

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PEOPLE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

9 July 2014

**ADULT CARE ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD CHANGES FROM HIGH-
MODERATE TO SUBSTANTIAL**

Scoping Report

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the scope of the Adult Care Threshold Changes from High-Moderate to Substantial scrutiny review.

2. Information and Analysis

An individual's eligibility for statutory support is determined following an assessment. Under Section 47 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to assess the needs of any person for whom the authority may provide or arrange the provision of community care services and who may be in need of such services.

As part of the assessment, information about an individual's presenting needs and related circumstances should be established and recorded. The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 requires that, having conducted the assessment, councils must decide whether a person's needs call for the provision by it of any community care services. Councils have to use a national eligibility criteria framework to draw up their own eligibility criteria. These should then be used to identify the needs which call for the provision of services (eligible needs) according to the risks to independence and well-being, both in the immediate and longer term. There are five levels of Fair Access to Care Services in Derbyshire – Low, Moderate, Higher Moderate, Substantial and Critical.

Section 13 of the Care Act 2014 contains provision for regulations to set a national minimum threshold for eligibility. It is anticipated that this will be set at an equivalent level to the current 'Substantial'. The implementation of the new national framework is currently expected to be in place with effect from April 2015.

Cabinet agreed to the recommendation to increase eligibility thresholds on 17 June 2014. The Council's proposals that were subject to consultation will take place with immediate effect.

The scope of the review will focus on the scrutiny of implementation and the monitoring the impact on individuals. The review will have the following lines of inquiry:

- **Eligibility for Social Care: impact**

- Scrutiny will receive reports every quarter on the numbers of people in the Higher Moderate category who have been assessed. The report will include the outcomes of the assessment (how many stayed the same, moved up or down) and if they remained in the Higher Moderate category or fell, what alternative support was offered?
- What are the impacts on other local authority / public agency services (eg NHS, voluntary and community sector, Police, Fire) for those people who remained in the Higher Moderate category? This will involve the working group requesting information about people who are no longer eligible and their contact with other services.

- **Financial impacts**

- Scrutiny will receive reports every quarter on the financial reports to ensure the Council meets its income/savings expectations of between £2.25m-£4.57m / £6.07m.

- **Human Resource impacts**

- How is the change in eligibility threshold impacting on the capacity of social workers?
 - How are social workers managing the assessment process?
 - What are the numbers of people being assessed by social workers?

- **Fairer Charging (Co-funding)**

- Scrutiny will receive reports every quarter on the numbers of people who have been re-assessed and the impact on the cuts programme.

3. Potential Information Sources

Consultation reports regarding:

- Changes to eligibility for Social Care budgets
- Housing Related Support Services
- Introduction of Adult Social Care Transport Policy

National statutory guidance:

- Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other Non-Residential Services (Dept of Health, June 2013)
- Fairer Contributions Guidance – Calculating an Individual's Contribution to their Personal Budget (Dept of Health, November 2010)

Current Derbyshire County Council policies:

- Co-funding
- Contribution

4. Timescales

The authority will start to assess relevant people on their eligibility straight away. A programme board has been established to oversee the implementation.

It is anticipated the review will start in September 2014. The review includes regular updates on the implementation and impacts of the changes to eligibility of social care. Therefore it is proposed that this becomes a standing item on the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – People agenda from September 2014.

5. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- That the scoping report for the Adult Care Threshold Changes from High-Moderate to Substantial scrutiny review be approved
- Members receive quarterly reports on the outcomes and the financial impact of the threshold changes to eligibility
- That a Member working group be established to undertake the review of the impact on other local authority / public agencies and social workers of the threshold changes to eligibility

COUNCILLOR DIANE CHARLES
CHAIR OF PEOPLE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE