

April 2011

Dear Colleague

Fair Access to Care Services (FACs): Raising the eligibility threshold

As you may be aware, Somerset County Council has raised the eligibility threshold for adult social care in Somerset from “moderate” to “substantial”. This took effect on 1st April 2011.

Why have we made this change?

In Somerset, the numbers of adults who need our support is growing year on year. Changing the eligibility threshold for adult social care will help us manage this increased demand in the future so that we can focus our resources on those with the highest levels of need. It will also bring us in line with 75% of councils in England who already set their threshold at “substantial”.

What does it mean for new service users and carers?

New adults who enter social care services from 1st April 2011, will only be eligible to have support or resources paid for by Somerset County Council if their needs are assessed as *substantial* or *critical*.

What does it mean for existing service users and carers?

Adults who already receive services or resources that are paid for by us will have their needs reassessed as part of their routine annual review process to determine whether we can continue to offer them services that meet their needs. If people are no longer eligible for support from us, we will make every effort to direct them to other forms of support, for example through universal means or opportunities in the community. This will be done in a planned way. Care will not be stopped suddenly.

Where can I find more information?

Our new policy, associated guidance and resources for the public are available to view online at www.somerset.gov.uk/facs. This information includes an “A4 Fair Access to Care Services Information Sheet” with details of the process to follow if anyone disagrees with the results of their reassessment.

Contd.

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Please cascade this information in your organisation as appropriate.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miriam Maddison'.

Miriam Maddison
Corporate Director - Community