

# Change to adults' social care eligibility



## Stakeholder information

June 2011

### Change to our eligibility threshold

In March 2011 following careful consideration of the comments and representations made throughout a public consultation, the Cabinet Member took the decision to change the eligibility threshold for adults' social care to only fund people's substantial and critical needs.

The decision was taken against the backdrop of severe financial pressures and the need for the County Council to make £79 million savings over the next three years. The findings from the consultation which ran from 25 November 2010 to 3 February 2011 are available on our website: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/adultcarechange](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/adultcarechange). Eligibility criteria are based on the levels of risk to a person's independence.

### What's different now?

Since 1 April 2011, the County Council no longer funds people's moderate social care needs.

a small number affected and we will be reassessing these customers from October 2011.

### Allocation of resources

The way in which resources are allocated to individuals (the Resource Allocation System) has been reviewed to reflect the change to the eligibility threshold. This means that moderate level needs will no longer 'score points' – only substantial and critical needs. Customers who have a range of needs which include some moderate level needs will, therefore, be affected by a reduction in their personal budget.

There have also been some adjustments to the way we allocate funding as part of the annual review of the Resource Allocation System. We have changed the way points are distributed to make sure people's personal care needs are prioritised.

## How will it affect people?

### New customers

All new customers will be assessed against the new eligibility threshold. If they are assessed as only having low or moderate social care needs they will be given advice and information and signposted to alternative services.

### Existing customers

All those who currently receive funded adults' social care are being reassessed. The reassessments are due to be completed for all customers by the end of September and are being carried out by social care workers. No changes to people's support arrangements will take place until a reassessment of their needs has been undertaken. Customers with a range of needs will only have their substantial and critical needs met. We will no longer fund their moderate needs.

Those who are reassessed as only having moderate needs will be supported by their social

care worker to make alternative arrangements. The period of time needed to make alternative arrangements will be based on people's individual needs and abilities. It is expected that most customers will be able to make alternative arrangements within six to eight weeks.

### Carers

Social care workers will consider carers' needs when assessing/reassessing individuals. Carers are entitled to an assessment in their own right. They can also access information, advice and assistance from carers' support services.

### Nursing and residential care customers

It is unlikely that customers in nursing or residential care homes will be affected by the change to the eligibility threshold as most people have substantial or critical levels of need. Nevertheless, we are aware that there could be

## How will it affect stakeholders?

### Referrals

If you are considering making a referral to us please be aware that we now only fund people's substantial and critical social care needs.

### Signposting

We will signpost people who are not eligible to receive funded social care support to alternative services. This may include services provided by your organisation. Organisations should also direct customers to alternative services in the local community as appropriate.

## Services

There will be an increase in demand for services in the community from people no longer eligible for social care support. In addition,

customers seeking value for money can purchase services from voluntary, community and independent sector providers using their personal budgets.

We are working with voluntary and community sector providers to develop services and day activities in the community for people with moderate and low level needs.

# Alternative services to support people

**So that we can continue to meet our obligations to people in need we are reshaping our services so that the effects of the changes to the eligibility threshold are minimised. Here are a range of new initiatives that are being developed and, together with existing services, they will support people with moderate and low level needs to maintain their independence.**

## 1 Prevention and Wellbeing Programme

**Health and Wellbeing Hubs** provide free information, help, advice and signposting to healthy lifestyle services to all adults. The locally based hubs provide a central point of contact for wellbeing information and a database of local resources. They help people access a range of support activities provided by local groups and voluntary and community organisations. Hub services are already in place in Arun, Chichester, Crawley and Mid Sussex. The Adur, Horsham and Worthing hubs will be in place by September 2011. Until then, people will be able to use existing support services in the community.

**Prevention and Assessment Teams** will set up to help older people, adults with physical and sensory impairment, acquired brain injury and carers, to stay healthy and remain independent at home. These multi-agency teams include health advisors, social care workers, and support workers from local voluntary organisations and will usually work with people who do not receive services from specialist health care teams or social care services. The teams provide information and advice and identify the support required to help an individual and/or their carer stay independent, to prevent or delay the need for more intensive services. The team covering the Shoreham,

Worthing and Littlehampton area is now up and running with two more open by September 2011.

## 2 Promoting independence

We are also focusing on promoting independence through our current services. We will provide time limited and free activities for older people and those with physical and sensory impairment whose needs are at risk of increasing to substantial within 12 weeks of their assessment. For example, Regaining Independence Support Service, Occupational Therapy, Sensory Rehabilitation as well as Community Equipment and Telecare.

## 3 Supporting people with learning difficulties

The County Council is committed to ensuring that there are services available for people with learning difficulties which promote and maintain wellbeing and independence, and prevent a future need for eligible social care services. A range of services are already available and further services are being developed with the support of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board. For example, 'My Network', which will be available in main locations across the county, will provide information, advice, and opportunities to socialise and take part in activities. Some one-to-one support will also be available.

## Further information

[socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk) or phone **01243 642555**

**For more information about the alternative services, please contact the following people.**

- Learning Difficulties:  
**Katie.Glover@westsussex.gov.uk**  
Phone 01903 839069
- Mental Health:  
**Tom.Insley@westsussexpct.nhs.uk**  
Phone 01903 708016
- Older People, Physical and Sensory Impairment, Acquired Brain Injury:  
**Lorna.Hart@westsussex.gov.uk**  
Phone 07990 681427

- Carers: **Kathryn.Howard@westsussex.gov.uk**  
Phone 01273 268873
- Prevention and Wellbeing Programme (includes the Health and Wellbeing Hubs and Prevention Assessment Teams):  
**Sally.Moir@westsussex.gov.uk** / Phone 01243 756623
- Promoting Independence:  
**Dee.Christie@westsussex.gov.uk** / Phone 01243 756826
- Eligibility criteria: **Jenny.Burnett@westsussex.gov.uk**  
Phone 01243 777656