

Guidance questions which could be used during an assessment

Listed below are examples of questions to ask where you are concerned about someone's safety in their own home, where you suspect a risk of self-neglect and hoarding? The information gained from these questions will inform a Hoarding Assessment and provide the information needed to alert other agencies. Most clients with a hoarding problem will be embarrassed about their surroundings so adapt the question to suit your assessment with the person.

How do you get in and out of your property, do you feel safe living here?	
Have you ever had an accident, slipped, tripped up or fallen? How did it happen?	
How have you made your home safer to prevent this (above) from happening again?	
How do you move safely around your home (where the floor is uneven or covered, or there are exposed wires, damp, rot, or other hazards)?	
Has a fire ever started by accident?	
How do you get hot water, lighting, heating in here? Do these services work properly? Have they ever been tested?	
Do you ever use candles or an open flame to heat and light here or cook with camping gas?	
Do you smoke inside?	
Do you use drugs or alcohol?	
How do you manage to keep yourself warm? Especially in winter?	
When did you last go out in your garden? Do you feel safe to go out there?	
Are you worried about other people getting in to your garden to try and break-in? Has this ever happened?	
Are you worried about mice, rats or foxes, or other pests? Do you leave food out for them?	
Have you ever seen mice or rats in your home? Have they eaten any of your food? Or got upstairs and be nesting anywhere?	
Can you prepare food, cook and wash up in your kitchen?	
Do you use your fridge? Can I have a look in it? How do you keep things cold in the hot weather?	
How do you keep yourself clean? Can I see your bathroom? Are you able to use your bathroom and use the toilet ok? Have a wash, bath? Shower?	
Can you show me where you sleep and let me see your upstairs rooms? Are the stairs safe to walk up? (if there are any)	

What do you do with your dirty washing?	
Where do you sleep? Are you able to change your bed linen regularly? When did you last change them?	
How do you keep yourself warm at night? Have you got extra coverings to put on your bed if you are cold?	
Are there any broken windows in your home? Any repairs that need to be done?	
Because of the number of possessions you have, do you find it difficult to use some of your rooms? If so which ones?	
Do you struggle with discarding things or to what extent do you have difficulty discarding (or recycling, selling, giving away) ordinary things that other people would get rid of?	