

A guide to who qualifies for Adult Social Care Services

Bedford Borough Eligibility Criteria May 2022

I am a carer. Am I eligible for Adult Social Care Services?

Any carer in Bedford Borough who feels they need support can ask for an assessment of care needs, known as a carer's assessment. This is so we can help identify these needs and how they can be met.

There are national criteria for Adult Social Care which were set by The Care Act 2014. This makes sure that all councils use the same standard for assessing who is eligible for Adult Social Care. National Eligibility applies to adults aged 18 and above. In specific circumstances the eligibility may also apply to children, their carers and young carers when they are subject to transition assessments.

There is also a national criterion for carers, and this is based on the impact a carer's needs for support has on their wellbeing.

If you are providing necessary care for an adult over the age of 18, and there is a significant impact on your wellbeing as a result, you may be eligible to have your needs met if any of the following apply to you, and you are unable to:

- carry out any caring responsibilities you have for a child in addition to the person you are caring for

- provide care to other people that you have responsibility to care for
- maintain a habitable home environment, so that your home is clean and hygienic.
- manage and maintain nutrition, such as cooking a meal or making a drink
- develop and maintain family or other personal relationships, such as being in contact with family members and friends
- engage in work, training, education or volunteering
- make use of necessary facilities or services in the local community
- engage in recreational activities
- if your mental or physical health is at risk of deteriorating.

What happens if I am eligible for Adult Social Care?

You will, first of all, receive a copy of the decision and then work out with your assessor, how you want your needs to be met.

This is based on those areas that challenge you the most as a carer. For example, it could be that you can no longer go to your place of worship, or visit family members because of your caring responsibilities. Having a regular time to do this will help

you with your mental health and also ensure that you can make use of the local community or maintain contact with family members.

You can ask Adult Social Care to make arrangements to meet your needs or you can use a Direct Payment to make your own arrangements.

A Direct Payment is a sum of money which Adult Social Care pays into a bank account for you to arrange your own care or support. Help is available to assist you with this if you need it.

What happens if I am not eligible for Adult Social Care?

You will first of all, receive a copy of the decision.

If you are not eligible to have your needs met by Adult Social Care, we will offer you information and advice about services in the Bedford area that may be able to help to meet your needs.

We know that needs and situations change. If you do not qualify for Adult Social Care Services support, we would ask you to contact us if your situation changes and we will reassess.

Safeguarding Adults

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person that violates your human and civil rights. Bedford Borough Council is committed to safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse (SOVA). If you are being abused or suspect that someone you know may be the victim of abuse contact our Safeguarding Team on **Tel:** 01234 276222. Your concerns will be taken seriously and will receive prompt attention.

Having Your Say

We would like you to tell us how you think Bedford Borough Council's Adult Social Care services have worked for you and what you think of our services. Our staff will ask for your views throughout your contact with us.

To give us feedback on the service you have received, please speak to the manager or staff in your social work team or write to us at the address below.

Bedford Borough Council's Adult Social Care services are independently regulated by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). If you want to discuss our service(s) with them they can be contacted at:

Tel: 03000 616161

Care Quality Commission Citygate,
Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4PA

Email: enquiries@cqc.org.uk.

To contact Adult Social Care about services or other advice and support, please contact us on:

Tel: 01234 267422

Email: care@bedford.gov.uk

Finding out more

If you would like further copies, a large-print copy or information about us and our services, please telephone or email us at our address above.

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