



Leicester
City Council

**MINUTE
EXTRACT**

Minutes of the Meeting of the
SOCIAL SERVICES AND PERSONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Held: WEDNESDAY, 10 MARCH 2004 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Gill - Chair
Councillor Mrs Chambers - Conservative Spokesperson
Councillor Getliffe -Labour Spokesperson

Councillor Garrity

Councillor Nurse

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Ms S. Bray – Voluntary Sector
Mr J. Scruton – Voluntary Sector

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Suleman – Cabinet Link Member

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80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interest they may have in the business to be discussed and / or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act applied to them.

There were no declarations.

86. FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES ACCESS, ELIGIBILITY AND PROVISION OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

The Corporate Director of Social Care and Health submitted a report addressing the requirement to determine eligibility for services under the Government's guidance on Fair Access to Care Services, which was introduced at the start of 2003/04. The national eligibility framework consisted of four bands that described the seriousness of the risk to an individual's independence if their assessed needs for support were not met. The banding determined which eligible needs would be met, and which would be referred for preventative services and/or signposting. At present, the Department's

threshold of eligibility for adult services was placed at 'substantial' and 'critical' with needs classed as 'moderate' or 'low' not met. It was stated that once Cabinet had set the threshold it would be legally binding and could not be changed during the year with resources needing to be allocated to meet the threshold which meant that a delicate balance needed to be struck. It was noted that 81% of new assessments during the year fell above the threshold; the assessments carried out had been monitored and were felt to be robust.

Members referred to the need to acknowledge the role of the voluntary sector in assisting people with needs not met under the threshold. The issues which arose when people in receipt of services were re-assessed and were found to no longer meet the threshold were acknowledged and the need for sensitivity in such cases was stressed.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the Scrutiny express their support for the continued setting of threshold criteria at levels assessed as 'critical' or 'substantial'; and
- 2 that the report be noted.