

Fair Access to Care Services Policy – The Isles of Scilly

Eligibility Criteria for Adult Care Services

National Context

In 2002 the Department of Health issued policy guidance on Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). This guidance provides a framework for determining eligibility for all adult social care services. Councils are required to provide or commission services to meet needs, subject to their resources, so that people with similar eligible needs receive services that deliver equivalent outcomes no matter where they live.

Local Policy

This policy sets out how decisions will be made on the Isles of Scilly about 'what sorts of people with what kinds of needs qualify for what types of services'.

The Isles of Scilly Eligibility Criteria will:

- Be non-discriminatory
- Be applied equally across all adult service user groups.
- Lead to equitable, transparent and consistent decision making within available resources.
- Be based on the assessed needs of, and risks to, individuals with particular reference to the seriousness of any consequences to independence.
- Be clear about the level of risk to independence that will trigger a service and the level that will trigger redirection and/or information and advice.
- Enable the authority to balance demand for services with available budget.
- Be written in a way that is easily understood by staff, service users and carers and available in different formats.

Fair Access to Care Services

The guidance from the Department of Health describes four bands of need :

Critical – when

- life is, or will be, threatened; and/or
- significant health problems have developed or will develop; and/or
- there is, or will be, little or no choice and control over vital aspects of the immediate environment; and/or
- serious abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or
- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out vital personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- vital involvement in work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- vital social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- vital family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Substantial - when

- there is, or will be, only partial choice and control over the immediate environment; and/or
- abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or
- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out the majority of personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in many aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Moderate - when

- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out several personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in several aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- several social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- several family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Low – when

- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out one or two personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in one or two aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- one or two social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- one or two family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

At the present time the Isles of Scilly are able to offer support to those service users whose needs fall into the moderate or above criteria. If they are assessed as in the 'low' category they will be signposted to other resources where possible.