

# Supporting Independence

*An invitation to tell us what you think of  
Lincolnshire County Council's plans for  
eligibility criteria for adult care*

## Public Consultation

28<sup>th</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

## Easy Read Version

# Foreword



For many years Lincolnshire County Council has maintained the same levels of support for people needing adult social care, while most other authorities have reviewed and raised their eligibility criteria levels.

It is well known that the council now has less money and is facing tough spending decisions. We are now at a point where we have to look at our criteria for providing support to people.

We have to look at new ways of helping people to live healthy and safe lives. We are developing our services to help prevent many people from needing lots of support from the council. We also want to make sure we can support people who need the most help.

Any changes the council makes to our eligibility criteria would affect some people we support now as well as people who may require support in the future.

I want to make it clear that no decisions have been taken yet and it is important we have a full consultation with people before we make any decisions about changes.

We want to hear from people who use services, their families and carers but also from anyone who has an interest in how we support those who need help in our communities. Your views will help us decide how we change things to meet the challenges we face.

I would encourage you to read this booklet carefully and let us know your thoughts by responding to the consultation.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Marsh', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Graham Marsh, Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care  
Lincolnshire County Council

Lincolnshire County Council have to think about how they spend the money they have.

There are some important reasons why Lincolnshire County Council has to think about the money it spends on Adult Social Care services:



## Money



The Government are giving the County Council less money to spend on services



## People



There are more people that need support in the County.



## Helping each other



The Government thinks that people, families and communities should be helping each other to live good lives



## What people want



People are saying they want different types of support to help them have the lives they want.



Lincolnshire County Council assesses people who live in Lincolnshire who need care and support.

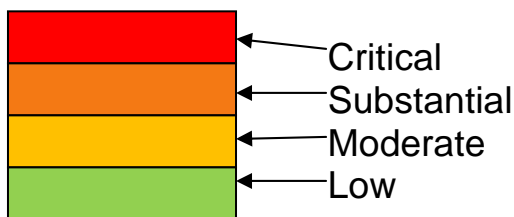


The County Council do this so they can make sure everyone gets the support they need.



The Department of Health have rules that the County Council follow when they do their assessments – these are known as Fair Access to Care Services (or FACS)

FACS has four 'risk bands' –

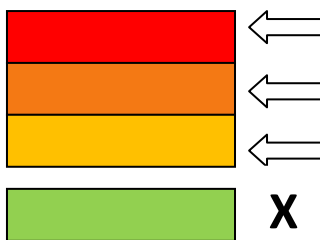


You can find out more about what each risk band means at the end of this booklet



You can also look on our website:

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence)



At the moment the County Council supports people with: Critical, Substantial or Moderate needs



Every year the County Council thinks about the money they have to spend and who they can support.

## What is the County Council thinking about doing?



The County Council are asking people what they think about changing the FACS level from moderate to substantial.



If the County Council decided to do this they would not provide support to people with moderate needs anymore.



**X**

**X**



People who have moderate or low FACS levels would have a new assessment, this means having a meeting to look at the support you get.



If you cannot get services from the County Council anymore, we will give you information and advice about different ways of getting the support you need.



If you have substantial or critical FACS levels you will still get services from Lincolnshire County Council.



When you are assessed you will be told how much money you can get to pay for your support – this is known as a personal budget or Direct Payment



The County Council can help you decide how you want to spend the money so you have the best life possible



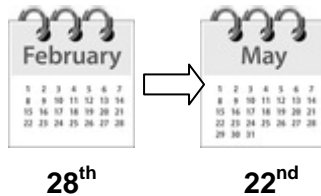
You can find out more about personal budgets by going to:  
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/adult-social-care/advice-and-guidance/putting-people-first/>



Lincolnshire County Council has to make some hard decisions about how to spend the money it has.



The County Council will not make any decisions about changing the FACS level without listening to what people think.



We are asking people what they think about this suggestion (this is known as a public consultation). This will be starting on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 and finishing on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

You can tell us what you think in lots of different ways:



We are holding 4 meetings where you can talk to people from Lincolnshire County Council about what you think.



The meetings will take place from 6pm to 8pm:

Wednesday 23rd March - North Shore Hotel, Skegness

Thursday 24th March - Springfield House Grantham

Tuesday 29th March - Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln

Thursday 7th April – South Holland Centre, Spalding



You can go on to the County Council website and fill in a questionnaire

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence)

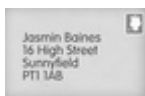


We will ring people up to ask them what they think



We will write to some people to ask them what they think

Total Voice will be having meetings in different places in the County where you can find out more about this idea and tell us what you think.



They will be sending out letters inviting people to these meetings.



You can find out more about these meetings by ringing Total Voice on: **01522 706580**.

They can also tell you more information about what we are thinking about doing.



If you need any help telling us what you think you can ring the Customer Service Centre on **01522 782155**



Lincolnshire County Councils Executive (this is a meeting where County Councillors make decisions) will think about what people have said and will make a decision in July 2011



We will tell people the results of the consultation on our website



If you want to find out any more information on things we have talked about, or you do not have access to the internet:

Contact Total Voice



Telephone: **01522 706580**

## What are the eligibility risk bands?

FACS has four “risk bands” – these are known as Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low. The people who do the assessments should always make sure people know what their FACS level is.

The information below explains a little more about what risks make up the bands that an assessment will be based on:

### Critical

- Life is now, or will be, threatened
- Serious health problems have developed, or will develop
- There is, or will be, little or no choice and control about major aspects of your immediate surroundings
- Serious abuse or neglect has happened, or will happen
- You will not be able to carry out necessary personal care or domestic tasks
- Necessary involvement in work, education or learning cannot, or will not be, able to be kept up
- Necessary social support systems and relationships cannot, or will not be able to be kept up
- Necessary family or other social responsibilities cannot or will not be able to be made

### Substantial

- There is, or will be, only a little choice and control over your immediate surroundings
- Abuse or neglect has happened, or will happen
- You will not be able to carry out most personal care or domestic tasks
- Involvement in most areas of work, education or learning cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- Most social support systems and relationships cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- Most family and other social responsibilities cannot, or will not, be able to be made

## Moderate



- You will not be able to carry out several personal care or domestic tasks
- Involvement in some areas of work, education or learning cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- Some social support systems and relationships cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- Some family and other social responsibilities cannot, or will not, be able to be made

## Low



- You will not be able to carry out one or two personal or domestic tasks
- Involvement in one or two areas of work, education or learning cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- One or two social support systems and relationships cannot, or will not, be able to be kept up
- One or two family and other social responsibilities cannot, or will not, be able to be made

If you would like more information on how FACS is looked at when an assessment is made, you can go to

[www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/supportingindependence)

This website will also let you look at the full Department of Health guidance on how councils should use FACS.

If you would like someone to talk to you and help you understand what the assessment means for you, you can contact

Total Voice Lincolnshire on 01522 706580

Total Voice Lincolnshire are a service who provide free and confidential support through advocacy and involvement projects, and are not part of Lincolnshire County Council.