

A care needs assessment

GCE AS Unit 2: Supporting health, well-being and resilience in Wales (non-examination assessment)

A care needs assessment will usually **involve a series of questions**, often in the form of a discussion. The assessment is designed to **find out the individual's 'personal outcomes'** (what the individual's needs are and what support is required). This includes:

- what the individual wants to achieve – i.e. their personal outcomes
- what is stopping them – i.e. the barriers and risks
- whether the individual needs information and advice
- what other support the individual receives – for example, from a **family member**
- what **community-based services** might help the individual
- what care and support will be delivered by social services and their partners
- how the individual's progress will be monitored
- the date of the individual's next review.

If the individual's circumstances change, then the **care and support plan** must be kept under review and must not be closed without a reassessment of the individual's circumstances. Local council and health and social services jointly determine whether an individual's care and support package meets the individual's overall personal well-being outcomes (emotional, social and economic well-being).

The different sectors providing health and social care, and childcare services in Wales (2.2.3 (a))

1. **Statutory sector:** these are services that are paid for and provided by the Welsh Government. They include all NHS services, health boards, hospitals, health centres and local authority services – i.e. children's social care, adult social care and education (nursery, primary and secondary schools).
2. **Independent/private sector:** these are services that are run as businesses to make a profit and receive funding only from individuals and/or their insurance policies. They include private companies who may provide the following: day care for children (crèche/day nursery), health care (BUPA and dentists), and social care (residential/nursing homes and personal assistants). The independent/private sector also includes self-employed practitioners – i.e. childminders, personal assistants and private nurses.
3. **Third/voluntary sector:** these services are provided by non-profit organisations that are quite often a registered charity (for example, Save the Children, Action for Children, Mind, Marie Curie, Scope, Stroke Association), local support groups using volunteers (playgroups, counselling and bereavement groups) and not-for-profit organisations with paid employees (Barnardo's, NSPCC, Childline, Macmillan, hospices).
4. **Unpaid/informal care:** this type of care is carried out by people who want to help others and are usually unpaid, such as family, friends, neighbours and local religious groups. Support may include babysitting, shopping, cleaning, picking up prescriptions and providing transport for appointments.

Some services may be available from providers who regularly work together in **partnership**. The statutory sector may **commission** other sector services to support an individual's personal outcomes. Services may be accessed in different locations, for example, podiatry may be available at a health centre or hospital or in the home. **Some services are used throughout all life stages** (for example, health centres, hospitals and opticians), while other services have specific **target groups** in the community (for example, Flying Start work with children aged 0–4 years).