



People in prison

Information for those with eligible care
and support needs



People in prison

People detained in a prison or approved premises in Wandsworth are entitled to an assessment of their eligible care and supports needs from the council, this may include:

- help with personal care, such as washing and dressing
- help with daytime activities if it is difficult to meet others and take part in social activities
- help with getting around if it is difficult
- equipment and adaptations
- help with care and support to assist with education
- help during meals, such as with eating

Are you eligible?

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In order to be eligible a person must be:

- aged over 18 in Young Offender Institutions or prison such as Wandsworth Prison
- residents of an approved premises, such as a bail hostel
- a person who had to move from their usual home as a condition of bail in criminal proceedings.

Rights to advocacy

The council has a duty to assess and respond to the care and support needs of adult prisoners. If you are a prisoner in Wandsworth prison or approved premises, you are entitled to the same level of independent advocacy than if you were living in the community. However, this is dependent on the co-operation of the prison in allowing access for independent advocates.

Your rights to an assessment

As a prisoner you have the same rights as people living in the community, with some exceptions. The assessment will look at your care and support needs and evaluates any risks to your independence and wellbeing if those needs are not met. The assessment will look at:

- Support you need to help you explain your situation
- Any support you currently receive
- Your health conditions and disabilities
- Personal care (eating, dressing, washing, etc.)
- Day-to-day activities, such as preparing food, cleaning and shopping
- Mobility and moving around
- Managing paperwork and your finances
- Social relationships and activities
- Work, training, education and volunteering
- Your living situation

- Your mental health and wellbeing
- Safety and risks

There are some differences in how prisoners are supported compared with people living in the community. For example:

- direct payments, prisoners cannot have a direct payment.
- the council will not be responsible for investigating safeguarding incidents in prisons. These are the responsibility of the prison.
- prisoners can't choose their accommodation, except when this is being arranged for after their release.
- the council will not have to protect the property of adults in prison or approved premises with care and support needs.
- You are not eligible to be assessed as a carer whilst you are in prison.
- If you have been sectioned or receiving after care from Mental Health Service from another local authority they will remain responsible for these services and we will work with them to support you.
- Continuing Health Care needs will be met by health services

How to ask for an assessment

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If you think you may need help from the council for your care and support needs, speak to the prison officer assigned to your floor. They will help you complete a form and contact the council for you to request an assessment to see if you have any eligible needs.

The assessment will either be carried out by a social worker or occupational therapist (OT) who will meet with you at the prison or the

premises you are detained at, to carry out an assessment.

You may also want a member of your family, spouse or partner to be involved in your assessment. You will need to talk to the person carrying out your assessment about this.

Paying for services

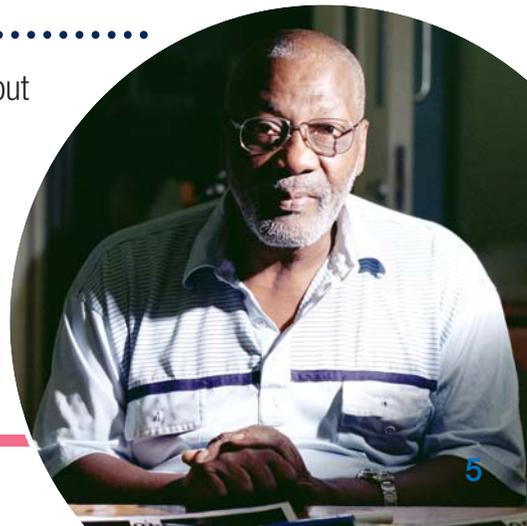
If you qualify, you may have to pay for or contribute towards the cost your care and support . You will need to complete a separate financial assessment so we can work out what you can afford to pay towards the cost. The financial assessment will look at:

- income
- savings above £23,250
- Capital such as a house

The person helping you with your assessment will also help you complete the financial assessment.

Sharing Information

Where we need to share information about your care and support needs outside of the prison or approved premises we will ask your permission to do so. If you do not give your permission, you should be aware that this may limit our ability to meet your eligible needs.



Transitions from children's to adult care and support and leaving care

If you are a young person moving from a youth justice provision to adult prison services and have eligible care and support needs, we will assess your needs as part of the transition process.

If you are in the care of a local authority and aged between 18 and 21 then your supporting council will remain responsible for your leaving care service. We will work with you, the prison and existing council about these services.

Your care and support needs if you transfer during your sentence

During your sentence, if you transfer from a prison or approved premises in Wandsworth to a prison or approved premises in another council area then the other council will become responsible for your care and support needs. The new council may assess your needs before you move.

Wandsworth will let the new council have a copy of your care and support plan and communicate with you, your current prison and the new one to ensure your continuity of care.

If you are transferred within Wandsworth to an alternative provision we will remain responsible for your care and support needs.



What happens when you are discharged

When you are discharged from prison and you have an existing care and support plan, this can be sent to the new council in the area you are moving to. This is called a resettlement plan. The council for the area you are moving to may carry out a re-assessment with you at a later stage. We will work with the council for the area you are moving to and the prison on your resettlement plan.

If Wandsworth Council is not initially aware that you have been discharged you can ask your local council to contact Wandsworth Adult Social Care to provide a copy of your care and support plan.

If you are being discharged within Wandsworth then we will work with you to carry out a further assessment of your care and support needs in the community.

Complaints and Appeals

As with people in the community you have the right to complain if you remain unhappy about the way you have been dealt with by the council or the outcomes of our decisions.

Speak to the prison officer on your floor if you want to make a complaint or you can write or phone:

Statutory Complaints Manager
Freepost RTKU EGLA ZZGT
Room 149, Town Hall
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PU

Email: ssdcomplaints@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Our contact details

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Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Telephone: (020) 8871 7707

SMS Phone: 07940 775107

Email: accessteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Website: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/adultsocialcare

Write to us at:

Wandsworth Council
Adult Social Care
Wandsworth High Street
London, SW18 2PU

For information on local services please visit CarePlace
www.careplace.org.uk

If you have difficulty understanding this publication and you would like this leaflet in a different language, large print or Braille please call:
(020) 8871 7707

For information on our Privacy Notice please visit
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/privacy

