

Top 10 tips to the FACS guidance: what does this mean for practice?

1 An individual seeking or referred for help with a social care need, regardless of their impairment, is entitled to a FACS assessment that is fit for purpose.

2 An individual's financial situation must not pre-empt or influence the assessment of their social care needs. Eligibility assessment always precedes financial assessment.

3 Assessments and support planning are focused on ways to achieve agreed outcomes, not driven by needs or impairments.

4 Do not filter individuals out too quickly on too little information.

Further investigation may reveal eligible needs behind lower level 'presenting' needs.

5 Think prevention, early intervention, wellbeing and safeguarding: they can prevent or delay needs escalating.

6 Think signposting, information and advice as routes to wider choice, whether or not the individual is likely to be eligible for publicly funded support.

7 Think personalisation to promote greater choice and control for individuals, and sustain options for carers.

8 Think beyond adult social care services. Suitably adapted housing, smart technology and equipment, improved healthcare, greater benefits take-up and community support can all help to delay or avoid the need for care.

9 Think self-directed support, direct payments, personal budgets and co-production as the means to achieve more flexible, personalised solutions.

10 Recognise carers and personal and community networks as valued partners in care. Providing support for them is a worthwhile investment.