

Questions to Adult Social Care Select Committee – 24 October 2013

I had understood that Care Provision by County is mandatory for some-one assessed as needing care. The current report on Care Services in the WHICH magazine for October 2013 makes clear that Councils currently choose their own eligibility threshold at which care is accepted as the Council's responsibility. In the forthcoming Care Bill it appears that Care will become mandatory at the level of assessed 'Substantial Needs' from the options of Low, Moderate, Substantial & Critical needs.

1) What is Surrey's current eligibility level at which it regards its Care provision is mandatory?

2) In the 'Which' report the hourly rate of Council charged personal care varies from £0 to £20-84p in England & Wales. One third of Councils cap the charges to the client at a weekly level. What is the current hourly rate set by Surrey and does Surrey cap any charges?

Ernest Mallett, MBE
West Molesey

Response

1) Our policy in Surrey is to provide support for people who are assessed as having 'Substantial' needs (and above, which includes Critical). All local authorities use the same eligibility framework issued by the Department of Health - guidance on eligibility criteria for adult social care, England 2010. Like Surrey, the majority of local authorities have set their eligibility criteria at Substantial

<u>Banding at 2013</u>	<u>Number of local authorities</u>
Critical	3
Substantial	130
Moderate	16
Low	3

By meeting the eligibility criteria at a certain level within the framework, it means that we have to meet an individual's t eligible identified needs. It does not mean that we have to provide services. We can meet eligible needs in a variety of ways including empowering/linking to friends family and community, reablement, telecare, occupational therapy equipment and sign posting to universal services. This will not be changed by the Care Bill.

The Care Bill introduces a national criteria which local authorities will not be able override, but the intention is this will be set to mirror 'substantial' i.e. our current level.

2) There is no single rate; the hourly rate varies depending on the charge levied by the particular provider and the type of service.

There is no cap on the maximum weekly charge. A person is assessed according to their ability to contribute towards their weekly support package. In line with the fairer charging guidance, we charge up to the total of the actual cost of the service but only where we have assessed an individual as being able to pay. In practice, for the majority of community support packages there is either no charge or this is 'capped' based on an individual's assets and/or income, rather than the cost of the service.

Margaret Hicks
Vice-Chairman – Adult Social Care Select Committee