

A Social Care Assessment

Most of the time, people with a hearing impairment, do not need support to stay independent. However, if you are deaf, hearing impaired or deafblind and find you do need support in your daily life, you or someone you know can request an assessment of your care needs through Adult Social Care.

What is an assessment?

An assessment means Adult Social Care will work with you to find out if you need support to stay independent.

An assessment will look at:

- What services and help you already receive
- Personal needs - such as washing and dressing.
- Preparing meals, shopping, laundry
- Getting around your home and outside your home
- Any other issues you feel you have

How to get an assessment

- Contact Adult Social Care who will discuss with you what help you need and whether an assessment needs to be carried out.
- If you are in hospital, the nurse will talk to you about the help you might need when you leave hospital. The nurse will make arrangements with Adult Social Care who will carry out an assessment if necessary.
- Your GP, relative, or friend can ask for an assessment for you.

You can fill in a Questionnaire about the support you think you need, this is called a “supported Self Assessment Questionnaire”. (Someone, for example a care manager or friend can help you complete this if you have difficulty completing it).

For more information about the self assessment questionnaire visit

<http://www.darlington.gov.uk/Health/AdultServices2010/SelfDirectedSupport/SSAQ.htm>

If you need a lipspeaker or BSL interpreter to communicate with staff from adult social care, your care manager will organise for an interpreter to be present at meetings with you.

If it is identified through the assessment that you are eligible for support, a support plan can be put together. This may identify you need some equipment or further support to stay independent.

How much does it cost?

Social care staff can help you make sure you are getting the correct benefits. You may be required to pay towards some of the cost of your support. We will work out with you, how much you can afford to pay towards the cost of the support. We will need to look at what money you have, what costs you have and your savings.

Ways in which support can be provided

You can choose how the support you need is provided.

- You may wish to have the support you have been assessed as needing arranged by Adult Social Care.
- You may prefer to have a Personal Budget this from Adult Social Care which provides you with the opportunity to have more choice about who you buy your support from. Ask your care manager about these different options when you are being assessed.

How to contact Adult Social Care for an assessment

You or someone you know can contact Adult Social Care in the following ways:

Visit Adult Social Care, Central House, Gladstone Street.

Darlington DL3 6JX

Telephone: 346200

Fax: 346474

Minicom: 468504

Text: 07903 926564

Skype: dbcpsids

The office is open Monday to Thursday 8:30 - 5.00pm and Friday 8.30 - 4.30pm

If you or someone you know is Deaf, hearing impaired, Deafblind or is a lipspeaker and needs to visit Adult Social Care, **every Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00pm and 1.00pm - 4.00pm** there are staff available who can use BSL and lipspeaking.

Please be aware that you can contact Adult Social Care at other times during office hours but staff with signing skills may not be available without having first booked an appointment. If you need help in an emergency out of office hours the Emergency Duty Team can be contacted on Text 07826 903 165 (There is a member of staff available on a Tuesday for deaf duty).