

Obtaining Funding to Access Support Services

- We usually advise individuals to contact Adult Social Care, who will carry out an Assessment of need (Care Act Assessment). This will enable them to assess your needs, before they can provide funding for you to access services that have a cost. **This may or may not be our service.**
- For more information about Bradford Adult Social Care funding processes, please visit the website below:
http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/health_well-being_and_care/adult_care/getting_help/how_to_get_help.htm

If you live outside the Bradford area, we can provide you with the contact details of the council where you live. Please get in touch using the details below.

About the Assessments of Need

- Anyone is legally entitled to a Care Act Assessment.
- This is an assessment carried out by Adult Social Care to determine an individual's support needs and areas of difficulty in their life. They will take into account all areas of need including; your wishes/goals, physical difficulties, health/housing needs, psychological and social needs. They will also consider what help you already have access to, such as carers, family or nearby friends, and their willingness to continue providing care, and their needs.

Process for obtaining an Assessment of Need

To get an assessment carried out, the individual (if able/willing), or someone on their behalf should:

- Telephone the **Bradford Central Access** point on **01274 435400**.
- Explain that you/ the person you represent has a diagnosis of..... *(*state your/ their diagnosis)*
- State that you would like an Assessment of Need carried out to assess your/their needs
- The person on the phone may ask some further questions to enable them to put the individual onto their computer system. They may ask for: date of birth, address, full name, what you/they need support with.

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- You should take this opportunity to tell them the difficulties you are having on a day to day basis, always giving the worst case scenario. It is important to request a social worker that has previous experience or knowledge of the condition otherwise there is a chance that your difficulties may not be recognised during the care act assessment.
- Once someone's name and details are on the system, they will then be contacted for more information about their needs. There will then be a waiting time until a social worker is allocated to carry out the assessment. The person on the phone may be able to tell you an approximate waiting time.

Next steps

- The social worker will then contact you to arrange a date, time and place to carry out the assessment.
- Once an assessment has been completed, the Social Care team will decide if the individual meets the eligibility criteria, dependent on their level of need. If you are not eligible for care services, you can ask for advice from somewhere like the Citizens Advice Bureau <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
- The individual may then be given a personal budget to access support services, either in the form of Direct Payments **OR** the council may pay support services directly. In both cases, the individual may need to make a financial contribution, but this is dependent on income/benefits etc. (i.e. 'means tested').
- The Social Services will then give you a Care Plan, outlining who will be providing services, when, and what is hoped will be achieved by each service.

Further Information - What are Direct Payments?

- Direct Payments are amounts of money paid by Social Care to individuals to arrange their own community care services. This is instead of Social Care arranging the services for you.
- If you are able to manage your own finances, Adult Social Care will give you the option of receiving Direct Payments. It is then your choice if you would like to receive Direct Payments or have the council arrange services for you.
- You can get more information about direct payments on the Bradford Council website: http://www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/health_well-being_and_care/adult_care/money/direct_payments

If you need any further information or guidance please do not hesitate to contact Specialist Autism Services on 01274 789 789 or visit our website: <http://www.specialistautismservices.org>.

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