tis) is a Gaelic word for equality, fairness and justice.

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What is a community care assessment?

The purpose of a community care assessment is to identify individual needs and to decide, with the person, whether meeting those needs require services. An initial 'screening' assessment may be all that is required, however if complex needs are identified, then a full assessment may be undertaken. Risk to independence, health and well-being are all considered when carrying out any assessment.

The outcome of any assessment can range from simple advice and information or arranging simple services. In emergency situations, emergency social care services can be arranged.

If the person you're looking after has difficulty with their personal care, they should consider getting support from social services by having a community care assessment of their needs completed.

Normally, an assessment is carried out before a service can be provided by the social services department of a local authority. However, if the services are needed urgently, the local authority can provide a service without carrying out the assessment. The assessment considers what types of services are needed by the person being assessed. A wide range of services could be needed, from aids and adaptations in the person's own home to care workers or residential care.

Local authorities have a duty to assess a person who may be in need of community care services. This may mean that an assessment is offered even if you or the person you look after have not specifically requested one. Alternatively, you or the person you look after can contact your local social services department and ask them to arrange a community care assessment.

They may require services because of:

- Serious illness
- Physical disability
- Learning disability
- Mental health problems or
- Frailty because of old age.

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Assessment process

The community care assessment involves a social worker or occupational therapist care manager making an appointment and carrying out an assessment. The assessment is often done in the home of the person being assessed but, in some cases, it may be more appropriate if it takes place somewhere else, such as at a day centre.

A care assessment will be carried out to decide whether the person you are looking after needs community care services, and whether or not those services should be provided by the local authority. The range and depth of information needed will depend on the individual circumstances of the person you look after. Alternatively, a more wide-ranging assessment could be carried out to look at the needs of someone who has a chronic health problem such as multiple sclerosis.

There are several sets of guidance that local authorities use when they are carrying out community care assessments. These vary depending on whether the person you are looking after has mental health problems, a learning disability or is an older person.

Generally, an assessment will consider:

- Personal details/background information
- Details of any carers.
- The views of the person being assessed and their carers about their care needs.
- Where relevant, information will be gathered about need for social and personal care, healthcare, housing, finance, employment, education, leisure and transport.

- Information about the urgency of the needs. Eligibility criteria ie critical risk, substantial risk, moderate risk, low risk, no risk.
- Information about the risks of not providing a particular service. This includes health and safety factors, ability to manage personal and daily routines, and the independence of the person and their ability to make choices.
- If the assessment identifies the need for services then a care plan will be agreed between the care manager and individual, and services provided.

How can Ceartas help?



Ceartas can offer support to individuals through the assessment process (assessment is an ongoing process, as individual needs change). Ceartas can help you ask questions about services so that your views and wishes are fully reflected in the assessment and care plan.

Further Information



For further information regarding community care you can contact East Dunbartonshire Council Social Work team by phoning **0141 355 2200** or visiting their website www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk.