



Care Act 2014 eligibility: Fluctuating needs

Background

Mr X is an elderly man living alone in a one-bedroom flat on the ground floor in sheltered accommodation. He has a small but supportive family network, and a good network in the sheltered accommodation community.

Mr X has multiple sclerosis and support from the local authority, but the condition has a significant impact on his life, despite the care he receives from his care and support plan.

As a result of his multiple sclerosis, Mr X has mobility issues, relying on a walking frame and rollator to get around, which he successfully manages for the majority of the time. With some difficulty and support from his family he manages to get to the local shops to buy food, which he can prepare and eat himself. He is house-proud, and mostly maintains his flat to the standard he was used to when his partner was alive, as well as managing his personal care.

Mr X is tired by the effort of looking after himself, but with the support his family are able to provide he is generally able to cope. His family, a daughter and son, live locally and have full-time work commitments and young families, which limits the amount of support they can provide. This means they practise a rota system to ensure he receives their care and support on a regular basis.

Mr X suffers occasional severe relapses in his condition. During these times he is almost totally immobilised, unable to sit up, get out of bed or care for himself, occasionally totally losing the sight in his left eye. These episodes are rare, never occurring more than two or three times a year, but when they do Mr X needs



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round-the-clock support, for periods of between one and three weeks. His family do their best to support him in these events but they are finding it increasingly difficult to provide this level of care on the occasions when his condition and needs are most extreme.

Mr X has recently experienced a fluctuation in his needs. This went on for longer than previously and his family were concerned about his safety as they found it difficult to cope. Mr X discussed his anxiety during this period with his daughter and son, and with the warden in the sheltered accommodation. They told him of their concern for his safety and the warden suggested he approach the local authority. Mr X requested an assessment of his needs and asked for support as he was worried about his safety if his condition fluctuated in the future and the distress this would cause his children.

Preparing for an assessment



Please consider the following questions in relation to the legal duties for the Care Act 2014.

- What needs to be taken into account to ensure the assessment is appropriate and proportionate?
- How will you ensure a strengths-based approach has been applied?
- How do answers to the first two questions above affect the way this assessment is conducted?



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- Who will be involved with the assessment?
- In preparing for the assessment, what additional issues or obstacles need to be considered (if any) – and how can they be dealt with?
- Have you considered the individual's needs over an appropriate period of time to ensure that they have all been accounted for?
- What is the impact on the whole family? Should there be a carer's assessment?
- What else might you need to think about with regards to rights, justice and economic wellbeing in this example?

Exercise adapted from SCIE website:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/assessment-and-eligibility/practice-examples/fluctuating-needs.asp>