In April 2015 the Care Act 2014 will replace many of the existing pieces of legislation which are currently used to shape how social care is arranged in Britain. The intention is that the Care Act will make it easier for the public to understand why things happen in a particular way.

At the moment local councils have to follow various pieces of legislation when working with older people, people with physical health problems and disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, and those who look after such people.

Some of this legislation is described on other pages in this section (see left-hand menu) or in other areas of this site.

On this page we explain the main legislation relating to a person’s right to have an assessment from a council, and to the services which a council may then provide:

- **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948**
- **CHRONICALLY SICK AND DISABLED PERSON’S ACT 1970**
- **NHS AND COMMUNITY CARE ACT 1990**
- **COMMUNITY CARE (DIRECT PAYMENTS) ACT 1996**
- **COMMUNITY CARE (DELAYED DISCHARGES) ACT 2003**

For more information on how to request an assessment from your local council click [here](#).