

What happens next?

The Department of Community Services (DCS) is responsible for carrying out your assessment under the FACS criteria.

DCS is responsible for making sure the right services are provided, which have been agreed as a result of your assessment and which will help you to carry out your role as a parent.

You may be offered the money to organise your own care arrangements (“direct payments”).

There are some disabled parents whose children may be eligible for services from Children & Families, in addition to parenting enabling support from DCS because their children have been assessed as being ‘children in need’.

In these situations there will be a worker from (DCS) and one from Children & Families to support you all.

The Care Manager or Care Co-ordinator who visits you will give you any appropriate information.

Information for Disabled Parents

This document was published by
Wiltshire County Council.
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This publication can be produced, on request, in other formats and languages. Please contact the Publicity & Information Officer.

Introduction

This booklet explains Wiltshire County Council's shared approach to working with disabled parents and their children.

A Joint Working Protocol was written in 2005 for the:

- Department of Community Services (DCS) Adult Social Care Teams
- Mental Health Trust Community Teams within Wiltshire
- Community Teams for People with Learning Disabilities
- Department for Children and Education, Children and Families Teams

We know that some disabled parents will be worried that by asking for help they might be seen as not coping with their children.

The aim of joint working is to support families in a non judgemental way, ensuring that the needs of all family members are taken into account.

Services will be provided to meet these needs in partnership with the parents.

Are you a disabled parent?

You may have a:

- learning disability
- physical or sensory impairment
- long term and/or chronic illness
- mental illness
- drug and alcohol-related difficulty

Most disabled parents look after their children with the support of family and friends, without needing either Adult or Children & Families services.

Some disabled parents may need help and assistance in their parenting role if, as a result of the disability or illness, they cannot completely meet the needs of the children.

How does your disability stop you doing some of the things you would like to do as a parent?

When you are being assessed by your Care Manager or Care Co-ordinator s/he will ask you about your children and whether there are any tasks you need help with. This could include things such as:

- Bathing and dressing
- Preparing meals and help with feeding
- Support or assistance with activities inside and outside the home.

Are you eligible for services to support you?

As DCS receive more requests for help than there is available funding to cover, they use the criteria under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) to decide:

- Who should get a service
- In what order of priority
- How services can best be provided
- Whether DCS will provide the service or suggest another more appropriate organisation.

This is to ensure that people in greatest need will get most help.

What do you need to do?

If you think you might be eligible and would like someone to come and assess or re-assess you under the current FACS criteria you should:

- Contact your Care Manager/Care Co-ordinator at your local team office
or
- Contact the Social Care Helpdesk
Tel: **01225 713001**
Email: schd@wiltshire.gov.uk