

Appendix 3 - How to Understand Local Authority 'Needs Assessment' Eligibility Decision-making

The pathway from a local authority needs assessment, leading to a decision that the person is eligible to receive care and support and possibly funding from the local authority, and a request for service from a domiciliary care or care home provider, can be described as follows.

1. Identifying the Needs

On being assessed an adult's needs for care and support will arise from or be related to *a physical or mental impairment or illness*, which prevents the person being independent and is affecting adversely their wellbeing.

2. Outcomes

Because of the person's physical or mental impairment or illness, it is established (from the assessment) that the person cannot achieve 2 or more of the following outcomes:

- managing and maintaining nutrition
- maintaining personal hygiene
- managing toilet needs
- being appropriately clothed
- maintaining a habitable home environment
- being able to make use of the home safely
- 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

3. Wellbeing

Because the person cannot achieve these outcomes (on account of their physical or mental impairment or illness) it is further assessed that there is or is likely to be a significant *impact* on the adult's wellbeing, which might include one or more of the following:

- Loss of personal dignity (including from lack of treatment of the individual with respect)
- Physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing suffers
Lack of protection from abuse and neglect (including self-neglect)
- Loss of control by the individual over their day-to-day life (including over care and support provided and the way it is provided)

- Lack of participation in work, education, training or recreation (and social isolation)
- Social and economic wellbeing is suffering
- Deteriorating or impaired domestic, family and personal relationships
- Unsuitability of living accommodation
- Inability to make a contribution to society

4. Implications for care providers

It follows that care providers will, by accepting the request for service, become responsible for:

- Treating, addressing or working in the context of the person's physical or mental impairment or illness
- Helping the person to achieve more positive outcomes in respect of those that the person has not achieved because of their impairment or illness e.g. to have a better diet, to be safe from abuse or neglect, to live in suitable accommodation and surroundings, which should improve their wellbeing by e.g. their regaining a sense of dignity and respect, better physical and mental health, feel more in control of their lives, and more engaged in their personal and social relationships and activities.

How the provider sets about meeting these needs and achieving the sought outcomes for each individual to whom they are providing a service, will be reflected in the respective care and support or personal plans.

(Source. Department of Health and Social Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance Revised 2018)