Easy-Read

Your Social Care Needs

Your Assessment
The law says that people who may be in need of Social Care support must be offered an ‘Assessment of Need’ by the Local Authority.

Your ‘Assessment of Need’ helps the Local Authority to get a better idea of what your Social Care needs are.

If you have Social Care needs, Cornwall Council may be able to assist with them.

Why do we do assessments?

The law says that people who may be in need of Social Care support must be offered an ‘Assessment of Need’ by the Local Authority.
If you have health needs that are not being met, we may ask a health professional to be involved in your assessment.

If your health needs are very high, you may be able to have your care and support paid for by the Primary Care Trust.

If you have needs that other services can help with, such as Health, Housing, Education or Employment, then we can help you get in touch with these services.

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What are Social Care Needs?

Social Care Needs are:

- Making sure you eat well
- Looking after yourself
- Help with day to day living
- Emotional wellbeing and health
- Supporting your family and friends to care for you

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How we assess your needs in Cornwall

We will complete your needs assessment with you.

On your needs assessment you can tell us about what you can do and about things that you need help with.

You will be able to tell us about any help you get from your family and friends.

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If we think that you may be in need of social care services, then we will work with you to do an assessment of your needs.

We will listen to what you have told us, and will think about the risks you may face if you do not receive support.

Your assessment will look at the informal support that you have from your family and friends.

We can offer them a carers assessment to find out how much support and help they need to care for you.

All of your needs will be put into an Assessment Summary. This is a document about the support you need.

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Eligibility in Cornwall


These levels can tell us if you could receive social care services.

These are: Critical Substantial Moderate and Low

In Cornwall we can only provide support if there would be a Critical or Substantial risk to your safety or wellbeing.

If there is a Moderate or Low risk, we will put you in touch with other organisations that may be able to help you.

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Are services from the Council free?

They may not be free.

You may have to pay something towards the support that the Council provides.

We will look at the money you have coming in and going out.

We will tell you if you need to pay something towards your support.

So that this is fair for everyone, Cornwall Council has a Fairer Charging Policy.

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Needs and Outcomes

In your assessment we will work with you to understand what your needs are, and what you want to do.

When we agree what your eligible social care needs are, we will use the assessment to work out how much money we think you will need.

This is called an Indicative Budget.
Your Indicative Budget

We will let you know what your Indicative Budget is.

We will give you a summary of your needs assessment.

Using the Indicative Budget as a guide you can begin to plan the support you need to meet the eligible social care needs we have agreed in your assessment summary.

You can do this in a Support Plan.
Support Plan

Your can get help with your Support Plan from:

- Your Family
- Your Friends
- Other organisations
- Your Social Care Assessor

If you are ill or have a disability that makes it hard for you to plan your own support, people who know you well can help make decisions for you.

They will work together and follow the guidance set out in the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

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Agreeing your support plan

We will check that your support plan meets the needs that we agreed were critical or substantial.

We will need to check that what you are planning to do is legal, and that you have thought about how to stay safe.

Your plan will need to show what you would do in an emergency. You may need to put some money aside for this.
Your plan will need to show how you will manage your budget.

When your support plan has been agreed your assessor will let you know what your final budget is.

This is called your Personal Budget.
What if my budget isn’t big enough?

Sometimes people may need more or less money than the amount in their Indicative Budget.

If you need more money, your Social Care Assessor will look again at your support plan to see what you plan to spend your money on. They will ask for more money if they think you need it.

People often find they can plan the support they need without using all of the Indicative Budget.

This is ok as long as your support plan meets your eligible social care needs.
Managing your Personal Budget

There are three ways you can manage your Personal Budget:

- You can do it on your own, or with help from a member of your family or a friend. There are also organisations that can do it.

- Adult Care and Support can do it for you.

- You can also have part of your budget to manage yourself and the Council can manage the rest.

Adult Care and Support have people called Support Brokers who can help with organising and buying support.
Getting on with your life

When your support is in place, you can get on with your life and the things you want to do.

Your Social Care Assessor will check with you after 6 – 10 weeks to see how things are going.

You can get in touch with us before then, if you need more support.
If things are working well we will check at least once a year to find out how your support plan is going.

We will check to make sure your needs are being met through the use of your Personal Budget.

There will be a new needs assessment if your needs change. Your Social Care Assessor will work with you to look at your needs again.

Your Personal Budget will change if your needs have changed.

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Do you have any questions?

Is there anything you don’t understand?
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