



NATIONAL  
ORGANISATION  
FOR  
FASD

# FASD Policy Matters

## DHSC FASD HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From the  
Department  
of Health

### Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Health Needs Assessment for England

Published 9 September 2021

“The government  
recognises the  
importance  
of FASD”

## What is a needs assessment?

This identifies the needs of:

- People with FASD
- Their carers and families
- People at risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies

This means,  
no one can  
tell you FASD  
doesn't matter  
ever again!



It highlights priorities for improving healthcare.

# It identifies 5 key needs:

1

We need to understand how many people have FASD. We need better studies.



2

Professionals in health and social care, education, justice and industry need to understand how to support people with FASD **throughout their lives.**



That last bit is important. The Department of Health officially recognises that “FASD is a lifelong condition”

This can help you fight for services when you need them

# Priority needs (continued)

3

Health professionals need to be more aware of FASD.



They need better training about FASD and understand how it's relevant to their work.



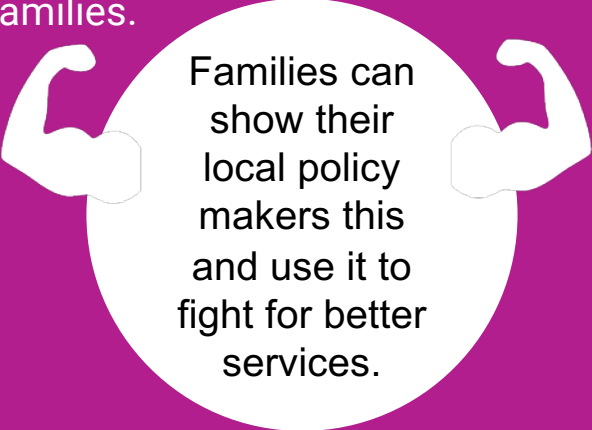
They also need to explore their own perspectives on alcohol.

”The neuro-developmental problems associated with FASD can create great difficulties for individuals in their childhood that persist throughout life. Impaired ability to learn, remember, make judgements and forward plan make day-to-day life very challenging”

# Priority needs (continued)

4

Services need to be organized better to be more accessible for people with FASD and their families.



Families can show their local policy makers this and use it to fight for better services.

5

Better ways to support people with FASD are needed.



“No single approach will suffice”

“FASD is a complex, multi-faceted health problem”

“Receiving an early diagnosis can reduce the chances of adverse life outcomes”



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“There is evidence that a wide range of effective interventions can be deployed in healthcare setting, schools and the community”

“Supporting the individual means understanding their particular strengths and limitations, and a deep understanding of the unique context of their life”

“There is no  
‘mild’ FASD”



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# The FASD Health Needs Assessment says your input matters!

“The voices of people with lived experience are important.”



There is a whole section about how important meetings with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer and others were, and how important it was to share our views and research. National FASD was proud to work with other members of the FASD UK Alliance to make this happen.

# So what does this mean?

**Times are changing!**



If someone is denying you access to diagnosis or support, you can tell them doing nothing about FASD is no longer an option.

Tell them the Department of Health and Social Care has identified priority areas for improving care for people with FASD.

**Give them this link:**

<https://tinyurl.com/FASDNeedsAssessment>

Tell them a NICE Quality Standard on FASD has been published. It's time to get serious about FASD.

**Any questions?**



You can find us at **@NationalFASD & info@nationalfasd.org.uk**

