

## Case Study A

*Where it appears to a local authority that an adult may have needs for care and support.*

An older man lives alone with some support from his daughter who works full-time. He needs occasional personal care to remain living independently with dignity, and it is likely that these needs will increase. He has lost contact with most of his family and friends following his wife's death and rarely goes out without support from his daughter who is restricted to taking him out at weekends because of her work commitments.

Under the Care Act 2014 he has a right to be assessed for free by the local authority as he appears to have needs for care and support to complete activities in his day-to-day life. He has this right to be assessed regardless of his financial situation, or whether the local authority thinks he will then be eligible for support from them.

He can ask the local authority for an assessment himself, or be referred by his daughter or someone else he knows, this may be a professional who is already involved in his care, such as a GP, community nurse, or mental health nurse. If he is being referred by someone else, that person should have discussed and agreed this with him in advance.

The assessment will help the local authority to then decide if he does have care and support needs and if so, whether he is eligible for funding from the local authority towards the cost of that care and support.

The assessment must be carried out with involvement from him and, where appropriate, someone who looks after him (his daughter). It can also involve someone else nominated by him to help you get his and wishes heard, or an independent advocate provided by the local authority.

A section 9 Care Act assessment<sup>1</sup> for him would consider all his needs, including those currently being met by his daughter, along with the outcomes he wishes to achieve.

A separate section 10 Care Act, carer's assessment<sup>2</sup> offered to his daughter (or a combined assessment if both father and daughter agreed) would establish the daughter's willingness and ability to care and continue to care and how best to promote her own wellbeing, for example by having regard to the outcomes she wishes to achieve. This joint assessment would look at issues such as the possible impact on the daughter of supporting her father while in full-time employment as well as the father's isolation, ability to connect with others or be an active citizen.

Community groups, voluntary organisations, and buddying services could support the father to reduce the social isolation that he may be feeling and maximise opportunities to look after his own health and wellbeing and participate in local community activities. This, in turn could lessen the impact of caring on his daughter and enable her to continue to support her father effectively alongside paid employment. Such support can be identified/suggested alongside other, perhaps more formal services to meet personal care needs, and can be an effective way of promoting wellbeing. In this example, the aspects of wellbeing relating to social wellbeing and family relationships might be promoted.

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<sup>1</sup> [The Care Act 2014-section 9](#)

<sup>2</sup> [The Care Act 2014-section 10](#)