**Duty to promote welfare (Section 11):**
explains the duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare, imposed on a wide range of bodies including children services local authority, police authority, NHS foundation trusts, district councils.

Does not introduce any new functions, applies to how they carry out existing functions, taking into account the need to safeguard.

**Interpretation of need:**
- there is no absolute duty to meet needs of every individual child, local authority should take reasonable steps, make provisions they consider appropriate. (system of prioritisation).

Local authority sets out its own priorities, identify different levels of provision:
- low level = advice and counselling, referrals, support groups.
- high level = family support, accommodation provisions.

**Assessment procedure:**
Local authority first assesses needs of the child and produce care plan, provide identified services. *Oversimplified*

Eligibility criteria were often linked to the concept of risk but otherwise there was great inconsistency in way authorities interpreted ‘need’.

- full picture of child’s circumstances
- assessment should be rooted in child development
- involve children AND families, build on strengths as well as identifying weaknesses and have inter-agency working.
- General areas assessed = child’s developmental needs, parenting capacity, family and environmental factors.

Child developmental needs = health, emotional and behavioural development, education, identity, family and social relationships, social presentation, selfcare skills.

Parenting capacity = basic care, emotional warmth, guidance and boundaries, ensuring safety, stimulation, stability.

Family and environmental factors = family history and functioning, employment, wider family, income, social integration, housing, community resources.

Common Assessment Framework (CAF) provides common approach to needs assessment. May be completed by health visitors, social worker or other professional.

Local authority duties to support children and families:
- Take reasonable steps to prevent children suffering ill-treatment or neglect (Sch 2. Para 4)