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**Meeting:** Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 24 January 2011  
**Subject:** Update on the Revised Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care  
**Report of:** Cllr. Mrs. Carole Hegley, Portfolio Holder Social Care & Health  
**Summary:** This report aims to highlight the impact of the new policy on new service users.

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Contact Officer: Althea Mitcham, Head of Business Infrastructure  
Public/Exempt: Public  
Wards Affected: All  
Function of: Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

The delivery of Adult Social Care services meets with the Council's vision to 'improve the quality of life of all in Central Bedfordshire' and its priority of 'supporting and caring for an ageing population'.

##### **Financial:**

Analysis of the data available suggests that there has not been a direct increase in expenditure on services due to the revision of the Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care. The complexity of the cases coming through, however, has resulted in service users being assessed at the higher bands of Critical and Substantial need and therefore qualifying for a greater number of services. The impact of this has been seen and reported in the quarterly budget monitoring reports

##### **Legal:**

No direct implications.

##### **Risk Management:**

Increasing access to services by lowering the threshold could potentially have financial implications for the Council.

##### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

No direct implications.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

The eligibility criteria will promote independence and social inclusion of vulnerable adults, having regard to Article 8 of the Human Rights Act which states that 'everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence'.

**Community Safety:**

No direct implications.

**Sustainability:**

The policy supports the Sustainable Community Strategy in ensuring that everyone has access to high quality health and social care services when they need them and to help Central Bedfordshire's population live healthy an independent lives.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**That the committee notes and considers this report.**

**Introduction.**

1. A report detailing the Council's approach to Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care was reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2010, with recommendation that the Fair Access to Care Services to Adult Social Care's threshold be lowered from *substantial* to *moderate*. The priority bands would still remain as Critical and Substantial, but the proposed change would allow for the provision of one-off, short term, time limited, or occasional services on a preventative basis to an individual seeking care support, where the provision of that service will prevent them from deteriorating to a higher risk band. The committee asked for an update report of the impact the change in threshold may have.
2. The Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care framework consists of four bands of eligibility – critical, substantial, moderate and low, which represent the seriousness of the risk to an individual's independence if problems and issues were not addressed.
3. The review of the policy was undertaken for Central Bedfordshire Council to define the threshold levels for services as a new unitary authority and ensure that its focus includes the provision of services based on prevention and early intervention.

**Effect of the Threshold Change**

4. An analysis was undertaken based on a comparison of data collected from 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010 with data for the same period in the previous year of new customers and is attached at appendix A.

5. The data analysed suggests that overall there has been a reduction in approaches to social services from people seeking support. There is little variation in the numbers going through to assessments, but those who go on to receive services following an assessment have increased, as has the number of services received.
6. This outcome suggests that people are approaching us with more complex needs and following assessment there are a greater number of services being delivered. From April to 30 September 2010, a majority of referrals have been classified as critical or substantial 1,381 (89%) and 88 referrals were classified as moderate representing 6% of the overall total. Similar percentages were evident for both the 18-64 and 65+ age ranges.
7. When compared with the same period for the previous year the results are very similar with 87% of referrals being classified as Critical or substantial and 6% as Moderate.
8. The data indicates that there were more assessments undertaken for the for the 18-64 and 65-74 age groups. Those aged 75+ were slightly down by 6% on the previous year. There has been a significant increase in mental health assessments during the review period, but this could be as the result of improved recording practice.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

9. The initial analysis of data suggests that the revision in the Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social care threshold has not increased approaches to Adult Social Care or demand for services.
10. Monitoring of the criteria will continue and will be reported back to the committee after a further twelve month period.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A - Update on the Revised Fair Access to Care Services Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care

### **Background Papers:**

Report to the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Review of the Adult Social Care Services Eligibility Policy on 4 February 2010.

### **Location of papers:**

Priory House, Chicksands, Bedfordshire