

Eligibility for adult social care services

To be able to receive a personal budget, you have to be eligible for support from the council for adult social care services. The council gives careful consideration to each request for care services, with all possible solutions being explored to support people to address their unmet needs before adult social care funding is considered, including providing a reablement service.

There is a national framework, set by the Department of Health, which councils use to decide who is eligible for services, called Fair Access to Care Services (FACS). FACS is the eligibility criteria – the council only has a duty to provide services to people who meet the FACS level it has set, which on the Isle of Wight is 'critical' and 'substantial'. You can find out more information about eligibility either from the Social Care Institute for Excellence's (SCIE) website at www.scie.org.uk (search for Fair Access to Care Services) or locally at www.iwight.com/adults.

Therefore, the first step to getting a personal budget is to discuss your situation with a key worker to see if any of your unmet needs are eligible.

Continuing Health Care

The government has said that local areas have to get better at deciding whether the National Health Service (NHS) or your council have responsibility for contributing towards the cost of your care and support. The National Framework for NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care describes the circumstances where the NHS should meet the costs of your care and support and the process to be applied to determine your eligibility.

The NHS and adult social care work together to determine if you are eligible for Continuing Health Care funding and will look particularly at what support you need in relation to your health condition.

If most of your needs are health related then you will be eligible for Continuing Health Care. If this is the case, then the NHS will fund the whole cost of meeting these assessed needs and is also responsible for providing the case management support.

Financial contribution

If you are found to have eligible needs, the council will carry out a financial assessment to work out how much you can afford to pay. Following the financial assessment, you will be told how much you will be asked to contribute to the cost of your care. Some people make no or only a small contribution whilst other people may have to pay for a larger part or for all of their care – the amount you pay depends upon your financial position and a council financial assessment officer will contact you to complete the financial assessment.

Maximising your resources

To help maximise your resources you may be entitled to money from elsewhere. The financial assessment officer will check that you are receiving all the money you are entitled to, or you can contact the appropriate organisations in section 11 of this pack who will be able to help you.