



# Parent Carer Assessments

Pan Bedfordshire Briefing

# What is a Parent Carer Assessment?

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- A **Parent Carer Assessment** is an assessment of the needs of a parent who is providing care to a disabled child. It is a statutory right under the **Children and Families Act 2014** (Section 97) and must consider both the **wellbeing of the parent carer** and the **impact of their caring role**.
- The local authority must assess if:
  - It appears that the parent has needs for support.
  - The parent requests an assessment.
  - The local authority is carrying out an assessment of the disabled child.
  - This is distinct from a *Carer's Assessment* under the **Care Act 2014**, which applies to carers of adults.

# Purpose of the Assessment

The aim is to:

- Understand the **needs of the parent carer**.
- Identify how caring affects their **health, wellbeing, employment, and relationships**.
- Explore the support needed to enable them to continue their caring role, and to have a life outside of caring.

It must consider:

- Whether the parent is willing or able to continue providing care.
- The **impact of caring** on their wellbeing.
- The outcomes the parent wishes to achieve (e.g. education, work, social activities).

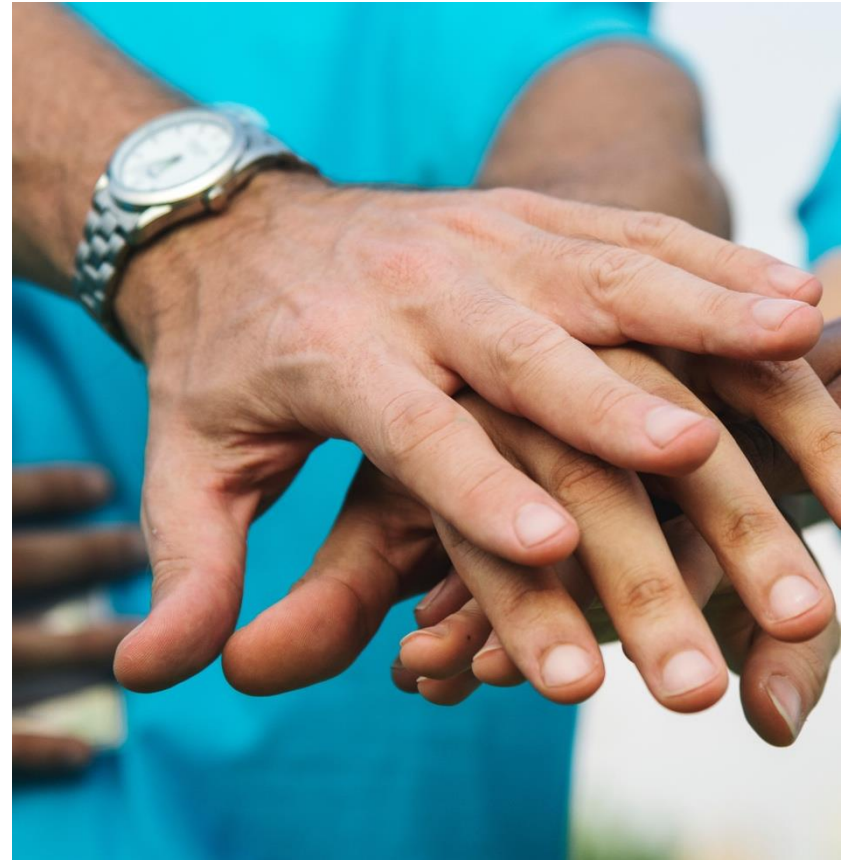
# When Can It Be Used?

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Parent Carer Assessments can be used:

- **On request** by the parent carer at any time.
- When the local authority becomes aware that a parent may have needs for support.
- As part of or alongside an **assessment of the disabled child**.

*It is **not conditional** on the parent providing a minimum number of care hours or having a specific diagnosis for the child.*





# Key Points for Practice

- It must be **offered proactively** where it appears a parent carer may have support needs.
- Should be **person-centred**, involving the parent carer throughout.
- Can lead to support for the parent (e.g. respite, practical help, advice, or signposting).
- The local authority must provide a **written record** of the assessment and any decisions made.

# Legal Framework

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- **Children and Families Act 2014** (Section 97)
- **Care Act 2014** (for carers of adults – not directly applicable here)
- **Working Together to Safeguard Children** and relevant local guidance.

