

AGENDA ITEM

COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY BOARD

DATE:

2ND NOVEMBER 2006

SUBJECT:

REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR EXISTING
CUSTOMERS

REPORT BY:

DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & COMMUNITY
LIVING

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL

✓

STAFFING

✓

EQUALITIES

✓

COMMUNITY SAFETY

FINANCIAL

✓

RISKS

✓

OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

- 1 The purpose of this report is to inform Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Members of the implementation of new eligibility criteria for existing customers/

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2 **Scrutiny Board is recommended to Monitor the progress of the implementation of the new eligibility criteria for Adult Social Care**

REPORT

3. The Executive considered a report from the Director of Housing and Community Living "Strategic Priorities for Community Care Services" on 12th September 2005. That report highlighted significant pressures on Community Care budgets both in the current and future years.
4. That report also gave consideration to the level of eligibility criteria, and recommended that consultation should be undertaken on changing the threshold from the level of moderate and above to substantial and

above or critical only.

5. This recommendation was agreed, and following formal consultation the threshold for eligibility was raised from moderate and above to substantial and critical as of April 1st 2006.

Eligibility to Community Care Services

6. The framework for eligibility criteria for Community Care services has been determined by the Department of Health. Councils should ensure that they can provide or commission services to meet eligible needs, subject to their resources.
7. There are four bands within the government's eligibility matrix: low, moderate, substantial and critical. The Council previously provided services to people with moderate, substantial and critical needs.
8. In Luton, since 1st April 2006 people with low and moderate levels of need do not receive Community Care services, but they are given advice and information about where they can access preventative services, many of which are provided by the voluntary and independent sector.
9. When the threshold is raised, before any services are withdrawn there is a legal requirement to review and reassess current customers' needs, which is currently being undertaken.

Progress to date

10. At the time of writing this report the review team have not completed the task in relation to existing customers who received a service following implementation on 1st April 2006 of eligibility changes.
11. The review team have currently completed 85% of the reviews necessary.
12. It would be inappropriate this stage to make predications regarding the outcomes for the remaining 15%.
13. The review team continue to carry out the reviews of those customers currently receiving a service and expect to complete the work by mid November 2006.
14. It is recommended that a Report is placed before Scrutiny on 7th December 2006 with the overall position in relation to impact upon current customers and financial update relating to the changes.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific legal implications. This report has been agreed by the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 20th October 2006.