

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 23 October 2017

Subject: Care Needs Assessments

Question PQ01 submitted by: Daphne Havercroft

1. For each council - Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, what are the target timescales for carrying out care needs assessments and what are the achievements against the target?
2. For each council - Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, what are the target timescales for issuing written decisions following a care needs assessment and what are the achievements against the target? !
3. Are there any national timescales for conducting care needs assessments and issuing written decisions? If so, what are they? (According to Age UK, the Local Government Ombudsman has said that a reasonable time for an assessment should normally be between four and six weeks from the date of the first request).

Reply from Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council

- There is no target timescale for carrying out an assessment. When we are contacted by someone, a member of our social care team will have an immediate conversation to help identify what sort of help they need and how to access it. If the person requires a more detailed assessment from a Social worker this is passed on to one our area teams who will arrange this with the person. We would prioritise this depending on the circumstances or potential risk.
- We do not have a target timescale for issuing a written decision following a care needs assessment, but we would expect the assessment to be shared quickly, as soon as the assessment is completed.
- The Care Act:
The Care Act specifies steps that the local authority must take for the purpose of ensuring that the assessment is carried out in an appropriate and proportionate manner;
- Statutory Guidance:
6.29 An assessment should be carried out over an appropriate and reasonable timescale taking into account the urgency of needs and a consideration of any fluctuation in those needs. Local authorities should inform the individual of an indicative timescale over which their assessment will be conducted and keep the person informed throughout the assessment process.