

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 19 MAY 2005**

#### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES**

##### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee endorsement for an eligibility criteria framework for the provision of community care services.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Community care services are not universal. They are prioritised to meet the needs of vulnerable people as defined by the NHS and Community Care Act. In setting priorities Councils have to take into account our legislative duties in conjunction with the needs of our communities.
- 2.2 Vulnerable adults are people aged 18 years or over who have or may have needs arising from physical, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities and impairments or mental health difficulties.
- 2.3 Decisions about who should receive community care services are based on assessment of need and of risk both in terms of protection, and maintenance of immediate and long-term independence.
- 2.4 The range of Local Authority community care services that are subject to the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001 has increased significantly recently from resource based services such as care homes and day supports to now include services delivered to people in their own home including home care, community alarm and sheltered housing warden services.
- 2.5 To meet National Care Standards we are required to provide transparent information about who can access services and what needs they are intended to address. Many of our in-house services will be inspected by the Care Commission for the first time during 2005.
- 2.6 Eligibility criteria provides a framework that allows staff to work in a consistent fashion and promotes fairness and equity in access to and provision of services. It also provides transparent information to services users, carers, and the wider population about who qualifies for what type of service and allows for prioritisation of service provision.
- 2.7 Local authorities have a duty to assess all individuals where it appears they may have a need for community care services, however the provision of services is dependent on the outcome of this assessment.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FRAMEWORK

3.1 The establishment of an eligibility framework will help to identify how serious the risk is to safety and independence if a persons needs are not addressed.

3.2 An eligibility framework takes account of:

- Personal safety, risk of significant health problems developing, serious risks to a person's autonomy and control over their life
- Ability to carry out personal care or practical tasks
- Risk to maintaining relationships, family and other social role and sustaining work education or learning

3.3 The framework is used to place individuals in one of four bands of risk and need. These are:

- Critical – circumstances which indicate that there is immediate danger of serious harm or loss of life to an individual, carer or others
- Substantial – circumstances which indicate that an individual is at imminent, serious risk and requires intervention which will prevent admission to care/facilitate discharge from hospital or where a carer presents as being under extreme stress and where services may assist to alleviate the difficulties and support the situation
- Moderate – circumstances which indicate that an individual requires early intervention to develop, achieve or maintain independence, where the person is considered to be at potential risk or which would place significant stress on a carer
- Low – circumstances which indicate that intervention is desirable to improve the quality of life of an individual or carer and where there are no significant risk factors

3.4 These bandings of risk and need will indicate priority for assessment and service provisions as follows:

Priority	Band	Timescale for First Visit	Timescale for Completion of Assessment	Timescale for Provision of Community Care Service
1	Critical	Same day	Initial assessment on same day, and where required a fuller assessment within 28 days	Based on the needs identified at initial visit
2	Substantial	Within 48 hours	Initial assessment within 48 hours, and where required a fuller assessment within 28 days	Within 24 hours
3	Moderate	Within 28 days	Within 28 days	Within 5 working days of need being identified
4	Low	Within 12 weeks	Within 28 days	Within 14 days of need being identified

- 3.5 Each person will receive an individual assessment of need however where people are assessed in the low need band, they will not normally be eligible for directly provided community care services from the council. Where this is the case, information will be provided about other organisations which can assist and where appropriate we will help access this facility. The council provides resources to many partner organisations to provide a range of supports which anyone can access, including advocacy, advice, learning and leisure facilities.

#### **4. SERVICE PROVISION**

- 4.1 The following community care services are provided, based on assessment of need and on the eligibility criteria framework:

- **Care Home Provision**

For adults who have been assessed as being at immediate or imminent risk whilst remaining in or returning to their own homes, even with intensive care at home packages. (banding 1 and 2)

- **Respite care**

To provide carers with a break from the caring task whilst ensuring the personal care and social care needs of the individual are met during the respite period. This can be provided following assessment of need and based on bandings 1, 2 and 3 within a care home or in a person's own home. Respite is a planned, time limited episode of care.

Level of provision is based on individual need, however it is anticipated that only by exception, this would exceed 6 weeks per annum.

- **Equipment and adaptations**

A range of equipment and minor or major adaptations to the home can be provided to allow individuals to undertake essential activities of daily living, prioritisation of provision based on the above eligibility bandings 1, 2 and 3. There are detailed criteria for provision of this service based on need, suitability and appropriateness which have already been agreed by the Council.

- **Care at home**

Care at home can be provided 7 days per week over 24 hours per day (usually in conjunction with community alarm services). The service cannot however meet needs that require 24 hour care over a sustained period. The priorities for service provision are based on bandings 1, 2 and 3 and are:

- (i) Provision of terminal care
- (ii) Provision of personal care
- (iii) Prevention of admission to hospital/care home
- (iv) Support to carers
- (v) Essential practical supports

- **Day Services**

**Adults** - To provide meaningful activities for adults aged 16 and above, whilst ensuring personal and social care needs are met. This can be provided within a resource centre or in the community based on the individual's needs and wishes. Priority for service provision is based on bands 1, 2 and 3.

**Older People** – This service assists vulnerable older people to receive care and support during the day and in the evening when they are at risk of remaining at home alone and require supervision and stimulation to maintain their level of independence. Priority for service provision is based on bands 1, 2 and 3.

- **Meals at Home**

Vulnerable people who are experiencing difficulty preparing food and shopping can access this service, following assessment of need.

- **Community Alarms**

The Community Alarms service is provided to vulnerable people to call assistance when required. The service is particularly helpful to older people who live alone, who are now experiencing reduced independence through ill health and frailty or whose independence is affected through confusion.

The service is also able to link to a range of advanced technologies including fall detectors, fire alarms and door monitors.

Criteria for receiving Community Alarm is either

Through self assessment for those over 75 who live alone, or  
Through assessment of need for all other care groups.

- **Direct payments**

Direct Payments are available as a cash payment made to an individual (or their representative) who has been assessed as needing community care or children's services. This payment is made instead of direct service provision and allows the individual to fully control their care. The individual must consent to receiving a Direct Payment and be able to manage the payment with or without assistance.

- **Sensory impairment service**

Provision of a range of services for hearing and visually impaired persons following assessment of need. Services include equipment and/or rehabilitation and mobility work, to assist and enhance daily living for people affected by sensory impairment.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Establishment of an eligibility criteria framework allows the council to prioritise community care services on a fair and equitable basis within existing resources.

## **6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Nil.

## **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The provision of appropriate community care services supports the most vulnerable in both Eliminating Poverty and Improving Health.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee
- (i) approve the eligibility criteria framework; and
  - (ii) otherwise note contents of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**3 May 2005**  
**Enc (0)**

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. NHS and Community Care Act 1990
2. Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 1993
3. Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
4. Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001

For further information on this report please contact:  
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