

SAG03 Client Information
Sheet (April 2022)

SAGE (Safer Driving with Age) Assessment



Is SAGE for you?

We all know that as we grow older changes happen.

Our eyesight is not as good as it was when we were 20 years old, and we are not so physically mobile. Our reactions slow down a bit and we may not be as good at judging things like speed and distance. Obviously things like this may have an affect on our driving. But as older drivers we have lots of experience, and we can probably spot a danger on the road sooner than we could when we were 20. But it isn't only us that have changed. The roads have changed too. They get busier by the day, new traffic systems have been introduced, and there are many more road markings now. Cars have changed also. They can travel much faster, accelerate quicker and are so much more comfortable!

Our driving changes too. Are we as good as we were? Are we as safe? Do we avoid driving at night? Do we avoid new places when it is likely to be busy? It is very likely we may need to have our skills honed.

There are other ways to travel rather than driving, but most people like the freedom of their own car. So if you want to continue to drive, it is very important to keep your driving standards up.



SAGE is designed to help people keep on driving for as long as it is safe to do so.



SAGE is running very successfully in other parts of the Country and hundreds of older drivers are gaining huge benefits by attending a SAGE Driving Assessment.



SAGE is now being run in County Durham and Darlington, Is SAGE for you?



The SAGE Assessment

The SAGE assessment has three stages:

- 1** confirmation that there is no medical condition that would prevent you from driving
- 2** an eyesight check
- 3** an assessed drive with a friendly driving assessor

Medical Conditions: please see page 3. Your driving assessor will contact you to arrange a convenient time to carry out the driving assessment.



Important

In order to help keep you and our assessors safe from COVID and similar infections, please read and comply with the following requests:

Immediately before your assessment, please make sure your car interior is clean and free of any personal items that the assessor may need to come into contact with such as spectacle cases, drinks containers and the like. Please consider using anti-bacterial wipes especially on the areas around the front passenger seat. Whilst it is not mandatory, we recommend and encourage the use of face coverings (unless exempt) for both you and the assessor during the assessment. The meeting and debriefing phases will usually take place outside the vehicle to minimise close contact time. Please do not be offended if the assessor also sanitises their immediate surroundings when entering the car.

Help

If you feel you need more information about this assessment, please contact the Road Safety Team on **03000 268172** between **9:00am and 3:00pm Mon-Fri.**

Meeting your Assessor

When you meet your assessor, he or she will **check that you can read a number plate at 20.5 metres** (that's 22 yards). This is a legal requirement for all drivers, young and old. You will have a drive in your own car on roads you know well and use regularly. The drive will last about 40 minutes and your assessor will talk through with you any points about your driving that are necessary. **Your assessor will explain everything** about the assessment to you and you will see all the comments and markings the assessor makes. **Within a few days you will receive a full written assessment and a SAGE certificate.**

How much will it cost?

The full SAGE assessment costs **only £17.50**. A small price to pay to ensure your future safety.

Medical Conditions

Please read the list of medical conditions below. If any of the conditions apply to you then you **MUST** consult with your GP regarding your suitability to continue to drive. You should also consult with your GP regarding any medication you are prescribed, or have purchased over-the-counter, to ensure your driving will not be affected.

- Epilepsy, fits or blackouts, severe and recurrent disabling giddiness
- Diabetes controlled by insulin or tablets
- Any heart condition
- Persistent alcohol misuse/dependency
- Persistent drug misuse/dependency
- Parkinson's
- Narcolepsy or sleep apnoea
- Stroke
- Brain surgery, brain tumour
- Any chronic neurological condition
- Serious memory loss or confusion
- Serious psychiatric illness

If you have any serious doubts about your fitness to drive, you **MUST consult with your GP.**

