

14 September 2009

EIT Review of Fair Access to Care Services (FACS)

Summary

The Committee are requested to consider the evidence provided by representatives of Sunderland City and North Yorkshire County Councils.

Detail

1. Members will recall that as part of the review, comparison is being made with other authorities in terms of how they operate the FACS bandings, and, where appropriate, how they have introduced changes to the number of bands to which they provide care.
2. In attendance at this meeting will be a representative of Sunderland City Council and North Yorkshire County Council. Sunderland's adult services are rated as 3 star ('excellent') by the Commission for Social Care Inspection's (CSCI¹) performance ratings system. Sunderland provide care for those who have been assessed as having needs that fall across all four bands of need: Critical, Substantial, Moderate, and Low.
3. North Yorkshire CC social services are also rated as 3 star by CSCI. Care is provided across the Critical, Substantial, Moderate bands, and also with aim of meeting lower needs where long term risks to independence are significant.
4. The Committee has previously seen a copy of the questions that has been circulated to other authorities and it is suggested that these form the basis of discussion at this meeting also (please note – not all questions will apply for this meeting as the authority's in question have not restricted their bandings). The questions are attached for reference at Appendix 1.
5. A range of other authorities have also been contacted for their views. The responses received so far are included for Member's Reference at appendix 2.
6. The meeting will also be an opportunity for Members to be updated on issues in relation to the Green Paper on Care and Support. In addition, Members will be consulted upon the Council's response to the separate consultation on the revised FACS criteria. (The draft revised criteria were presented to the previous meeting of the Committee.)

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¹ CSCI has been replaced by the Care Quality Commission