



Nottinghamshire County Council

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Title: Use of Resources in Adult Social Care Policy

Aim / Summary: To identify how the County Council will best utilise resources to meet the eligible needs of people assessed as requiring Council funded social care support.

Document type (please choose one)

Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Subject Areas (choose all relevant)

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Please include any supporting documents

1. Eligibility and Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) - staff guidance
2. Direct Payments – staff guidance
3. Assessment, Support Planning and Personal Budgets – staff guidance
4. Care Home Placements – commissioning – staff guidance
5. Self Funders – Financial Advice Policy



Use of Resources in Adult Social Care Policy

1. Context

Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty, under several pieces of legislation, to provide social care support for people assessed as eligible to receive it.

Eligibility is determined using the national eligibility guidance, “**Prioritising need in the context of Putting People First: A whole system approach to eligibility for social care**”. This is statutory guidance issued under section 7(1) of the **Local Authority Social Services Act 1970**. It relates to the allocation of funding for social care support, including funding for equipment and minor adaptations. The guidance allows Councils to set an eligibility threshold. The eligibility threshold for Nottinghamshire is set between moderate and substantial. This means that people whose needs pose a moderate or low risk to their independence are not eligible for social care support funded by the Council; those with substantial or critical risks to their independence are eligible.

If the result of the assessment is that an individual is not eligible for social care support, the Council retains a duty to provide information about, and signpost people to, appropriate support which may benefit them. This includes people assessed as eligible for social care support, but who are required to fund all of their own care following a financial assessment.

People who are assessed as eligible are provided with self directed support; a model of support, that includes the use of a personal budget, to enable them to have as much choice and control as possible over the design of their support plan.

The eligibility guidance allows councils to “consider the cost-effectiveness of support options” (paragraph 124), but this must be done on the merits of each case and councils, “cannot take decisions on the basis of resources alone”.

A new Care Bill, which is currently going through Parliament, will change the way social care support is arranged and funded. It will, for example:

- Modernise care and support law into a single statute, which is built around people’s needs and what they want to achieve in their lives.
- Provide a national eligibility threshold, which will apply to all councils.

- Reform how care and support is funded.
- Focus care and support on promoting wellbeing and preventing or delaying the need for social care support.
- Ensure that people are given advice and information to help them to plan for the future and to ensure they know where to go for help when they need it.

2. Scope of this policy

- 2.1 This policy relates to all social care support commissioned for, or procured by, people assessed as having social care needs that fall above the eligibility threshold set by the Council.
- 2.2 It applies to personal budgets taken as a direct payment or a managed budget.
- 2.3 The policy is intended to cover all new service users and those already in receipt of social care support, regardless of age or presenting needs.

3. Principles

The emphasis of adult social care will be on developing individual and community resources designed to prevent, delay or reduce the need for care and support. The following represent the Council's guiding principles:

- 3.1 Good quality information and advice will be made available to help people to plan for the future, reduce the need for social care support and, where possible, maintain independence.
- 3.2 The Council will expect to share the responsibility for maintaining the health and wellbeing of people in need of social care support with individuals, families and communities.
- 3.3 The Council will enable people to live with the risks inherent in living independently, whilst ensuring that they are safeguarded from significant harm.
- 3.4 The Council will reduce the demand for residential care, and the need for long term care in the community, by commissioning or providing services that are known to support independence.
- 3.5 Where people have critical or substantial risks to their independence, they will receive a personal budget from the Council for as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 3.6 The Council will meet its statutory responsibilities by promoting the health and wellbeing of individuals jointly with other public sector organisations, including the NHS and housing providers.

3.7 The Council will encourage and stimulate an efficient, affordable and high quality social care market, so that people who choose to arrange their own care and support have as much choice and control as possible over how it is provided.

3.8 We will always consider the eligible needs and preferences of the individual but the Council has a responsibility to balance this against the effective and efficient use of its resources, which take account of the needs of all adults eligible for social care and support.

4. Commitments

Information, Advice and Early Intervention

4.1 The Council will provide or ensure the availability of targeted advice and information services that enhance people's resilience and promote responsibility for their own wellbeing.

4.2 The Council will aim to meet people's needs at the first point of access, for example, through the use of the Customer Service Centre, clinics and NHS settings.

Prevention

4.3 All prevention and early intervention services will be targeted at people at risk of losing or reducing their independence, in order to prevent or delay an individual's need for more expensive long term funding and support.

4.4 The Council will intervene to keep people safe when there is a significant risk of harm or abuse by others, or as a consequence of a lack of mental capacity.

4.5 The Council will maximise independence through targeted, timely and cost effective use of equipment and assistive technology.

4.6 The Council will assess carers and ensure appropriate support is available, where people are eligible to receive it.

Re-ablement (short term support)

4.7 People will be provided with short term (re-ablement) support before a decision is made about whether they might be eligible for long term support.

Assessment and Care Management

4.8 Support funded by the Council will be arranged to meet specific outcomes, at the time it is required and only for as long as it is required.

- 4.9 The Council will make more use of telephone, online and clinic appointments. Home visits for assessments and reviews will be undertaken where the level of risk warrants this.
- 4.10 The Council will ensure that an assessment, under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, is carried out where people lack the capacity to make a decision about how their care needs should be met.
- 4.11 The Council will ensure that individuals have access to independent advocacy services to support them to understand the choices available to them, where necessary. The involvement of an independent advocate will not alter the professional responsibilities of County Council employees.

Personal Budgets

- 4.12 The Council will ensure that other sources of funding and support are always explored before the allocation of a personal budget.
- 4.13 The Council will decide how much a person's support would reasonably cost, based on their eligible needs. This may be reduced by the person's contribution, following a financial assessment.
- 4.14 The Council will expect people assessed as eligible for social care support to contribute towards their personal budget in line with the national eligibility criteria.
- 4.15 The Council is committed to self directed support and will offer a choice to individuals, who have eligible needs, of taking their personal budget through a direct payment, a managed budget or a mixture of the two.
- 4.16 The Council will ensure an equitable allocation of resources to people who receive a direct payment and to people who have a managed budget.
- 4.17 The Council will ensure that a person's entitlement to a personal budget is regularly reviewed to ensure that he/she is still eligible and that his/her outcomes are being met in the best and most cost effective way.

Commissioning services

- 4.18 When commissioning services on behalf of individuals, the Council will place greater emphasis on the achievement of outcomes and value for money over the level of choice available. This will be with due regard to the local care market, the availability of local providers and the quality of service provision.
- 4.19 Where the net cost of supporting an individual in the community is greater than the cost of a residential care placement that would meet the eligible needs identified the Council may consider this option.

- 4.20 The Council will develop a range of contracts and agreements with providers to meet the needs of the local population at a fair and reasonable cost.
- 4.21 The Council will work with Health, Housing and other partners to stimulate the supply of extra care and/or housing with support.
- 4.22 The Council will aim to commission services in Nottinghamshire for people currently placed in specialist residential care outside the County, where this is cost effective. If a person currently resident in Nottinghamshire needs specialist residential care, the Council will arrange this care as close as possible to home where this meets the person's needs and is cost effective.
- 4.23 The Council will expect provider organisations to deliver good quality support that keeps people safe. The Council will commission alternative support in situations where an organisation fails to do this in a timely manner.
- 4.24 The Council will expect providers to pay for Council support in situations where they are not meeting their contractual requirements and require support for improvement.
- 4.25 The Council will fund discretionary services where there is clear evidence that they prevent, delay or reduce the need for care and support.
- 4.26 The Council will ensure arrangements are in place so that people can purchase their own items of equipment or social care support without a social care assessment, if they wish to do so.

Finance and Charging

- 4.27 The Council will make a charge that reflects the cost of service provision, in all circumstances where a fee can be levied on people or organisations.
- 4.28 The Council will require people and/or their representatives to pay the difference between more expensive support and an alternative that would meet outcomes and can be procured more cost effectively by the Council, in situations where a person chooses the more expensive option.
- 4.29 The Council will ensure that information and advice is given to individuals and their representatives to ensure that their assets are used properly and that they make fair and appropriate contributions to the cost of their social care support in line with national criteria.
- 4.30 The Council will have due regard to the net cost of services and will always seek to ensure that any contributions to the cost of care from other parties are maximised. This includes contributions from the NHS, from individuals and from third parties.
- 4.31 The Council will ensure that officers and managers have responsibility to agree funding for personal budgets at levels set by the Adult Social Care, Health

and Public Protection Department. This will be consistent with the Council's established scheme of delegation.

5. Key actions to meet the commitments set out in the policy

- 5.1 The Council will streamline its systems and processes to achieve greater efficiency.
- 5.2 The Council will continue to adapt to changes in adult social care, including those set out in the Care Bill.
- 5.3 The Council will ask the most appropriate agencies and providers to undertake support planning and arrange support for eligible people.
- 5.4 The Council will integrate its structures, systems and processes with the NHS and other agencies where this will produce better outcomes for people and provide cost effective support.
- 5.5 The Council will ensure that there is adequate practice guidance for staff to guide decision making in relation to the use of resources.