

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 19th August 2013
Report of: Brenda Smith, Director of Adult Social Care & Independent Living
Subject/Title: Notice of Motion - Funding of Adult Care
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Janet Clowes

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The Care Bill is currently progressing through Parliament. At present the regulations are being written which give much needed detail on how the Bill will be implemented.
- 1.2 As part of this process, the Government produced a discussion document in June 2013 entitled 'Draft National Minimum Eligibility Threshold for Adult Care and Support'. This document details how the Government proposes to apply national eligibility criteria for adult care and support.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the current position and action being undertaken by Officers.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To respond formally as a Council to the Government's engagement exercise.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 To be identified as part of Council Review of Impact

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 To be identified as part of Council Review of Impact

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 To be identified as part of Council Review of Impact

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 To be identified as part of Council Review of Impact

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 The discussion document published in June 2013 outlines proposals as to how the eligibility threshold would be defined and applied. This is an important opportunity for the Council to consider the detail and how this may impact before final decisions are reached.

- 10.2 The proposal is that the national threshold is set at a level which will be equivalent to the current 'substantial' level within the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) eligibility range. This is the level currently applied by Cheshire East Council. The intention is that this will come into place in April 2015, subject to the passing of the Bill.

- 10.3 Although the proposed threshold is identified as being consistent with the current level applied in Cheshire East, we are looking closely at the detail to compare the proposed threshold and how it will be applied within our current practice. In this way, we will be in a position to understand the potential impact. This will inform the Council's response and contribution to the discussion.

- 10.4 The discussion document poses key questions which include:

- Are there any groups currently eligible for care and support not covered by the regulations?
- Do the national eligibility criteria effectively describe the equivalent of 'substantial' as set out in current guidance and interpreted by Local Authorities?
- How will the regulations affect different groups?

The Council will consider in detail these questions and others in order to provide an informed response. Adults Policy Development Group will consider the proposals and contribute towards the Council's response.

- 10.5 The timeframe for responses runs until 29 November 2013. Following this, the Government intends to amend the eligibility regulations which will then be subject to a public consultation in Spring 2014.

11.0 Access to Information

11.1 N/A

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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