

## Your questions answered

I am already getting social care services. Will Fair Access to Care affect me?

Yes. Everyone who gets a service will have their services reviewed at least once a year. This review will use the eligibility criteria to decide whether you can still get the social care services you have been getting. As long as your needs are assessed as critical or substantial you will continue to have a service.



What happens if my needs are assessed as low when my services are reviewed?

If this is the case you will be given advice and information about other organisations who may be able to provide you with the support you need.

How does Fair Access to Care affect carers?

This will affect carers in the same way. Any assessment they have will have to use the same rules.

\* Anyone with moderate needs assessed before April 2007 will continue to get a service unless their needs are assessed as low when they are reviewed.

What should I do if I want to know more about Fair Access to Care?



Please telephone Gateshead Council Adult Social Care Direct on 0191 433 7033

# Fair Access to Care



 **Gateshead Council**  
[www.gateshead.gov.uk](http://www.gateshead.gov.uk)

Information for adults in Gateshead who may need to use social care services

## Introduction

If everyone used all Gateshead Council's care services all the time, the people who really needed help would not get their fair share.

To make sure that people who need the most help and support from the council get their share first, the Government has given us some advice called 'Fair Access to Care'.

This booklet tells you what this means and how it will affect you.



To help us to do this we will look at:



- Your ability and freedom to make choices



- Whether you would be safe and healthy

## Different formats

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on tape or in a different language please contact Diane Brennan on 0191 433 3444.

## How will Fair Access to Care work?

Basically, this advice will be used when Gateshead Council is deciding whether a person needs to use one of their care services.



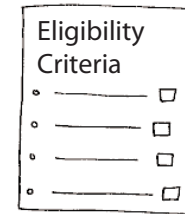
This advice is for all adults who may need to use social care services and is



different from the advice used for people who may need to use health services.

Fair Access to Care sets out a kind of checklist that we use to help us decide who is at most risk of losing their independence if their social care needs are not met.

This checklist is called the Eligibility Criteria.



## What does this mean for me?

When you come to Gateshead Council for help and support you will get an assessment. This means that together we will look at all the things happening in your life and see where you need support and how we might help.



Then we will use the eligibility criteria to see if you need our support.

We use this checklist to think about what:

- might happen if we did not help you
- what we can help you do to make sure you will not lose your independence
- what your needs might be in the future



- Whether you can manage personal and daily tasks



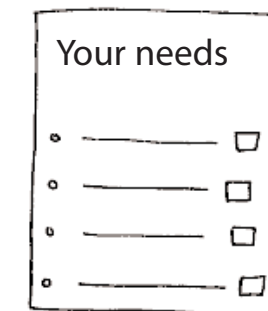
- How much you see your family, friends and other people in the community



- Whether your carers need help

Under each of these things we will look at whether your needs are:

- Critical
- Substantial
- Moderate or
- Low



## Who will get support services?

The Government has told us we must follow Fair Access to Care and use the eligibility criteria. Gateshead Council can decide what kinds of risk will be included in the checklist. The council must do this because it only has limited money to use to provide the services that are needed.



will provide support services to all people who are assessed as critical or at a substantial risk of losing their independence without support services.

## What do we mean by critical?

Anyone whose needs are assessed as being critical will stop being independent if they are not helped.



## What do we mean by substantial?

Anyone assessed as having substantial needs, will be in danger of losing their independence if they are not helped.

If your needs are assessed as moderate or low we will not be able to help you but we will be able to give you advice and information about other organisations who may be able to help.