

**Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/281**

**Subject: NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) Standard Assessment Process**

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to NHS Continuing Healthcare (CHC) within NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board for the period 1 November 2024 – 31 October 2025:	
<b>1. Checklist and Assessment Numbers</b>  a) The number of completed CHC <b>checklists</b> submitted by health or social care professionals in the past 12 months.  b) Of those that met the threshold for a full CHC assessment, how many proceeded to a full Decision Support Tool (DST) assessment?	a) Checklists submitted 01/11/2025 – 31/10/2025 = 1721 b) 1041
<b>2. Policies or Guidance on ‘Optimisation for Assessment’</b>  a) Please provide any internal or published ICB policies, guidance, protocols or standard operating procedures referring to patients being “optimised for assessment.”  b) Please confirm whether this concept is referenced in your CHC eligibility procedures and, if so, where it derives from in national guidance.	The ICB’s operational practices are in line with the National Framework for Continuing Healthcare and Funded Nursing Care, which is available at the following link: <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64b0f7cdc033c100108062f9/National-Framework-for-NHS-Continuing-Healthcare-and-NHS-funded-Nursing-Care_July-2022-revised_corrected-July-2023.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64b0f7cdc033c100108062f9/National-Framework-for-NHS-Continuing-Healthcare-and-NHS-funded-Nursing-Care_July-2022-revised_corrected-July-2023.pdf</a>

	<p>The Framework addresses at various points that an assessment of longer-term care needs should take place at the right time and location, once a person has reached a point of recovery, where it is possible to make an accurate assessment of their longer-term needs.</p> <p>For example, a specific reference to a person being optimised can be found in paragraph 121 on page 41 of the Framework:</p> <p><i>121. There will be many situations where it is not necessary to complete a Checklist. These include where:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The individual has short-term health care needs or is recovering from a temporary condition and has not yet reached their optimum potential</i></li> </ul> <p>Enclosed with this response is an example standard operating protocol in use within BNSSG, which provides a guide for staff around the CHC assessment process.</p>
<p><b>3. Assessment Outcomes</b></p> <p>a) How many full CHC assessments (DSTs) were completed in the last 12 months?</p> <p>b) Of those, how many resulted in eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding?</p>	<p>a) 1041</p> <p>b) 134</p>

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 24 November 2025 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***

### All Age Continuing Care Decision Making Process Map

It is recognised that staff working within the All Age Continuing Care services (AACC) in the Funded Care Team (FCT) require a decision making framework to support their daily practice. Whilst clinical accountability for the patients' health and their provision of care is retained by the GP and care provider respectively, the nurses working as assessors and care co-ordinators within the FCT are responsible for using their professional judgement to ensure decisions are clinically safe, effective, least restrictive, equitable, sustainable and person centred. This decision making is guided by the BNSSG ICB Commissioning Policy, and underpinned by the National Framework for either Continuing Healthcare (CHC) or Children and Young People's Continuing Care (CCC/CYP), The Care Act. Staff are supported with training, effective leadership and through local Policy and supervision forums. This process map gives an overview of the process devised to support staff and provide governance and quality assurance in decision making

