



Assessment services - what to expect

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is based on the belief that all people do what they do for a reason. The reason for doing a 'positive behaviour support' (PBS) assessment is to help us really understand who a person is so that we can work out why they are doing the things they do, and how we can best support them to achieve a good quality of life.

This involves looking into their background, observing the person firsthand, talking to the person's family, support staff, friends or others who are or have been in their life.

Specific details about your service is included within the service agreement. The following gives a general outline on what you can expect from your LCA consultant. We welcome any questions you may have about what we're doing and how we go about the assessment. Our approach is totally based on the person's need, so the order in which we do things changes from person to person.

First steps

The first step is to make contact with everyone involved to talk about;

- Reason for doing the assessment
- Approximate timeline for completion. We aim for the assessment to take 4 months and will let you know if it's going to be longer
- Developing a general understanding of the current situation and most pressing issues.

We then arrange to do at least 3 observations of the person at their home and where they spend their day.

We will meet with everyone (e.g. at care team meetings and staff team meetings) to collect information and to workshop support documents (e.g. anxiety scales, response strategies, sensory strategies). Throughout the assessment, key people will be updated on the progress of the assessment and any changes to original timeline.

The following information is needed so that we can get a really thorough understanding of who the person is, and their background. This helps us to make sense of what is going on for them now, and how we can best support them to live a better quality of life. We will be asking for copies of;

- Previous reports: this could include psychology assessments, communication assessments, sensory assessments, other behaviour assessments, school reports, etc.
- Current documents (e.g. Behaviour Support Plans, Person Centred Plans, Individual Support Plans)

- Medical information
- Incident reports
- information collection around specific behaviours of concern

Help we need from you

LCA consultants can't complete the assessments without the support of everyone involved in our client's lives. We need your help with collecting background and current information, with practical arrangements for client visits, meetings and updates on any changes. The following is a list of ways you can assist us to speed up the assessment process and improve the final assessment.

- Information is given in a timely manner.
- Adequate notice of meetings
- Access for client observations (to be negotiated with assessor)
- Collect data requested, and to return data to consultant as agreed
- Provide copies of incident reports fortnightly/monthly or as planned
- Update consultant within reasonable timelines any planned/unplanned changes to:
 - Client behaviours of concern
 - Members of care team
 - Meeting dates and times
 - Contact details
 - Accommodation/ day activity arrangements

Completion of assessment

Once the assessment is completed a comprehensive PBS report is provided. We will meet with everyone to discuss the PBS report and recommendations. You will have an opportunity to give feedback on the PBS report before it is finalised. Easy to use support materials which might include individual profile, anxiety scale and sensory reports are also provided at this time.

Expected outcomes from the assessment process

1. Detailed understanding of the individual's background including relevant history, diagnosis and implications, health, current situation and skills/interests.
2. Clear explanation on the meaning of the person's behaviour and the things which make the behaviour more or less likely to occur.
3. Suggestions for steps the team can take to improve quality of life for the individual, including strategies that lead to positive engagement and reduce behaviours that are concerning.
4. A general understanding of PBS and why we use this approach.
5. Where applicable, identification of behaviour support legislative requirements and ways to meet these obligations.