



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care



Partners in Care  
and Health

# Digitising and streamlining assessments webinar series – proportionate assessment approaches

## Hosted by:

- Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for adults
- Hannah Scaife and Sarah Range, PSW network co-chairs

## Guest speakers:

- Jak Savage, Social Care consultant
- Chris Erskine, PSW, Lincolnshire
- Dr Anita Mottram, Principal Occupational Therapist, Kirklees

# Agenda

1. Introduction, purpose and aims of guide - Lyn Romeo
2. Personal experience of reviews - Jak Savage
3. Principles of proportionate approaches - Hannah Scaife and Sarah Range
4. Reflections of the guide, reasonable adjustments, and ideas for practice - Jak Savage
5. Using the principles in practice:
  - Trusted Assessments in Lincolnshire - Chris Erskine
  - OT perspective, Kirklees examples - Dr Anita Mottram
6. Open discussion – what current practice looks like and identifying innovation



# **Introduction**

**Lyn Romeo, Chief Social Worker for Adults**

# **Personal experience of reviews**

**Jak Savage, Social Care Consultant**

# **Principles of proportionate assessment approaches**

**Hannah Scaife and Sarah Range, Co-Chairs, Principal Social Worker for Adults Network**

Where  
social work  
comes into  
its own...

‘...is to identify personal, **desired outcomes**, **existing needs** and the **impact** of those needs on the person’s individual **wellbeing**.

It is fundamental in the upholding of a person’s human rights, and in maintaining or improving their quality of life.

Building a relationship with a person, their family and networks, assessors will gather and share information to co-produce a holistic picture of the person’s strengths, hopes, feelings and needs. The assessment should enable consideration, judgement and planning around risk and crisis.”

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# What do we mean by 'proportionate' assessment?

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**Proportionate does not mean less  
or short....**

“To act proportionately is to provide the right level of response to suit the needs of the person, the situation or the level of risk.”



**PSW**  
**NETWORK**

## Key Principles



Always anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and anti-oppressive practice

Wellbeing Principle is key- Strengths-based and person-centred

Adherence to the Care Act 2014 & the Human Rights Act 1998

Enabling person's choice, control and safety

Purposeful flexibility

Equality, diversity and inclusion





## **Context is Key**

**For and with people and carers...**

### **National backdrop-**

- Increasing demand, capacity issues
- Importance of good supervision arrangements
- Right mix of skilled workforce available so that social workers can spend quality time working alongside people and their carers

# Assessments...

## Method

Face to face- In person

Online self-assessment

Supported Online Self-Assessment

Virtual Assessment

Combined Assessment

Joint Assessment with another agency or professional

Trusted or delegated

## Factors in Choosing Method

- Work with the person 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost- what do they want?
- Think about autonomy and enabling control
- Representation or advocacy if required
- Complexity, urgency or intervention

# **Reflections on the guide**

**Jak Savage, Social Care Consultant**

# **Using the principles in practice**

**Chris Erskine, Principal Social Worker, Lincolnshire**

# TRUSTED REVIEWER PILOT

"I have found this experience to be empowering"....."this has the potential to change adult care for the better"

"I have seen the positive changes it could have on the lives of people".....



Why? to free up much needed capacity-break cycle of failing to get support due to availability.



Recognises that carers know the person well and bring knowledge and skills



Workshops for providers led by the Principal Social Worker, Practitioners and the Commercial Team



Over 60 reviews completed to date across 3 providers;



Co-production-working hand in hand with providers and practitioners to help us develop



Working to embed TEC first and Strengths based approaches trusted review



People are saying they would be happy for the provider to lead the review in the future.



Overwhelmingly people felt included in conversations and that they discussed what was working well

**Seen as a regional lead, our possible next steps include a wider trial across all zones; varying the types of review such as following discharge or 6 week review**

# **Using the principles in practice**

**Dr Anita Mottram, Principal Occupational Therapist, Kirklees**

# Background

- SCOT – change of practice 2020
- Initially 2.4 FTE OT
- Now 8.1 FTE and 3 Assistant Practitioner
- “Not a traditional OT team model”
- Care Act compliant assessment or a more proportional assessment if working jointly with social care colleagues.
- Trusted assessors for housing assessments

# Referral remit

- *Does the individual state that they are having difficulty with activities of daily living, or their home situation and require further assessment to avoid the need for the provision of a POC?*
- Risk assessment tool used to determine speed of response
- Front door team – have wellbeing conversation which may further divert some referrals
- Supporting hub assessors
- DOLIC challenges – in conjunction with SW/CASO



# Performance data

	2021-2	2022-3
Number of referrals	556	658
Number with no hub input	249	309
Cost avoidance - POC	£671,622	£731,831

# Impact on the client

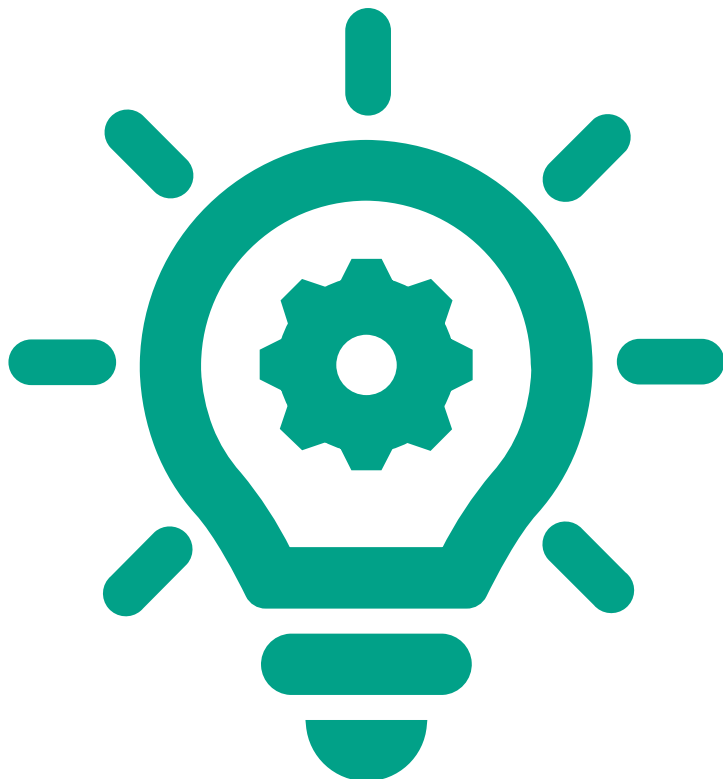
- Reduction in the number of people assessing them
- Reduction in the number of times they tell their story
- Enable them to remain as enabled as possible in their home of choice and to live their life in a way that matters to them
- Prevent, reduce or delay the need for statutory services
- Promote meaningful occupation to reduce reliance on more intrusive services
- Risk reduction e.g. falls prevention
- Promote carer resilience

# Impact on colleagues

- Duty rota – offer advice and support to colleagues either over the phone or via email to help inform practice
- Performance data – prevent referrals going through to hub, closing hub referrals
- Prevent referrals to housing services
- Prevent POC where other solutions will meet needs, thereby increase capacity of other services who support these requests

Open discussion – what current practice looks like  
and identifying innovation

# Open discussion on what current practice looks like and identifying innovation



1. What is your experience of implementing proportionate assessment approaches?
2. What has worked well to address specific strategic challenges that you are facing?
3. What types of proportionate approaches work at different stages of the assessment process?



# Useful links



SCIE Training [www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/legal-impact](http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/legal-impact)



Proportionate assessment guide [Proportional assessment approaches: a guide from the Chief Social Worker for Adults and principal social workers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342222/Proportional_assessment_approaches_a_guide_from_the_Chief_Social_Worker_for_Adults_and_principal_social_workers_-_GOV.UK.pdf)



CSW Social Work with Adults blog <http://socialcare.blog.gov.uk>



Carer's assessments webinar [www.scie.org.uk/transforming-care/webinars/carers-assessment-process](http://www.scie.org.uk/transforming-care/webinars/carers-assessment-process)



# We are planning a series of webinars on the following topics

## Topic

Online Care Needs Assessments good practice guide

Trusted Assessments – Lincolnshire case study

New Local – case study on how physio waiting times had been reduced

Mental Health policy

- Are there other topics that would be helpful?
- Do you have anything that is working well in your area that we could include in this series?





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