

Social Care Handbook



Focus

Empowering individuals
to live independent lives

Contact Information

Social Care Enquiries

Single Point of Access	01472 256 256 (option 2) Open 24/7/365
Social Care Email	focus@nhs.net
Social Care Website	www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk
Connect NEL	01472 403 403
Connect NEL Website	connectnel.com

Safeguarding Adults

Report Neglect or Abuse	01472 256 256 (option 2)
Email	focus@nhs.net
Website	www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk

Hospital Discharge Team

General Enquiries	01472 256 256 (option 4)
-------------------	--------------------------

Finance Team

Pay an Invoice	01472 31 31 31 (option 7)
Invoice Queries	0300 330 2870 focus.mb-focus-financeassistants@nhs.net
Financial Assessments	0300 330 2910 focus.financialassessmentofficers@nhs.net
Direct Payment Queries	0300 330 2970 focus.mb-directpayments@nhs.net
Debt Management	0300 330 2970 focus.paymentandcollections@nhs.net

Contents

Focus and Your Journey	4
Your Assessment	9
Care Providers and Services	15
Finances, Benefits and Property	28
Reporting Neglect or Abuse	46
Your Feedback	54
Keeping Your Information Safe	55

My Point of Contact

Ask your assessor to write their name and contact details here



*All 01, 02 & 03 numbers shown in this document may be included as part of any inclusive call minutes provided by your phone operator.

Focus and Your Journey

Introduction

Within North East Lincolnshire Focus Independent Adult Social Work C.I.C provides Adult Social Care on behalf of the Local Authority or Council.

Focus is a community interest company delivering statutory social services, including the operational safeguarding responsibilities for adults. We are a member led organisation.

We work in close partnership with Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board who have held the delegated responsibility and budget for Adult Social Services since September 2007. This provides many opportunities for integrated work with health colleagues together with those from the Council.

Most people access Focus through the Single Point of Access (SPA), a solution focussed approach, utilising a persons strengths , will enable identification of a range of solutions. This could be advice and support to access community resources. Or access to the multi disciplinary Triage team who will be able to access resources to manage more complex and urgent situations. Some individuals will require further assessments to further explore a persons needs and identify appropriate support. This assessment will be led by Focus, drawing on other professionals as required.

Some people will need ongoing services to remain safe but the least restrictive ways are sought to achieve this in partnership with the person. Once an individual budget has been determined this might be used for domiciliary care or day opportunities and in some cases residential or nursing care may be needed. Some people choose to have a direct payment to commission their own care and we provide information and guidance to enable this to happen. In all cases services are monitored and reviewed to ensure they remain the best options for the person, and are working to either maintain or increase independence and wellbeing.

Finance is also important as there is an expectation that people will contribute, where able, to the cost of any service they receive. To determine this a financial assessment will be undertaken and people need to be aware this will happen and be supported through this process. It is therefore vital you are aware of the Community Care Finance roles within Focus and work closely with these colleagues.

What is an adult social care assessment?

Adult social care assessments are free of charge and are available for anyone over the age of 18 and for younger adults transitioning into adulthood and adult social care. An assessment is how we establish what a persons strengths are and which areas they may need support with. We use a national eligibility criteria to decide if the needs you have are eligible for support from us. It consists of 4 stages; assessment, deciding on eligibility, support planning and financial assessment.

You, or your representative can request an adult social care assessment by contacting the Single Point of Access on 01472 256256 (option 2).

We also offer the facility for a self assessment:

- The self assessment is for adults (over 18)
- You can complete it yourself or on behalf of someone else
- It usually takes around 10-15 mins to complete the first section to get a result
- You do not have to tell us who you are or share any of your personal details to access information
- Once completed it will provide you with personalised suggestions, advice and information about how to get support in the areas you have identified
- After getting a result, you will have the chance to make a referral to us for more information

The self assessment can be found at: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-social-care/adult-social-care/>



Adult social care eligibility

Determining eligible adult social care need is important to work out. We have to make sure that we help those people with the greatest need for care and support. To do this we will carry out an assessment of your needs, how these needs impact on your wellbeing and consider what you'd like to achieve in your day-to-day life. We use eligibility criteria, which are like a set of national rules to help us decide if you are able to get support from us.

Personal budgets

Once we have agreed eligibility with you, we will agree the amount of money required to meet the needs identified within your support plan. The amount of money we identify is called a personal budget and it allows you to:

- choose and control the support that is best for you
- be fully involved in decisions about the help you need to live independently
- support yourself in ways that suit you

Support plans

Everyone's needs for care and support are different, and those needs can be met in many different ways.

The care and support planning process is there to help decide the best way to meet your needs after the assessment. We will develop your support plan with you and any other people involved with your care if you wish.

Your plan will look at: what needs you have, what you want to achieve, what you can do by yourself or with the support you already have, and what types of care and support are available.

Review

A review is a re-assessment of your adult social care needs.

Keeping support plans under review is an important way of ensuring they are up to date, relevant, and they are meeting the needs of the person. Without a review, plans could become out of date meaning that a person is not obtaining the right care and support to meet their changing circumstances. Support plans also identify particular outcomes that the person wants to achieve, which need to be reviewed to ensure they are on track or they are still relevant to the person's wellbeing.

We will always review your support needs yearly, however we will review quite soon after any new service has commenced to ensure the new service is working as expected.

If your care needs fluctuate, we may review them more regularly.

You can request a review of your care needs at any time from us by contacting your key worker or the Single Point of Access on 01472 256256 (option2).



www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk

Your Assessment

The assessor will firstly ask you for your consent to complete the assessment followed by asking for your consent to share information with other relevant professionals involved in your support. This will require your signature for confirmation of that consent.

NOTE - If you are unable to consent to the assessment the assessment can still be completed if it is deemed it is in your best interest.

There are three types of assessments that can be completed:

- **Individual/single** - this is an assessment of your need
- **Joint** - this is an assessment of your need and your carers needs
- **Carers** - this is an assessment of your carers needs

What will the assessor need to know?

The assessor will need to know your current situation - this will include the reason for the request for an assessment and what has lead up to this. It is helpful here to know about how you and if applicable how your carers spends their day/week and information about and anything else you feel is relevant for the assessment.

The assessor will assess your needs against a national eligibly criteria as follows:-

- Managing and maintaining nutrition
- Maintaining personal hygiene
- Managing toilet needs
- Being appropriately clothed
- Being able to make use of the adult's home safely
- Maintaining a habitable home environment
- Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
- Accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering

- Accessing and engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community including public transport, and recreational facilities and services
- Carrying out any caring responsibilities the adult has for a child

If a joint or carers assessment is taking place the carers **needs will be assessed against a national carers criteria** as follows:-

- Carrying out any caring responsibilities the carer has for a child
- Providing care to other persons for whom the carer provides care
- Maintaining a habitable home environment in the carer's home (whether or not this is also the home of the adult needing care)
- Managing and maintaining nutrition
- Developing and maintaining family or other personal relationships
- Engaging in work, training, education or volunteering
- Making use of necessary facilities or services in the local community, including recreational facilities or services
- Engaging in recreational activities

The assessor will focus on the above needs and identify what you can do for yourself or what support is already in place to identify with you what eligible needs are already being met.

You will be asked what is important to you and what do you want to achieve from the assessment?

Discussions will then link what is important to you. Based on the above information the assessor will identify unmet eligible needs and confirm your personal budget amount. A discussion will then take place how your unmet needs may be met.

There may be a need for the assessor to discuss your finances as all services provided are chargeable.

The assessor can make referrals for benefits check if you are unsure if you are claiming all you are entitled to.

The assessor will offer you a home fire safety check and ensure systems are in place for checking your smoke detectors work.

It would help the assessor if you could give the assessor as much information as possible based on the information in this leaflet. Preparing for the assessment would be helpful.

Feedback on your assessment is always welcomed, your assessor will leave you a feedback leaflet for this purpose. See page 54 of this booklet for more information. There may be a need for the assessor to discuss your finances as all services provided are chargeable.

Care and support self-assessment

‘Care and support’ is the term we use to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with friends or family.

You can complete a self-assessment on the North East Lincolnshire Council website at <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-social-care/adult-social-care/> or by scanning the following qr code.



Are you a carer?

A carer is someone who provides unpaid support to a relative, partner or friend who is ill, frail, disabled, has a mental health problem or substance misuse problem. The support may be personal, practical, emotional or supervisory.

Many people do not see themselves as carers because they see themselves as husbands, wives, partners, parents, siblings or friends. However, by providing unpaid care, they are in fact 'carers' and there is information, help and support available for them.

If you would like a Carer's Assessment, visit the Carers Support Centre www.carerssupportcentre.com or please call the Single Point of Access on 01472 256 256 (option 2).

North East Lincolnshire Council recognise that carers play a vital role in caring for their loved ones. To find out more about North East Lincolnshire Council's vision for Carers see the North East Lincolnshire Carers' Strategy 2023-2026 at www.nelincs.gov.uk.

Sensory impairment assessments

Focus provide specialist Care Act assessments, support and information to individuals who have a hearing loss.

Focus have commissioned the Lindsey Blind Society to provide specialised Care Act assessments, support and information to individuals who have a sight loss.

For individuals who have a visual and hearing loss Focus work alongside Lindsey Blind to provide a joined up approach.

We have a wide range of equipment to promote independence on a 'try before you buy' basis. These include loop systems, personal listeners, portable door bells, liquid level indicators, magnifiers and electronic magnifiers, alongside other equipment that may help in the home.

Assessments can be requested through the Single Point of Access, 01472 256256, option 2.

For individuals who want to be more independent with accessing the community, following assessment, mobility training may be available. This would include long cane training to enable individuals to access familiar routes learning new techniques and road safety.

Focus are able to access the appropriate interpreters for BSL users who want to have a Care Act Assessment, ensuring confidentiality at all times.

How Care Act 2014 works

If you are thinking of moving, you or someone on your behalf, like a family member or carer, have to contact the local council in the area you are moving to and tell them about your plans. They will be able to give you more information and advice about local services to help you make a decision about your move. They will then get in touch with the council where you are currently living to make sure that you are genuinely looking to move.

The sooner you let the council know about your plans; they can start looking into your situation and help make arrangements.

Continuity of care when moving to a new area

On occasion, people with care needs can decide to move to another area. This can be for many reasons, a main one being, to be closer to family members who live in another area.

The [Care Act 2014](#) ensures that you receive proper '[continuity of care](#)' if you decide to move from one area to another. This means that if you are receiving care and support in one area, you will continue to receive this support on the day of your arrival in the new area.

Sharing of information between the councils

The council in the area where you are currently living and who has carried out your care and support assessment in the first place, must provide a copy of your most recent care and support plan and any other information as requested to the other council. If you have a carer who is also moving and is continuing to support you after you move, the council must also provide your carer's most recent support plan.

The new council will then undertake its own care and support assessment and carer's assessment to find out if there are any changes to your needs as a result of the move. For example, you may be moving nearer to family and not need as much support from the council or you may need more support in your new home. If possible and practical, both assessments can take place before you move to ensure that the right care and support is in place when you arrive.

Both councils will keep in touch throughout this process and keep you informed.

What happens when you move

Even if the new council has not completed its own assessment before you move, they have to make sure your needs are met from the day you move. They can use the information provided by your current council to decide what services to put in place to meet your needs until they have completed their own assessment. This should ensure that you do not experience any gap in the care and support you need every day.

Self-funding

If you pay for your own care because of having above threshold means, and plan to move to another area, you should contact the new authority at the earliest opportunity to discuss your move. They will be able to provide you with information about either care at home providers or care home providers in this area and this will enable you to make a decision about choosing a new provider in the new area.

**Please note that for this purpose, "the Council" referred to in North East Lincolnshire will be Focus Independent Adult Social Work.*

Care Providers and Services

Care homes and housing options

Residential care offers long-term care and respite in residential care settings. North East Lincolnshire has residential care homes for older people, people with mental health care needs and those who specialise in care for people with a learning disability.

Unique integrated commissioning arrangements mean that residential care providers are seen as equal partners in the provision of health and social care to the community of North East Lincolnshire. Furthermore, the ICB, Focus, Navigo and Care Plus Group continually work with providers to improve knowledge and deliver best practice in care settings.

For more information on Care Homes, please contact the Single Point of Access on 01472 256 256.

Social Housing

'Council Housing' is now known as 'Social Housing' and provided by Lincolnshire Housing Partnership (LHP).

LHP is a 12,700 home landlord formed in April 2018 from a merger between Boston Mayflower and Shoreline Housing Partnership.

Covering the whole of the historic east coast of Lincolnshire, LHP provide affordable rental and shared ownership homes as well as a range of services to help support people and communities.

Housing Associations

Housing associations are non-profit organisations set up to provide affordable accommodation for people who cannot afford to access market housing. Homes are offered for rent and low cost home ownership.

Home Choice Lincs

Home Choice is part of a national initiative called Choice Based Lettings. It is a partnership that brings local authorities and housing

associations together to jointly advertise homes available to rent. The scheme partners are North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, Longhurst Group, North Lincolnshire Homes, Sanctuary Housing and Ongo Homes.

They offer a wide range of housing including family accommodation, single person housing and older persons bungalows or flats. Anyone over the age of 16 can apply providing they are eligible by law to join the housing register. Once registered applicants are given a priority band based on their housing need and are then able to apply for any suitable properties that are advertised.

To register for the scheme, for more information or to view properties please visit the Home Choice Lincs website, call into any of our partners' offices or contact the Home Choice Lincs Team.

Telephone: 01472 326292 option 2
Email: info@homechoicelincs.org.uk
Website: www.homechoicelincs.org.uk

Preventing Homelessness

The Home Options Team gives free, confidential and impartial housing advice and assistance to residents who have housing needs. Their main aim is to reduce and prevent homelessness in North East Lincolnshire whilst making sure that your home is suitable and that you are able to manage the tenancy.

Telephone: 01472 326296 Option 1

Supported living

Supported living is a scheme where vulnerable adults (people with learning/physical disability/autism/mental health) are supported by a housing provider to maintain their own tenancy for a property. They are then supported by a care provider whose aim is to enable individuals to live as independently and safely as possible. Based on assessed needs, individuals can receive support and assistance with many aspects of their day-to-day life - this could include:

- Managing bills and money
- Cooking and healthy eating
- Shopping
- Learning new skills for independence
- Personal care and well-being
- Managing medication
- Accessing employment, sports and social activities

In North East Lincolnshire, we have a number of supported living accommodation options available. Providers are expected to deliver good quality outcomes to people living in both single occupancy and group dwellings (and to demonstrate achieved outcomes), and to increase and promote independent living. The supported living options currently available locally include apartment models, shared houses and individual accommodation.

Apartment Model

Typically apartments are where individuals have their self-contained flat in a shared block. Support is delivered to individuals within their individual accommodation. This model usually has communal areas for people living in the model to 'socialise together'. This model can work for individuals with a range of needs but works particularly well for individuals who want / require more independence.

Shared House

This model is based on a small number of individuals (usually no more than 5) living together in a shared house. Individuals have their own bedroom and all other areas of their home are shared with all tenants. With this model, everyone living in the shared house all contribute to the bills and upkeep of communal areas.

Individual Accommodation

This is an individual service for individuals wanting or needing to live on their own in a flat/house or bungalow. The individual is solely responsible for the bills and upkeep of their property. Any support required is delivered directly into their own home.

Support Needs

The support an individual needs is decided and planned with them directly and / or with family involvement or an advocate / IMCA. A Care Act Assessment is completed by a Social Worker / Co-ordinator who will identify how much support the individual requires and then refer the individual to a support provider. The support required can be provided on a 24/7 full time basis with someone either sleeping at the persons home or staying awake overnight. Support can range from a few hours a day or week, it really does depend upon what the person needs and wants to help them live within their own home.

What is the difference between residential support and supported living?

There are several key differences between residential support and supported living, these being:

- In residential care, people have their food, heating and general needs included in the weekly fee charged by the provider. People then receive a small weekly allowance.
- In supported living individuals are responsible for their own bills and cost of living which is usually paid for by the benefits they receive and can be topped up by any wage that they earn through employment.

Extra care housing

Providing housing with care for older people in North East Lincolnshire.

About the scheme

The NHS is working with the Council to provide new homes that support older people in Grimsby to remain independent and healthy for as long as possible. Currently there are two facilities within the Grimsby area, Strand Court and Burchester Court. Both contain 60 flats, which are either one or two bedrooms.

What is Extra Care Housing (ECH)?

Extra Care Housing schemes are being developed in North East Lincolnshire, to provide housing with care and support for older people as their needs increase. ECH represents a real alternative to traditional residential care as it allows people to retain their own property, address and front door, whilst having easy access to the care and support they will need to keep healthy and continue living independently.

These individual homes (flats or apartments) will be grouped in a single building, set around communal facilities such as a residents' lounge, restaurant, activity rooms, hairdressing salon, and private landscaped gardens. People living in ECH still want to be part of their local community, so some of the communal facilities, such as the restaurant, hairdressers and some activities will be open for use by older people living in the local community, as well as residents. They will be close to main roads, served by public transport and close to local community facilities, to support independent living.

The Extra Care Housing being developed in NEL is for frailer older people and has many additional benefits, intended to help them maintain their own home for longer, whilst enjoying a good quality of life combined with safety and security. The homes are being built to high standards, including Lifetime Homes, which means that people are less likely to need to move home if their care needs change or they become less mobile and need equipment or adaptations to assist them with daily life. People living in Extra Care Housing are also much less likely to need residential care as their care needs increase.

A care team will be working at each scheme 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide care and support to those tenants needing it, and help in an emergency, such as when someone has an accident or becomes ill. This support will be there to respond to individual needs, including help with things like cooking meals, personal care (washing, getting up or into bed etc.), taking medicine or just getting around.

This is intended to help people to live independently for longer, through preventing them needing to go into hospital unnecessarily and also allowing them to be discharged as soon as they are fit after any hospital stay. Some flats could be used as a short stay/step down facility for people coming out of hospital whose current home is unsuitable for their changed needs and who need to either move home or have their current home adapted.

Burchester Court

Winchester Avenue, Grimsby, DN33 1BU
01472 873395

Strand Court

Albion Street, Grimsby, DN32 7AZ
01472 808033

Please contact Derrick Rodwell by sending an email to derrick.rodwell@inclusiongroup.co.uk or call 07703825369.

Living at home now and in the future

If you want to live at home as independently as you can, you'll find services, organisations, information and advice here that will support you to do it, for example:

- Domiciliary care (care at home) agencies can help you with personal care like washing and dressing, or eating.
- There is a wide range of equipment to keep you safe in the home such as grab rails for the bathroom, stair lifts, monitors that can tell if you've fallen and will raise the alarm, and sensors that detect escaping gas or overflowing water.
- And there is equipment to help keep you mobile inside your home or when you're out and about, walking sticks and frames, rise and recline chairs, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.
- You can find organisations that offer gardening and house maintenance services, including answering emergency call outs.
- Do you have a Direct Payment? If so, you might want to think about how a Personal Assistant (PA) could help you to live independently at home. There are local services that will help you recruit one and then support you in dealing with things like tax and National Insurance.
- Do you need help with making a meal? You can find information about meals on wheels and other providers that will deliver ready meals to your home.

Home care

There are currently three “care at home” providers in North East Lincolnshire, commissioned by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to deliver services to people who have been assessed as needing care at home. We work with providers to find new ways of commissioning care to ensure it is as flexible and person centred as possible.

Telecare and telehealth technology

Telecare services can help you to stay safe and remain more independent in your own home.

Telecare is a type of wireless technology that connects equipment in your home to a call centre using your telephone line. There is a range of home equipment, devices and tools such as; wristbands that you press to alert the call centre if you need help and monitors that can detect falls, or gas, or overflowing water.

Telecare systems are available 24 hours a day, so you can call for help in an emergency at any time of the day or night.

Carelink offers reassurance, through telecare, to individuals who may be vulnerable through illness, disability, isolation, violence or abuse.

For more information about Telecare services and the range of solutions available, visit the Carelink website, or the AT Dementia website for information about assistive technologies for people with dementia and their carers.

Advocacy

From April 2015, care and support in England changed for the better. The new Care Act helped make care and support more consistent across the country.

‘Care and support’ is the term we use to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like washing, dressing, eating, getting out and about and keeping in touch with friends or family.

If you receive care and support, or you support someone as a carer, you could benefit from the changes.

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is helpful for people who find it hard to make decisions about the care and support they need. An advocate is a person who works with you to make sure that your ideas and wishes are heard and that you get the right care and support for you.

Who is advocacy for?

Advocacy is useful for:

- children and young adults
- an adult whose care and support needs are being assessed or reviewed
- a carer whose needs are being assessed
- people who are being assessed during a safeguarding enquiry

How do I get advocacy?

Focus Independent Adult Social Work must always make sure that you are involved in the decisions made about your care and support.

If you (or someone you care for) finds it hard to:

- understand and remember important information
- use that information in daily life, or
- express views, wishes or feelings

then Focus must offer you an advocate to help you get the support and care you want and need.

Tell me more about how an advocate can help me

Advocates are independent from the council, the NHS, your doctor, Focus Independent Adult Social Work and other healthcare services. Your advocate will get to know you so they can support and represent you when decisions are made about your care. Your advocate will make sure that your wellbeing and interests are always carefully considered.

Your advocate will help you to:

- understand the care and support process
- talk about your wishes, views and feelings
- make decisions
- challenge decisions about your care and support if you don't agree with them
- understand your rights
- support you in the safeguarding process, if necessary

Meal delivery to your home

Many people already benefit from a hot meal delivery service. These services are accessed and paid for independently.

Locally based meal delivery services are:

Meals Fore You

Foresight, 60 Newmarket Street, Grimsby, DN32 7SF

Delivery between 11am to 2pm

Monday to Friday

Office Number: 01472 269 666

Email: info@mealsforeyou.co.uk

Meals on Wheels

Nutrío, Unit 5, Acorn Business Park, Moss Road, DN32 0LT

Office hours: Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Weekends: 9am to 11pm

Telephone:(01472) 322915

Email: hello@nurtrio.co.uk

Age UK - Grimsby

27 Osbourne Street, Grimsby, DN31 1EY

Opening Times: Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm

Telephone: 01472 344 976 (option 1)

Email: admin@ageuknelincs.org.uk

Age UK - Cleethorpes

20 Wardall Street, Cleethorpes, DN35 8HA

Opening Times: Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm

Telephone: 01472 344 976 (option 2)

Email: admin@ageuknelincs.org.uk

You could also arrange for a carer to come in and prepare meals for you through a private home care agency but remember to take care to choose one that is registered and inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Recovering at Home

The Core Rehabilitation Team comprises of two of the range of Allied Health Profession (AHP) Services, specifically Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. Core Rehabilitation services comprise of staff employed by Care Plus Group and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust working in partnership.

If you are requesting an Occupational Therapy assessment, please contact Single Point of Access Tel 01472 256256, option 2.

The Assisted Living Centre

The centre provides advice and information for people who require equipment and support at home to be able to maintain their independence.

People can get advice on a range of equipment available to help them at home including wheelchairs, hoists, walking frames and even home adaptations including stair lifts.

The community equipment store is based in the centre, where many of these items are loaned out from. It also has a demonstration area featuring a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and lounge, where people can see how equipment that could help them at home works. There are also clinic rooms, a wheelchair services workshop and a podiatry lab on-site as well.

The centre is open Monday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm (with last entry at 5.30pm), and Saturday's 10am to 4pm (last entry 3.30pm).

Parking spaces are available for visitors to the centre and are directly outside the building.

Contact us

Assisted Living Centre, Kingsley Grove, Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby, (01472) 875592

Finances, Benefits and Property

Introduction

In North East Lincolnshire, the Council and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) work in partnership to ensure that care and support services are delivered to those who are assessed as needing them. Focus Independent Adult Social Work carries out financial assessments (along with other care and support functions) on behalf of the Council and the ICB.

Care and support at home is not provided free of charge. The amount that people pay depends upon their financial circumstances and the services they receive. **People are only charged if they have financial assets and/or income above a certain level.**

We want to help people to live at home as independently and as safely as possible. We also want the charges for the care that we provide for people at home to be fair.

Most of the services we provide for you in your own home will be assessed for a charge. You will not be charged for National Health Services (NHS).

Financial Assessments

As soon as your care needs have been assessed, someone from our Finance Team will be alerted to carry out an assessment of your financial circumstances. They will work out whether you are able to pay a contribution to the costs of your care. This information will form part of a service user's confidential record. Charging for care and support at home begins from the date your service starts.

A Financial Assessment Officer will contact you to arrange a suitable visiting time, venue etc. You may have a member of your family or a friend present if you wish. Any information will be treated in confidence in accordance with our declaration under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which is included on the Financial Assessment form.

You will be asked to disclose details of your financial circumstances in order for a financial assessment to be conducted. You have the right to withhold consent for this disclosure, but if you do so, this will be considered as formally declining your right to be financially assessed and the full cost of your package of care will be charged.

You must not give away any financial resources, or deprive yourself of them in any other way in order to reduce your ability to pay your charges. If you do so, adult social care may regard these resources as still belonging to you. If you are in any doubt about your situation you should seek legal advice. You do have the right to seek independent financial advice.

The Finance Team will be happy to answer any questions and explain the charging policy if there is anything you do not understand.

All of our staff carry identification with them so please check this before allowing anyone into your home.

If you receive your services via Direct Payments you will still be required to undertake a financial assessment.

Financial assessment for care and support at home

If you receive care and support in a care home you will be offered a financial assessment to ascertain whether you will pay a client contribution rather than the full cost of your care package. A Financial Assessment Officer will come to see you/ your Financial Representative and look at your income and expenditure in order to calculate your weekly charge.

Paying for your care and support at home

If you receive a Direct Payment service, you will be asked to pay your client contribution directly into your Direct Payment account on a four weekly basis. If you do not receive a Direct Payment service, you will be invoiced by North East Lincolnshire Council for your contribution towards the cost of your care, this can be paid in two ways:

1. By standing order, which means the monies will automatically come out of your bank on a four weekly basis; or
2. By invoice. Your invoice will cover a four week period and this can be paid using a number of payment methods which will be listed on the back of your invoice.

Direct Payments

As part of your care and support at home, you may be receiving your services via a direct payment. This means that you are organising your own care and support. Your personal budget will be paid into a Direct Payment Card (DPC) account which you will manage yourself or a third party support service may do this for you. Your budget will be paid net (less any client contribution due) and you will need to pay your client contribution into the DPC account. The DPC account will be audited by a Direct Payment Officer in the Finance Team on a regular basis. If there are any discrepancies, it may result in your direct payment being suspended.

More information about Direct Payments can be found here - <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/health-wellbeing-and-social-care/adult-social-care/paying-for-your-care/direct-payments/>

Financial assessment for care and support in a care home

If you receive care and support in a care home you will be offered a financial assessment to establish whether you will pay a client contribution rather than the full cost of your care package. A Financial Assessment Officer will come to see you/ your Financial Representative and look at your income and outgoings in order to calculate your weekly charge. When someone resides in a care home, as part of the financial assessment process you have to be left with what is known as the Personal Expenses Allowance (PEA). Your Financial Assessment Officer will talk to you about this and how your charge will be calculated.



Paying for your care and support in a care home

You will receive an initial invoice from the Council and then you will need to make your payment direct to the care home. Details will be given to you as part of the financial assessment process and then the staff at the home will assist you with making your ongoing payments.

Deferred Payments

If you reside in a care home on a permanent basis and own a property, you may be offered a Deferred Payment. This means that you will pay a contribution towards your care and support and the difference between this and the full cost of care will be accrued against your property. In effect, you are receiving a loan. Once your property sells or you no longer require the service, the loan will be repaid from the proceeds of your house sale.

There are a number of instances where your property will be disregarded, such as spouse still remaining at home. Be aware, that there is an administration fee and interest is charged for a Deferred Payment. For more information, please contact the Finance Team.

Respite care

There is usually a contribution to be made for your respite stay according to your financial circumstances. The charge will be financially assessed using the care at home charging process and a care at home financial assessment will be completed. The amount you pay will depend on your financial assessment outcome and the maximum you will pay per week will be noted on your letter and notification.

On rare occasions a respite stay may need to be extended beyond 8 weeks and in these circumstances a full residential financial assessment will need to be carried out.

If you are in receipt of Attendance Allowance and your respite stay is extended beyond 4 weeks, you will need to inform the Attendance Allowance Unit on 0800 731 0122 of your situation.

Top-up payments

If you reside in a care home on a permanent or temporary basis, you may be asked by the care home to pay a top up payment. Please note, that in most cases, an individual receiving the care and support is not eligible to pay their own top up payment and a third party is required to make this payment. It is important to understand this process as if a top up payment fails, you may be required to move to a different care home where there is no top up payment in place. A top up payment does not cover eligible care and support needs and is paid for additional services so please ensure you discuss this in full with the Care Home and Social Work staff in order to ensure you are clear on what additional items you are paying for.

Capital over

If you have capital over the upper capital limit, which is currently £23,250 (2026), you will not be entitled to a financial assessment and will be expected to pay the full cost of your care. If you wish for 'Focus' to arrange your care and support at home, you will be asked to pay an administration fee to cover the costs involved. Currently, the Care Act 2014 does not allow 'Focus' to commission your care and support if you live in a care home.

Care arrangement fee (administration fee)

The Care Act allows local authorities to charge an administration fee for arranging care and support for someone in their own home when they have assets above the upper capital limit.

The Council charges an administration fee, which is due for payment when the care and support package has been arranged. This fee is to cover the costs involved in arranging care and support. The administration fee is payable each year, at the time of the individual's financial assessment. This fee is charged every year regardless of changes to the care and support received. The full fee is payable regardless of the length of time a service is in place for. Refunds are generally not offered where services are cancelled part way through a year.

Fees will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Adult social care income collection and debt recovery

If you do not pay your client contribution, you will receive reminder letters and phone calls to see what is preventing you from making payments. If your debt increases on a regular basis and there are no arrangements in place with the Finance Team, your case will be referred to our solicitors and court action may be considered/taken.

Planning for your future

It is important that while you have the mental capacity to do so, you think about who you would like to deal with your personal affairs should anything happen to you and you become incapacitated. You can do this by putting a Lasting Power of Attorney in place. This can cover finances and health and will mean that if the time comes when you are unable to make this decision, the person you want to do this for you will have the legal power to do so. If this process is not in place and you do become incapacitated, a Court of Protection Deputyship may be needed and this means that a Court decides who deals with your affairs. This process can be lengthy and may result in 'Focus' managing your financial affairs. It is important to put things in place early to safeguard yourself and those acting on your behalf.

Corporate Appointee Team

'Focus' offers a Corporate Appointee team. This team is responsible for looking after the financial affairs of those individuals that lack capacity, and who do not have anyone to do this on their behalf. The services offered range from becoming your benefit appointee right through to being your Deputy for Property and Affairs under the Court of Protection. If a Social Work Practitioner or other professional feels you need a Corporate Appointee, they will make a referral to the team and a member of the team will be in touch with you.

What we will need to see

It would be helpful if you could have the following information available for the Financial Assessment Officer.

Income

- Benefit Award Notification e.g. Pension, Income Support etc.
- Notification of Private (Occupational) Pension

Savings

- Building Society Books
- Bank Statements
- Details of stocks and shares e.g. TESSA, PEP
- ISA etc
- Any other financial investment evidence

Expenditure

- Rent Card
- Council Tax
- Mortgage details
- Receipts for disability costs

What you can expect from us when we visit you

- That anyone who visits you at home will have had the appropriate training and will be competent to undertake the financial assessment
- That we will treat you with courtesy and respect and will ensure that anything confidential will not be divulged without your consent (except in cases where it is required by law to do so, would prevent any harm to you and/or it is judged to be in the public interest)
- We will always give you our name and details of how to contact the service if you need to
- We will listen to you and respect your privacy and dignity at all times
- We will have clear, up to date identification which will be shown on arrival
- We will consult you about convenient times for visits to take place
- We will be visiting at the agreed time and if for any reason the visit does not take place or is delayed, you will be contacted as soon as possible

If you are in any way unhappy with the way our visiting staff have treated you, please contact the Director of Client Finance and Data.

You will be expected to provide accurate information relating to your financial affairs. Any false or non-disclosure of information will result in changes to your client contribution which may be backdated to your original financial assessment or to the date the information was provided.

Focus Independent Social Work CIC reserve the right to inform other relevant agencies about any financial wrongdoing.

Disability Related Expenditure (DRE)

It is not possible to give a complete list of DRE as this will vary according to individual needs. The overall aim is to allow for reasonable expenditure needed for independent living by a disabled person.

Primarily the Service User's Support Plan will guide the DRE, but allowances for expenses other than for care and support such as heating etc. will also be taken into account.

Any specialised equipment that is not normally purchased every month will be costed on an annual basis and divided into weekly equivalents and repaid over a reasonable period.

We will require receipts or similar evidence to back up claims for DRE, particularly for unusual items or heavy expenditure. If receipts are not available when the visit takes place you have 4 weeks to submit them. If receipts are not submitted within 4 weeks the claim will not be backdated.

Further details about DRE will be discussed with you as part of your Financial Assessment process.

Welfare benefits

Many people do not claim all of the benefits that they are entitled to. We are committed to helping people to get their full entitlement and will offer you a welfare benefits check and help you with any claims that need to be made.

Assistance will be provided, where required, to complete the appropriate benefit claim forms.

If you would prefer independent advice on benefit entitlement, the Financial Assessment Officer will refer the case, with your permission, to the appropriate agencies.

It is likely that your charges will increase if you get certain benefits, but for most people more than half of the extra benefits received are kept by them.

Change of circumstances

You need to report changes to your circumstances so you keep getting the right amount of benefits.

Your claim might be stopped or reduced if you do not report a change straight away or you give incorrect information.

Changes can include:

- going into hospital, a care home or sheltered accommodation
- any changes to your medical condition or disability
- changes to your pension, savings, investments or property
- changes to other money you get (for example student loans or grants, sick pay or money you get from a charity)
- changes to the benefits you or anyone else in your house gets

More information can be found at

www.gov.uk/report-benefits-change-circumstances

Reviews of financial assessments

To take account of increases in benefits, private pensions and the cost of living we will review your charge every year. This is known as financial re-assessment and you will be contacted when this is due.

Charges

The following care and support at home services will be charged for as stated in our Charging Policy:

- Home Care
- Day Care
- Transport
- Laundry
- Carers
- Direct Payments

Day care

Half day: £20.92

Full day: £41.84

Administration fee for arranging care

Per year: £170

Transport

Per single journey: £6.97

Care at home

Per hour: £22.80

*The above figures are correct as of May 2026. The latest figures can be found at www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk/social-care-handbook or contacting the Finance Team on 0300 330 2870.



What is “housing related” support?

- Help with managing budgets and bills or applying for benefits
- Help to maintain safety in the home
- Help to keep appointments, including someone to go with you if necessary
- Helping someone deal with other services they might need - skills training, further education, employment, health and social activities
- Assisting with planning weekly meals, shopping and food preparation

How much should you be paying for the Supporting People service you receive?

If you receive a “**short term**” service which is less than two years (for example, supported lodgings or hostel accommodation) no charge is made to you. Instead “Supporting People” pays the support charge. The Supporting People Team pays the money direct to your support provider (so they won’t ask you for it).

If you receive a “**long term**” service which lasts for more than two years (for example a sheltered accommodation) and are in receipt of Housing Benefit then the charge will be paid direct to the provider by Supporting People.

If you have not claimed Housing Benefit before, talk to your provider who should be able to give you some advice.

Your charge will commence from the start of your service.

If for any reason there is a delay in completing your assessment, your charge will be backdated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What Services do we expect to be charged for?

A. We charge for the following services

1. Home care
2. Day Care
3. Transport
4. Laundry
5. Direct Payments
6. Supported Accommodation

Q. Does everyone pay the same?

A. No. What you pay depends on your financial circumstances and services - Everyone’s charge is worked out individually after a financial assessment. If you are asked to make a contribution to the cost of your care, there are a number of ways to make your payment; your Visiting Officer will inform you of your options.

Q. How will you treat my partner's income and savings?

A. We will ignore your partner's income. If you share a joint account or joint ownership of assets with your partner we will only take into account your half share.

Q. Do I have to tell you if my income or savings change?

A. Yes as it may affect your charge. If you do not disclose a change it could result in your charge being backdated.

Q. What happens to information I give you?

A. We will use this to assess your charge and keep it confidential. More information can be found in the 'Keeping Your Information Safe' section of this booklet.

Q. Will my financial information be shared with anyone?

A. We only collect information for financial assessment purposes unless you give consent for this information to be shared. However, your information may be shared with other bodies administering public funds solely for the prevention and detection of crime (including fraud).

Q. What happens if I am unable to pay?

A. You must tell us if you are having difficulty in making payments.

Q. What do I do if I suspect any abuse, including financial abuse, of myself or any other person?

A. You can contact the Safeguarding Adults Team on 01472 256256 option 2 to discuss and register your concerns. This will then be dealt with by the appropriate person or agency. More information can be found in the 'Reporting Neglect or Abuse' section of this booklet.

Q. Who can I contact if I have any questions?

A. You can write, phone or email:

Focus Independent Adult Social Work C.I.C
Heritage House, Fisherman's Wharf, Grimsby, DN31 1SY

Telephone: 0300 330 2870

Email: focus@nhs.net

Appeals Process

Part of the conditions laid down in the Charging Policy is the right of service users to lodge an appeal on the grounds of their inability to pay. Details of how to appeal can be obtained from:

North East Lincolnshire Council
ASC Charging Appeals
Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN31 1HU

Telephone: 07918 569256

Email: nelc-asc-chargingappeals@nelincs.gov.uk

Complaints

If you are not happy with any aspect of the services you have received from us or the way you have been treated, speak first of all to the person you have been dealing with or their manager.

You can also contact a Complaints Officer on the address below:

North East Lincolnshire Council Feedback Team
Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN31 1HU

Telephone: 01472 326298 (option 2)

Email: feedback@nelincs.gov.uk

Self-funders

Self-funder Advice Note

This advice note is intended for anyone who has an eligible care and support need and has capital over the upper capital limit which is currently set at £23,250*.

This information will cover care and support in a care home and also care and support received in another setting (i.e. care in your own home).

Care and Support in a Care Home

If you have capital over £23,250* and receive services in a care home, you will be expected to self-fund your care until your capital falls below the upper capital limit. This means that you will be responsible for paying your care costs in full and your care home provider will inform you of what the weekly charge is set at. While you are paying for your own care, you may be entitled to claim Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) which are non means tested benefits which the government award to help you pay for additional care/items you require.

If you need to claim Attendance Allowance (AA), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment (PIP) please use the following telephone numbers or web link:

- **Attendance Allowance** - 0800 731 0122, Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm
- **Disability Living Allowance** - 0800 121 4600, Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
- **Personal Independence Payment** - 0800 121 4433, Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
- See www.gov.uk

As your capital gets closer to the upper capital limit of £23,250* please contact the Single Point of Access on 01472 256256 (option 2) in order for a referral to be made for an assessment of need. If you have eligible care and support needs, adult social care will help to fund your requirements once your funds fall below £23,250*.

Care and Support in Another Setting (i.e. your own home)

If you have capital over £23,250* or decide you do not wish to take part within the financial assessment process, you will be charged for the full cost of your care. This means that adult social care will not be able to assist you with the funding of your care, however; this does not affect your entitlement to receive an assessment of need.

If you have to pay for the full cost of care, this means that adult social care will not contribute towards your package so if for example you receive 2 carers to assist you with your needs, you will have to pay the cost for both carers that attend to you. You will not be covered by the 50% cap that has been applied to adult social care funded clients.

You may be entitled to claim Attendance Allowance/Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment which is a non means tested benefit which the government awards to help you pay for additional care/items you require.

- **Attendance Allowance** - 0800 731 0122, Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm
- **Disability Living Allowance** - 0800 121 4600, Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
- **Personal Independence Payment** - 0800 121 4433, Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
- See www.gov.uk

As your capital gets closer to the upper capital limit please contact the Single Point of Access on 01472 256 256 (option 2) in order for a referral to be made for a care assessment. If you have eligible care and support needs, adult social care will help to fund this once your funds fall below £23,250*.

Services That You Fund/Pay for Yourself

As a self funding client you will be able to choose which provider you wish to purchase your service from. Staff at Focus will be able to give you a list of providers that North East Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) contract with, however; this does not mean that you have to pick one of them. Focus staff will often be able to tell you if a service will meet your eligible need and they can also give you advice on what will happen when your capital falls below the upper capital limit and you are entitled to adult social care funding.

At the point of you entering adult social care services, you may not be able to continue with your provider of choice if they are not commissioned via the ICB. This does not mean that your needs will not be met, it just means that a different provider may be delivering the care to you.

If you pay the full cost of the services that you receive within your own home, you can have these arranged for you by Focus. There is an administration fee for us doing this for you. If you would like further information on this service, please contact the Single Point of Access on 01472 256 256 (option 2).

*The figures quoted in this booklet are correct as of May 2026. To confirm the latest figures, contact the Finance Team on 0300 330 2870 or go to focusadultsocialwork.co.uk.



Reporting Neglect or Abuse

What is Safeguarding Adults?

Safeguarding adults is the process of protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect and is primarily for those with care and support needs. These duties are set out in the Care Act 2014 and underpinned by the 6 key principles of empowerment, prevention, proportionality, protection, partnership, and accountability. These principles guide professionals and organisations in creating person-centred approaches that respect individual choices while ensuring safety and wellbeing.

Under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, a local authority must carry out (or arrange for someone else to carry out) a safeguarding enquiry when all the following apply:

1. The adult has care and support needs, whether or not these are being met by the local authority.
2. The adult is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
3. Because of their care and support needs, the adult cannot protect themselves from the abuse, neglect, or risk of harm.

The purpose of a safeguarding enquiry is to understand what is happening, identify any risks, and take any actions that are necessary and proportionate to help keep the person safe.

Types of abuse covered by Section 42

The Care Act identifies a wide range of abuse and neglect that might trigger a safeguarding enquiry, including:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Organisational abuse

- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Modern slavery
- Self neglect, including hoarding

These categories recognise that harm can be caused in many ways and that abuse may be caused by individuals, groups, or organisations.

Reporting a concern

If you believe that you or someone you know may be experiencing abuse or neglect, you can contact the Single Point of Access (SPA) on 01472 256 256 (option 2) for help and advice.

If a crime is happening, or someone is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical help, call 999 straight away. You do not need the adult's consent to make a safeguarding referral because the priority is to keep them safe, and their views and wishes will always be included later as part of the safeguarding process.

Once a concern is reported, and if the adult appears to meet the safeguarding criteria, the information will be passed to Focus's Safeguarding Adults Team for further triage and decision making. Where necessary, the concerns will be allocated for a formal safeguarding enquiry.

Safeguarding enquiries

A safeguarding enquiry looks at the concerns raised and helps everyone understand what is happening and what risks there may be. The enquiry keeps the adult at the heart of all decisions by listening to their views, wishes and what matters most to them. It then identifies what actions are needed, not only from the local authority but also from any other people or services involved, to help reduce risks and keep the adult safe in the least restrictive way.

What is Deprivation of Liberty?

A deprivation of liberty is when a person's freedom is restricted in a significant way.

This idea comes from Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which says that people should only have their liberty taken away through a proper legal process.

In health and social care, this may apply to people who cannot fully make decisions about their care or where they live.

Sometimes, keeping someone safe means their care includes restrictions, such as:

- being closely supervised,
- not being able to leave a place of care on their own,
- or having limits on day-to-day choices.

There is no single rule that decides whether someone is being deprived of their liberty. Instead, professionals look at the whole situation, including:

- what restrictions are in place,
- how long they last,
- and how they affect the person's life.

A person's wishes and feelings are always important. Even if someone has difficulty making decisions, they may still be able to agree to their care arrangements.

If a person is being deprived of their liberty, the law says this must be properly authorised to make sure it is necessary, proportionate, and in their best interests.

As of 2026, the legal system used in England and Wales to authorise this is the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Plans for a new system (Liberty Protection Safeguards) have not yet been brought into force.

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

If an adult aged 18 or over is staying in a hospital or care home, and the care they receive may restrict their freedom in a significant way, the local authority may need to authorise this using the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). DoLS is part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and was created to make sure that people who cannot make certain decisions for themselves are protected and that any restrictions placed on them are lawful and in their best interests.

How the DoLS process works

To decide whether someone's care amounts to a deprivation of liberty, the local authority appoints two trained professionals: a Mental Health Assessor and a Best Interests Assessor. Together, they carry out a number of assessments to consider whether the person lacks capacity to consent to the arrangements, whether the restrictions are necessary to keep them safe, and whether the arrangements are the least restrictive option available.

These decisions are made by looking at the whole of the person's situation. There is no single rule or checklist that determines whether someone is being deprived of their liberty. Instead, professionals consider all relevant factors, including how the person is cared for and how the arrangements affect their day-to-day life, in line with the current legal approach following the Supreme Court judgment in June 2026.

The Best Interests Assessor also considers the person's wishes, feelings, and beliefs, as well as their values and any views expressed in the past. They will speak with family members, friends, and others involved in the person's care to build a full picture. If the assessor decides that the arrangements are necessary, proportionate, and in the person's best interests, they will recommend that the local authority authorise the deprivation of liberty.

Length of authorisation and safeguards

If a deprivation of liberty is authorised, the local authority can approve it for up to 12 months at a time. During this period, the authorisation should be kept under review to make sure it is still needed and remains the least restrictive option for the person.

The person has rights to support and representation while the authorisation is in place. If the person, their family, or others involved in their care disagree with the arrangements, they have the right to challenge the decision. In such cases, the matter can be brought before the Court of Protection, which has the authority to make a final decision.

DoLS remains the current legal system

DoLS remains the current legal system for authorising deprivations of liberty in hospitals and care homes. The government has announced plans to introduce a new system known as the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS), but this has not yet come into force.

When DoLS cannot be used

DoLS only applies to hospitals and care homes. If a person is being deprived of their liberty in any other setting, such as in their own home, supported living, or other community placements, this cannot be authorised under DoLS. In these situations, authorisation must be sought from the Court of Protection. These types of arrangements are sometimes referred to as deprivation of liberty in non-standard settings.

Getting help or advice

If you would like help understanding deprivation of liberty or how the process works, you can contact the MCA/DoLS Business Team on 0300 330 2860.



You can watch the MCA mini-series on YouTube by scanning this QR code, or visiting the following link.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGHC5HcoR1_uwrB4gNb5lvqQcDiGh8u4u?

Deprivation of Liberty in Community Settings

Some people living in community settings, such as supported living, may be cared for in ways that significantly restrict their freedom. If the person cannot consent, the DoLS process cannot be used, because DoLS only applies in hospitals and care homes. In these situations, only the Court of Protection can authorise a deprivation of liberty.

What the Court of Protection does

The court looks at the person's care to make sure it is:

- Necessary to keep them safe
- Proportionate to their needs
- The least restrictive option
- In their best interests

If the court agrees that the arrangements meet these requirements, it can authorise the deprivation of liberty for up to 12 months. When the authorisation is due to end, the case must return to the court if the arrangements need to continue. This applies to people aged 16 and over.

Preparing a case for the court

When preparing an application, different professionals contribute information:

- A GP or other clinician provides a statement confirming whether the person has an unsoundness of mind, which is required for the court to consider a deprivation of liberty.
- The allocated worker (such as a social worker or care coordinator) completes the capacity assessment and support plan which provides the main documentation explaining the person's circumstances, needs and wishes alongside a clear description of the restrictions in place, an explanation of why they are necessary, proportionate, and in the person's best interests.

Once the court has reviewed all the information and is satisfied that the legal criteria are met, it can authorise the deprivation of liberty.

Why do some people have to wait a long time for a DoL to be authorised?

Many people experience delays because local authorities and the courts are dealing with far more cases than expected. This increase happened after a court ruling known as the Cheshire West judgment, which meant that more people now qualify for safeguards than before.

Because of this high demand, local authorities often have to prioritise the most urgent cases using recognised risk assessment tools. This can mean that people who have been receiving care for a long time, are settled, and have no current concerns may wait longer for their authorisation. Although these delays are not ideal, the risk to people in these stable situations is usually low, and local authorities continue to work hard to review and process cases as quickly as they can.

Both the DoLS process (used in hospitals and care homes) and the DoL in the community process (authorised by the Court of Protection) exist to protect people's human rights. The Government is considering changes that may simplify these systems in the future, which could speed up decisions and reduce the number of cases needing to go to court. Until any changes are confirmed, the current processes will continue.



www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk

In North East Lincolnshire, if you have any concerns about the care arrangements that have been made for any person, please contact their case manager directly or raise your concerns via the Single Point of Access on **01472 256256** (option 2). For any general queries about deprivation of liberty please contact the MCA/DoLS team on **0300 330 2860**.

Your Feedback

Help us to improve our service

We would like to hear your thoughts and opinions about the service you have received from Focus. This will help us to improve and develop your experience in the future. (Feedback can be given anonymously).

There are many ways you can provide us with feedback:



Online

Visit www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk and complete the online contact form.



Telephone

Please inform your assessor if you'd like a call back or contact us on 01472 256 256 option 2.



Face to Face

We endeavour to have regular open days for people to come and tell us their feedback. Date of our next open day can be found online.

Keeping Your Information Safe

Privacy Notice

Focus Independent Adult Work CIC is committed to protecting your privacy. As a statutory social work provider, we follow strict data protection standards, including compliance with:

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Data Use and Access Act 2025
- Caldicott Principles

We are committed to ensuring the security and confidentiality of the personal data we handle. Our data storage and retention practices adhere to the NHS Records Management Code of Practice (<https://transform.england.nhs.uk/information-governance/guidance/records-management-code/>)

For more information on how we process your information and for details on your rights and our policies, please see our full privacy notice at www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk/your-privacy.

You can also contact our Information Governance Team:

Phone: 0300 330 2940

Email: focus.data@nhs.net

Accessing Your Information

You have the right to access your information. You can do so by completing our online [data request form](#), or you can make your request via email, post, or in person. Please note you will need to provide ID or proof of your legal entitlement.

<https://www.focusportal.co.uk/data-request/>



focusadulthoodsocialwork.co.uk

How you can raise a concern

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our Information Governance Team on 0300 330 2940, via email at focus.data@nhs.net or write to using the address at the back of this handbook.

Alternatively, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office:

Information Commissioners office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Online: <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>

Phone: 0303 123 1113

Glossary

Abuse

Physical violence, verbal aggression, unwanted sexual contact, money or property taken without consent or under pressure, neglectful care or the deprivation of choice, and privacy or social contact.

Benefits Agency or Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

The Government Department that pays many of the state benefits that you might receive. Many still call it the DSS (Department of Social Security).

Care Quality Commission (CQC)

The independent regulator of health and adult social care in England.

Carer

An individual who provides unpaid support to a family member or friend who cannot manage without this help.

Client Contribution

The chargeable amount a person can be asked to make to their personal budget, subject to their available income and savings.

Commissioning

Process the ICB uses to plan and buy services for adults with care and support needs.

Community Based Services

Care and support services provided in the community rather than in hospital or residential homes.

Community Capacity Building

Activities, resources and support that strengthen the skills and abilities of people and community groups; both to take effective action and take leading roles in the development of their communities.

Court of Protection (COP)

The judicial body responsible for making decisions relating to the management of finances and other affairs of those individuals who lack the mental capacity to do so themselves.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Safeguards under the Mental Capacity Act (2005) that aim to protect people in care homes and hospitals from being inappropriately deprived of their liberty.

Direct Payment

Money payment made to people who need care following an assessment, to help them buy their own care or support and be in control of those services.

Domiciliary Care

Provided to people who still live in their own homes but who require additional support with household tasks, personal care or any other activity that allows them to maintain their independence and quality of life.

Equality

Adult social care is fully committed to ensuring that no-one is treated in any way less favourably on the grounds of personal differences such as race, colour, nationality, ethnic or social origin, gender reassignment, sex, sexual orientation, religious belief, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, caring responsibilities or political or other personal beliefs.

Extra Care Housing

Extra care housing is housing designed with the needs of frailer older people in mind; varying levels of care and support are available on site.

Financial Assets

Savings, Investments, premium bonds, money in the bank, cash, property and annuities.

Financial Assessment

You will be asked to give details of your financial circumstances to an officer for adult social care. These details will be used to work out your disposable income and the amount of money that you will have to pay.

General Data Protect Regulations (GDPR)

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) replaces the Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC and was designed to harmonise data privacy laws across Europe, to protect and empower all EU citizens data privacy and to reshape the way organizations across the region approach data privacy.

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Health and Wellbeing Board is an NEL Council committee, which has responsibility to ensure that the health of the local population improves, and to ensure that health and social services are co-ordinated. These and other responsibilities of the board are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Health Inequalities

Health inequalities are preventable and unjust differences in the health experienced by certain population groups. People in lower socio-economic groups are more likely to experience chronic ill-health and die earlier than those who are more advantaged. Health inequalities are not only apparent between people of different socio-economic groups they exist between different genders and different ethnic groups.

Hidden Carers

Many carers do not identify themselves as such, and are known as “hidden carers”.

Home Care

Help at home from paid carers for people with care and support needs.

Income

A regular payment, usually received weekly, 4 weekly, calendar months, half yearly or annually.

Integrated

An integrated service acts as a service hub for the community by bringing together a range of services, usually under one roof, whose practitioners then work in a multi-agency way to deliver integrated support to children, young people and families.

Intermediate Tier

Intermediate tier services are those provided on a time limited basis to help people discharged from hospital, or to prevent a hospital admission. Their aim is to re-enable people to regain their independence.

Key Ring Support Network

A supported living network made up of a number of ordinary homes for people who need support; a community volunteer lives in one of the homes and helps members. Paid workers are also available to give support.

Long Term Conditions

Long term conditions are health conditions that last a year or longer, impact on a person’s life, and may require on-going care and support.

Managed Budget

Where a person asks the council to directly provide them with services to the value of their personal budget.

Outcome

End result, change or benefit for an individual who uses social care and support services.

Personal Budget

A money allocation available to someone who needs support; the money comes from the Council's social care funding.

Personal Health Budget

A personal health budget is an amount of money to support a person's identified health and wellbeing needs, planned and agreed between the person and their local NHS Team.

Personalisation

New approach to adult social care that is tailored to people's needs and puts them in control.

Power of Attorney

The authority to act for another person in specified or all legal or financial matters.

Preventative Services

Services that involve early interventions to prevent long term dependency or ill health.

Reablement

Helping people to regain the ability and confidence to do some or all of the things they used to, such as cooking for themselves, bathing without help or getting to the shops.

Rehabilitation

Treatment or treatments designed to facilitate the process of recovery from injury, illness, or disease to as normal a condition as possible.

Residential Care

Care provided in a care home.

Respite

A time limited period away from home in a residential setting which could be for a few days or up to two weeks depending on the assessed needs of you and your carer. You will be notified on admission of the planned length of stay and given a date on which it is planned that you will return home.

Safeguarding

Protecting vulnerable people from neglect or physical, financial, psychological, verbal or other forms of abuse.

Safeguarding Adults Board

The Safeguarding Adults Board focuses on the core safeguarding agenda - prevention, identification, investigation and treatment of the abuse of vulnerable adults. It develops safeguarding policies and procedures, participates in the planning of safeguarding services, gives guidance and direction to those responsible for service delivery and champions good practice.

Self-directed Support

Self-directed support is about people being in control of the support they need to live the life they choose.

Service User

An individual who is in receipt of social care services.

Social Enterprise

A business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose.

Solution

The most appropriate method of meeting an individual's needs.

Supported Living Schemes

Schemes that help adults to live as independently as possible in the community.

State Benefits

Money paid, by an agency of the Department of Social Security, such as the Department of Works and Pensions, or Disability Living Foundation Unit.

Support Plan

This is a document that sets out what services or help you need and who will do these things.

Supporting Evidence

Birth, Marriage or Death Certificate, bank books or statements, benefit books or pay slips that confirm personal details such as full name and date of birth and the sort and amount of financial assets that you hold.

Think Local Act Personal

Think Local Act Personal is a group of over 30 national partners that are committed to real change in adult social care. Their goal is for people to have better lives through more choice and control over the support they use; often referred to as "personalisation".

Third Sector

Voluntary or not for profit sector.

Time Banking

Time banking is designed to support people who help others, and to offer support to those that need it. Every hour spent doing something for somebody, generates a time credit. Each time credit can then be exchanged for an hour of someone else's time.

Urgent Care Team (*formally Rapid Response*)

A service that focuses on preventing avoidable hospital attendances and admission, treating and supporting individuals who have gone into crisis whether they have a health or social care need.

Vulnerable Adult

A person aged 18 or over who may be unable to take care of themselves, or protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to mental health problems, disability, sensory impairment, frailty or other conditions.

Wellbeing

Health and happiness.



Focus

**Empowering individuals
to live independent lives**

01472 256 256

focus@nhs.net

www.focusadultsocialwork.co.uk

Focus Independent Adult Social Work
Heritage House
Fisherman's Wharf
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN31 1SY

For booklet amendments or additional copies
please contact Focus on 0300 330 2883 or email
focus.comms@nhs.net

Focus Handbook V9.3 July 2026

Registered number 8604885, A company limited by guarantee,
registered in England and Wales.