



North

Yorkshire County Council

# Assessments



Information for families who are having an assessment with Children's Social Care

[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

## What is assessment?

Either you, or someone on your behalf, has asked for help with some difficulty which affects your child or children.

Before we can help we need to know more about you and your family. We need to collect information, talk it over with you and agree what needs to be done. This is an assessment.

## Types of assessment

The amount of information gathered depends on the kind of help being asked for and the nature of any concerns.

### **Initial assessment**

A brief assessment on any child referred to Children's Social Care with a request for a service. It should be completed within 7 working days.

### **Core assessment**

An in depth assessment where more detailed information is gathered. It looks at the wider picture, focussing on the child's needs in the context of their family and the wider community.

A core assessment should be completed within 35 working days.

Where specialist assessments are required as well, we recognise that the timescale will be longer.

## Who does the assessment?

A social worker from the Access and Impact team in Children's Social Care will carry out the initial assessment.

Core assessments are also undertaken by social workers from Children's Social Care but the team they are attached to will depend on the reason for the assessment.

## What happens?

Firstly a social worker will meet with you and your family and hear what you have to say. They will also need to see the child or children, ideally on their own to get their views.

For an initial assessment the social worker will only need to visit once or twice.

For a core assessment a number of visits will be needed. It is usual in a core assessment for the social worker to meet other important people to the family, such as grandparents if they are close. This helps us to understand the whole picture.

## Who else will you talk to?

The social worker will talk to other people who know you and your family, such as teachers, health visitors and doctors.

## What if I don't want you to talk to someone?

You should tell the social worker if there is someone you don't want them to contact.

## Will we know what is said about us?

You will be asked for your written consent to obtain and share information.

The leaflet 'About Social Care Records' explains how we collect and look after information that is personal to you and about your rights to see this information and have copies made. It also explains that there may be information that cannot be shared but that you will be informed of this and there is a process to appeal.

## Can we have our say?

Yes. You have a right to have your say and we welcome your views at every stage. Your views and those of your family will be clearly recorded in the assessment.

## What happened when the assessment is finished?

The information is put together into a report. This will be shared with you and the social worker will give you a copy.

If we think we can help, we will sit down with you to agree how we can do this. Together we will agree a plan or what we want to achieve and how we will go about it.

## What you can expect from our staff

- We will listen with an open mind and be honest with you – we hope you will do the same.
- We will always put your child's safety first. We will tell you openly if we have concerns and support you keeping your children safe.
- We will focus on strengths and positives as well as things that need to change.

We hope that we can work with you to do this assessment. If there is anything that you do not understand, or you have any questions, please ask the social worker.



If you wish to call in personally with your social care enquiry, general information and direct contact to Customer Services is available in the following locations:

### **Harrogate**

Harrogate Library and Information Centre, Victoria Avenue, HARROGATE. HG1 1EG

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.30am to 7.00pm, Thursday & Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm

### **Ripon**

Ripon Library and Information Centre, The Arcade, RIPON. HG4 1AG

Monday and Friday 9.30am to 8.00pm, Tuesday 9.30am to 1.00pm, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday 9.30am to 5.00pm

### **Northallerton**

Hambleton District Council, Civic Centre, Stone Cross, NORTHALLERTON. DL6 2UU

Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5.15pm, Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm

### **Scarborough**

Scarborough Borough Council, Customer First Centre, Town Hall, St. Nicholas Street, SCARBOROUGH. YO11 2HG

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm, Wednesday 9.30am to 5.00pm

### **Selby**

Housing Reception, Civic Centre, Portholme Road, SELBY. YO8 4SB

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8.30am to 5.00pm, Wednesday 10.00am to 5.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.00pm

### **Skipton**

Craven Town Hall, SKIPTON. BD23 1AH

Monday to Thursday 8.45am to 5.15pm, Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm

## **Contact us**

**North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD**

Our Customer Service Centre (social care enquiries) is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Tel: **0845 034 9410** email: **social.care@northyorks.gov.uk**

Or visit our website at: **www.northyorks.gov.uk**

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

Tel: **01609 532917** Email: **communications@northyorks.gov.uk**

