

Did you know you that you are entitled to a needs assessment appropriate to your needs, undertaken by a person knowledgeable in Autism and how it impacts on people?

THE LAW

If you have autism, there are laws in place to help protect you. They are:

- + The Autism Act 2009
- + The Autism Strategy – ‘Think Autism’
- + The statutory guidance by the Department of Health in supporting the fulfilling of the Autism Strategy
- + The Care Act 2014 – the duty to promote wellbeing
- + The Equality Act 2010 – the duty to make reasonable adjustments
- + The Care and Support (Assessment) Regulations 2014
- + The Human Rights Act 8 – The Right to Family Life, including opportunities for social engagement and a life in the community
- + The Health and Social Care Act 2012 says that the Secretary of State must have regard to the quality of standards prepared by NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)

NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

There are number of duties under the Care Act which MUST be carried out by all local authorities and the NHS: They are:

THE DUTY TO ASSESS

Have you received an assessment?

Yes No

Is it in an ‘easy-read’ format?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO INCLUDE

Have you received a copy of the assessment in advance?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO INVOLVE

Has enough time been given for you to prepare?

Yes No

Were you able to invite people who are important to you?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO ADDRESS RELATIONSHIPS AND UNDERSTANDING

Do you feel the assessor knows and understands you?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO ADDRESS COMMUNICATION NEEDS

Is the assessor speaking to you in a way you understand?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO PROVIDE AN INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE

Do you need an advocate?

Yes No

Has the council offered you one?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO IDENTIFY OUTCOMES

Has the assessor asked about what is important to you?

Yes No

THE DUTY TO BE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT

Have they sent you a clear fee calculation?

Yes No

POST ASSESSMENT

- + The local authority should send you a copy of the assessment for your records with a Care Plan which details what help you need.
- + This Care Plan should be reviewed after eight weeks to ensure that it is suitable for you.
- + Review of the needs assessment should be undertaken each year by the local authority

THE ASSESSOR

**Does the person assessing you know you for longer than just one meeting?
This is really important so they understand your varying needs over time.**

The Autism Strategy, Statutory Guidance and Regulation 5 of the Care and Support (Assessment) Regulations state:

- + that local authorities must ensure those in posts who have a direct impact on and make decisions about the lives of adults with autism (including, for example, psychiatrists and those conducting needs assessment) also have a demonstrable knowledge and skills.

The Care Act states local authorities must:

- + Ensure that any person carrying out a needs assessment under the Care Act 2014 has the skills, knowledge and competence to carry out the assessment in question and is appropriately trained. Where the assessor does not have experience in the condition, the local authority must ensure that a person with that expertise is consulted.

Name

Contact

Assessor

Local Authority

Please tick here to give us consent to use the information you have provided