

# Applying for a Needs Assessment via Social Services

A health and social care assessment is carried out by social services to find out what help and support you need - like healthcare, equipment, help in your home or residential care.

## What you need to know

Available in England and Wales only

Services can include:

- home care help with things like cleaning and shopping
- disability equipment and adaptations to your home
- day centres to give you or the person who cares for you a break
- day care for your child if either you or they are disabled
- care homes

## The Main Steps in the Assessment Process

The following information will help you to have basic knowledge about the whole assessment process and what it is supposed to achieve.

### STEP ONE - A NEEDS ASSESSMENT

If your child has additional needs, you should have a needs assessment, at first instant you should contact to Disabled Children's Team (DCT) to see you meet their criteria. If you do not meet their criteria, you should contact Social Work for Families Team (looked after children). In both cases, you ask for needs assessment (contact details above).

You should have a needs assessment by a social worker from the team, currently this is updated every six months. This assessment should identify the needs of your child, your needs as a carer and your families' needs and should cover areas such as your child's developmental needs, what support you need as a parent and family and environmental factors such as employment, housing, income, transport etc.

Once the local authority has assessed and identified a need or needs they are duty bound to provide services to meet those needs.

**Remember to read what has been written about you and your family, if there are any corrections please do them immediately in writing to the social worker.**



### STEP TWO - A CARE PLAN

A care plan is developed based on and should reflect your family's needs assessment. This is the time you should request the support that best meets your family's needs. In this Borough and which Full of Life have fought hard to achieve!! This could be a range of options such as home based respite, afterschool club, Saturday, half term and summer holiday provision, overnight respite and if you think your child needs one to one support to access any of these.

You also need to think about how many days you think would best suit your child's and family's needs. If you don't know what is available your social worker should and if they don't, contact us, Full of Life and we will let you know.



### **STEP THREE - RECEIVING THE SUPPORT YOU NEED**

Your Care Plan should state exactly what support services will be provided and how many days or nights throughout the year. Keep a note of this and make sure you use all your allocated days/nights.



### **STEP FOUR - NOT HAPPY = CHALLENGE**

If for any reason you are not happy with the assessment or the outcome you have a right to challenge it, you can also request a reassessment at anytime if your needs change.

## **Care Package**

A care package ensures that families access the support services they need. This can include play, overnight respite, home help, holidays, equipment and adaptations. In order to access a care package you will have a needs assessment.

In Kensington and Chelsea, this is usually carried out by the Disabled Children's Team (DCT) if you meet their criteria. This assessment will look at the needs of your child and family. It is at this point you need to ask what support is available or discuss what support you think you may need.

Once you have an agreed care package that best suits your family, you will then have a yearly review to see if your needs have changed. But you and your family have a right to have a re-assessment at anytime throughout the year if child's need change.

If you do not meet the criteria for the Disabled Children's Team (DCT), you should contact the Locality Social Work Teams.

Some parents find it daunting speaking to social services, however, this the best way to your get access to the right services, also a care package in most case will make you eligible to other help.

**If you need any advice or support regarding needs assessments or care packages please contact Full of Life on 0208 962 9994**

