



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**  
**All Wards (City-wide issue)**

**FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:**  
**Social Services Scrutiny Committee**  
**Cabinet**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2006**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006**

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**FAIR ACCESS TO CARE SERVICES**  
**ACCESS, ELIGIBILITY AND PROVISION OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

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**Report of the Corporate Director, Adult & Community Services**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report addresses the requirement to determine eligibility for services under the Government's guidance on Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). The guidance was introduced at the start of 2003/04.
- 1.2 The national eligibility framework consists of the following four bands that describe the seriousness of the risk to an individual's independence if their assessed needs for support are not met: -
- Critical
  - Substantial
  - Moderate
  - Low
- 1.3 The Council is required to reach an annual decision on where to place the threshold that determines eligibility across all adult and older person's social care services
- 1.4 At present, the Department's threshold of eligibility for adult services is placed at 'substantial' and 'critical'. The banding determines which eligible needs will be met, and which will be referred for preventative services and/or signposting.

**2 Recommendations**

**2.1 Social Services Scrutiny Committee**

Scrutiny Committee is requested to express their views on the proposal that the Council should continue to place the threshold of eligibility at 'substantial' and 'critical' as set out in Appendix A.

## 2.2 Cabinet

Cabinet is requested to agree that the threshold of eligibility should be placed at 'substantial' and 'critical' as set out in Appendix A.

## 3 **Report**

- 3.1 Immediately prior to introduction of the guidance in 2003/04, the Department undertook a large scale staff training programme in order to ensure that workers at all levels were fully informed about the new criteria and were able to apply them appropriately. This approach was further supported through the introduction of a new policy and practice guidance document issued to appropriate staff.
- 3.2 Steps have been taken to ensure that the eligibility framework is built into the development of CareFirst (the Department's electronic information system). This is to enable effective performance information to be collated to indicate the extent of risk being addressed, types of needs and the circumstances being provided for.
- 3.3 The Department has set up a Project Programme Board, which will oversee and coordinate the introduction of several interrelated policies. These include F.A.C.S., Single Assessment Process and Electronic Social Care Records. This work will be ongoing throughout 2006/2007.
- 3.4 Information collection systems set up to monitor F.A.C.S. activity, indicate that in the current year (up to January 2006), approximately 96% of adult assessments/reviews undertaken have resulted in a new or continued service being provided i.e. the assessed needs fell within the 'critical' and 'substantial' bands referred to in paragraph 1.2 above, and therefore above the line of eligibility for 2005/06.

This figure compares with 93% eligibility recorded for 2004/2005.

- 3.5 As an ongoing part of the Council's commitment to achieve the Equality Standard for Local Government, the F.A.C.S. policy was chosen as the subject for an Equality Impact Assessment. This was completed in July 2004 and was reviewed in June 2005. The following conclusions were reached:
- (i) The policy does not have any detrimental effect upon "fairness of service allocation" on the grounds of Ethnicity, Religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
  - (ii) The policy has improved fairness in some areas, e.g. lowering the threshold for assessment.
- 3.6 In order to further improve understanding of the Policy, a public information leaflet has been produced which is available in both hard copy and on the Department's intranet site. Although public consultation on the establishment of F.A.C.S criteria in Leicester has already taken place, there will be a repeat of the consultation exercise in the course of the next financial year.

## 4 **Headline financial and legal Implications**

### 4.1 Financial Implications (Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance)

The FACS framework provides the Council with a legitimate and transparent means of determining resource allocation and eligibility for service based on the availability of resources. Although there are pressures on the Community Care (Commissioning) Budgets, it is expected that the expenditure will be contained within the overall Departmental Budgets. The Council would face serious financial difficulties if it were to seek to provide care services to meet the needs of people whose circumstances have been assessed as presenting a moderate risk to their independence.

### 4.2 Legal Implications (Guy Goodman, Head of Community Services Law - ext 7054)

The legal implications arising from this report are fully explored accurately by the authors in the Supporting Information

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#### **DECISION STATUS**

<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Reason</b>	Significant effect on one or more wards
<b>Appeared in Forward Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Executive or Council Decision</b>	Executive (Cabinet)



**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL – ADULT & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**

← PRESENTING NEEDS →

<b>A S S E S S M E N T  P R O C E S S</b>	<p><b>CRITICAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life is, or will be threatened;</li> <li>• Significant health problems have developed or will develop;</li> <li>• There is, or will be, little or no choice and control over vital aspects of the immediate environment;</li> <li>• Serious abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur;</li> <li>• There is, or will be, an inability to carry out vital personal care or domestic routines;</li> <li>• Vital involvement in work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• Vital social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• Vital family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SUBSTANTIAL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is, or will be, only partial choice and control over the immediate environment;</li> <li>• Abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur;</li> <li>• There is, or will be, an inability to carry out the majority of personal care or domestic routines;</li> <li>• Involvement in many aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• The majority of social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• The majority of family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.</li> </ul>	<b>↑ T H R E S H O L D  F O R  S E R V I C E S</b>	<p><b>MODERATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is, or will be an inability to carry out several personal care or domestic routines;</li> <li>• Involvement in several aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• Several social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• Several family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken..</li> </ul>	<p><b>LOW</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is, or will be, an inability to carry out one or two personal care or domestic routines;</li> <li>• Involvement in one or two aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• One or two social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained;</li> <li>• One or two family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.</li> </ul>	<b>A S S E S S M E N T  P R O C E S S</b>
	← <b>ELIGIBLE NEEDS</b> →	← <b>PREVENTATIVE SERVICES, ADVICE, GUIDANCE, REFERRALS TO OTHER AGENCIES</b> →				

