

Age Cymru – the “five main elements of the assessment process:

<p><i>“The person’s circumstances”.</i></p>	<p>Examples of issues that may demonstrate a need for care and/or support services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone is/will be unable to carry out basic personal care activities (e.g. getting out of bed, washing, dressing, bathing). • Someone is unable/is unlikely or will not have the opportunity to achieve or maintain “a reasonable standard of health”. • Someone is/will be unable to carry out “basic household activities and daily routines” (e.g. shopping, cleaning). • If the person is a carer, they are unable, or are likely to become unable, to provide some or all of the necessary assistance to the person they care for. <p>Note: The local authority’s analysis of the presenting needs shouldn’t be considered in isolation, but in the context of <i>“the effect that the needs have on the person or family concerned and/or by reference to the person’s [unique] circumstances. The process of determining eligibility must also take account that individual needs may form part of a combination of needs that affect the person concerned”</i></p>
<p><i>The individual’s “personal outcomes”</i></p>	<p>People’s personal outcomes must be identified during the assessment. Although these will be unique to each person, they will relate to the wellbeing definitions in the Act.</p> <p><i>“To meet the eligibility criteria for local authority provided or arranged” services, someone’s care and support needs must relate to the following personal outcomes (it can be seen that these overlap somewhat with the ‘person’s circumstances’ element above):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “ability to carry out self-care or domestic routines [and to] communicate; • protection from abuse or neglect; • involvement in work...or in leisure activities; • maintenance or development of family or other significant personal relationships; • development and maintenance of social relationships and involvement in the community” (including “caring responsibilities for a child”)
<p><i>Any barriers to the individual achieving their personal outcomes</i></p>	<p>“A person is facing barriers to achieving their personal outcomes if something related to the individual’s condition or circumstances, or something outside their control, is preventing them from meeting [the] outcomes. In defining a barrier the assessment will need to take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information presented by the person, and/or their family or carer, and other agencies...about their needs...resources and risks. • The professional judgement of the worker and their

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	<p>knowledge of the services or support which would be likely to be most useful to the individual and/or their family or carer [and] local information and guidance about available services”.</p>
<p><i>Any risks to the person (or to other persons) if their personal outcomes are not achieved</i></p>	<p>“An evaluation of risk is essential to determining a need for care and support”.</p> <p>“When exploring potential risks to meeting personal outcomes the practitioner and the individual should together consider the time-scale, predictability and complexity of the issues that are presented” .</p> <p>For example, “it is possible for individuals to have several low risk elements which in themselves would not pose a threat to achieving personal outcomes, but the combination and how the risks interact will result in a more serious threat”.</p> <p>“The determination of eligibility must be informed by an appreciation of the balance between ensuring that the health and safety of vulnerable adults and other people is not put at risk; against curtailing the choice, autonomy and independence of particular individuals. To manage this balance [and assist social services staff to make] decisions under uncertainty, the assessment has to be undertaken jointly with the user and will be led by their preferences and wishes in relation to achieving and enhancing their ability to meet their personal outcomes”.</p> <p>Note: “This analysis may, but may not, lead to a requirement for a care and support plan that includes understanding and anticipating activities which will invoke risk either to the individual and/or others and developing an action plan that can manage the situation appropriately”</p>
<p><i>“The person’s strengths and capabilities”.</i></p>	<p>The local authority should take into account the skills and capacity of the person themselves, as well as from their family, friends or the wider community, “that can be marshalled to meet their needs and promote their wellbeing”.</p> <p>“It is the function of the assessment and care and support planning process to identify these personal resources, enable the individual to make best use of them, and maximise the contribution they make to achieving personal outcomes”.</p> <p>“People’s needs fluctuate and circumstances change and the assessment process must provide for [social services staff] to look for and anticipate those changes” – the guidance suggests that “the pattern of: <i>“these needs I can meet/these needs I need help with”</i> will vary over time and circumstance for each person”. The assessment process must take this into account when eligibility decisions are reached.</p>