

What to expect during assessment and care planning

A quick guide for people using adult
social care services



“People’s experience in adult social care services remains the highest of priorities, and what matters most is supporting a life and not just providing a service”

Clenton Farquharson, Chair of TLAP

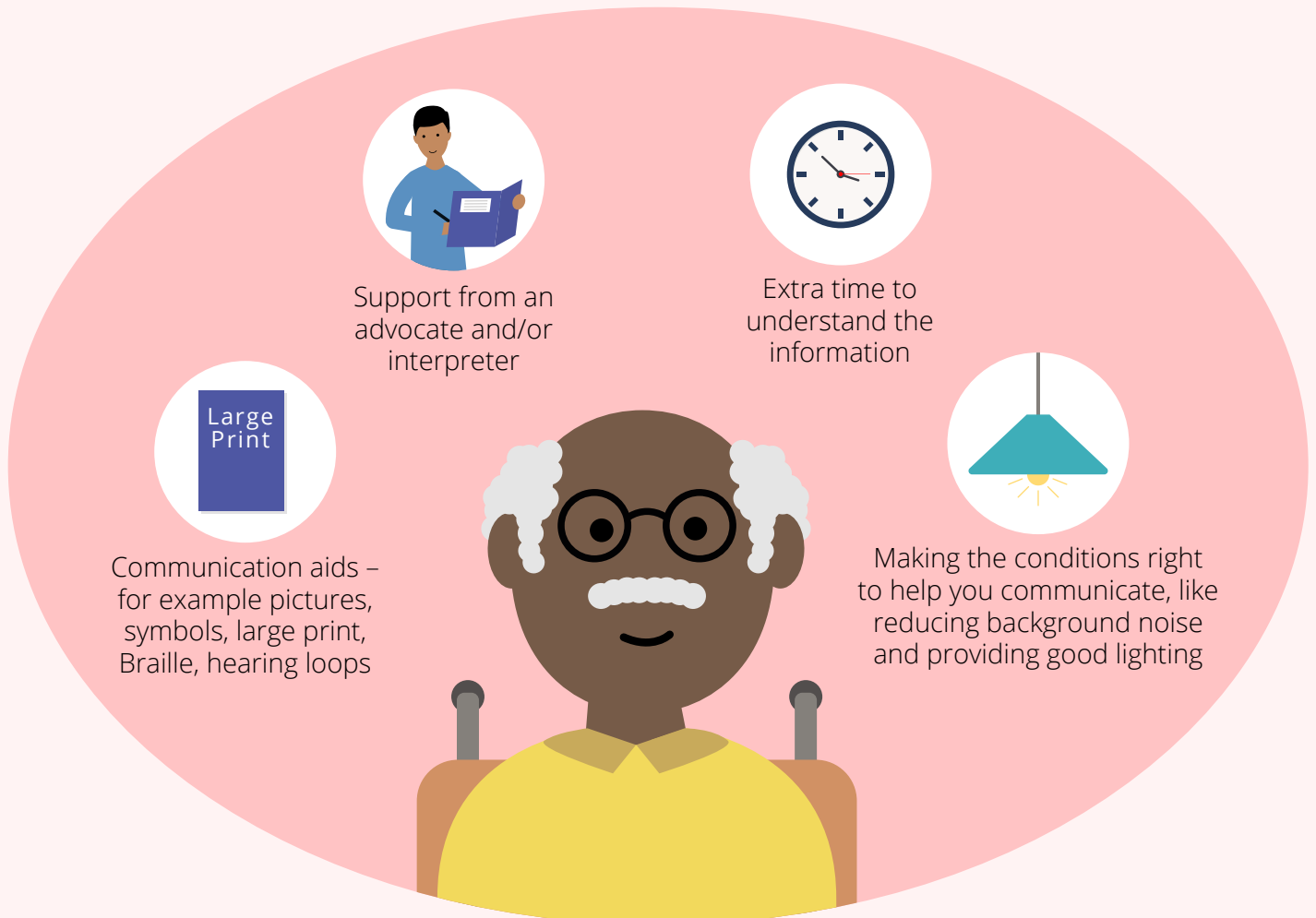
Adult care and support should help you live your life the way you want to.

You should be treated as an individual, and your care and support should be based on what you can already do, what you want to achieve and the help you need.

Making decisions

Social care staff should always involve you and respect your right to make your own decisions.

They should give you any support you need to express your views and wishes. This might include:



Staff should ask if you would like your family, friends or carers to be involved and if so, how to involve them. This is your choice and you can decide not to.

If you need support to take part in your assessment, care and support plan and review and there is no appropriate person available to do this, you should be offered an independent advocate. You should have enough time with your advocate to prepare beforehand and to check your understanding of what has happened afterwards.

What is an advocate?

An advocate can help you express your needs and wishes, and support you to weigh up and take decisions about different options. They can help you find services, make sure the current procedures are followed and challenge decisions.



Your needs assessment

An assessment is a conversation about your needs, how these affect your wellbeing and what you want to be able to do in your daily life. It should also:



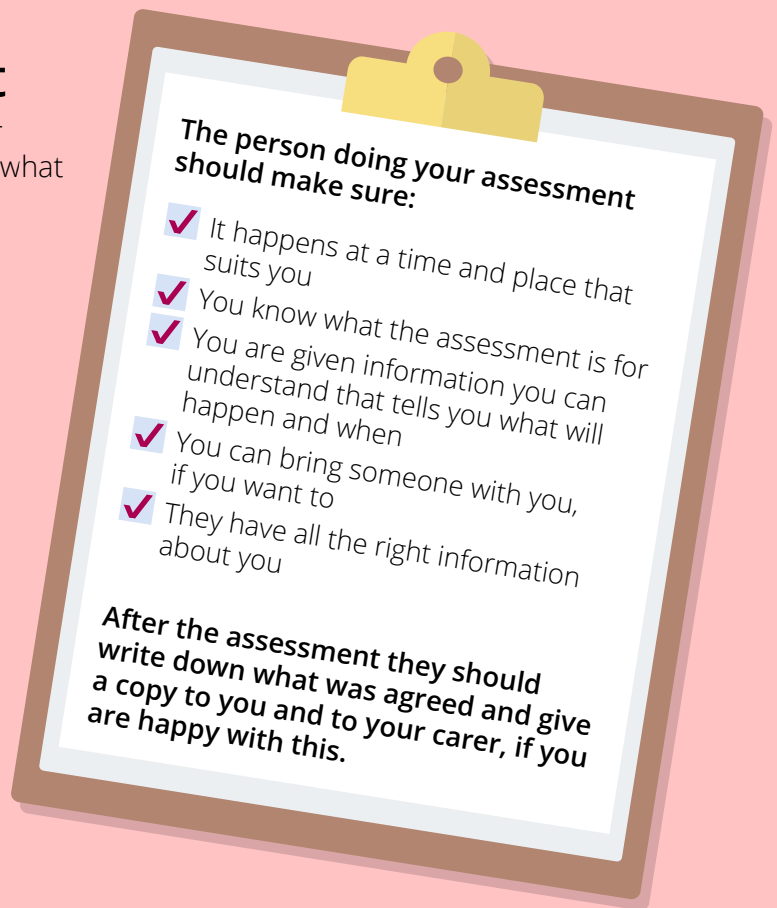
Promote your interests and independence



Recognise the effects of loneliness



Respect your dignity



During the conversation you should expect:

The needs of your whole family to be considered, including your carers

To be fully involved

To talk about your strengths and what you want to achieve in your day-to-day life

Your personal history and life story to be heard

Any caring you do for other family members to be considered and a carer's assessment offered to you

Your housing to be taken into account, including where and who you want to live with



Care and support plan

Your care and support plan should say how your needs will be met and what your personal budget is. Your plan should be:

- Flexible – in case your needs and wishes change
- Clear about how family, friends or carers will be involved in your care and support
- Clear how any needs you have linked to your gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity or religion will be met
- Reviewed regularly – including how and when this should happen
- Clear about what to do if things change or there is a crisis



What is a personal budget?

A **personal budget** is the amount of money your local council says you need for your care and support. You should be given information and advice about the different ways this money can be managed and used. For example, if you have a **direct payment**, you will receive money regularly that you can use to arrange your own support.

Further information

[People's experience in adult social care services: improving the experience of care and support for people using adult social care services](#) – NICE guideline

[Your guide to care and support: getting a needs assessment](#) – NHS Choices

[Carer's assessment](#) – Carers UK

[Care and Support Jargon Buster \(Plain English definitions of the most commonly used words and phrases in health, social care and housing\)](#) – Think Local, Act Personal (TLAP) Visit the [About us](#) page for more information about TLAP.

[Paying for care](#) – Money Advice Service

[Care and Support Planning Guide](#) – National Voices



This content has been co-produced by NICE and SCIE and is based on NICE's guideline on people's experience in adult social care services: improving the experience of care and support for people using adult social care services.

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