

Title/Subject: Eligibility Criteria – Implementation Plan
Meeting: Integration Joint Board
Date: 2 February 2018
Submitted By: Head of Social Work Adult Services
Action: For Noting

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 16 June 2016 the Integration Joint Board approved the implementation of the revised Eligibility Criteria framework, following a thorough consultation process. This report provides an update on the implementation process and the actions in place to support implementation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Integration Joint Board is asked to:

- 2.1 note the arrangements in place to support the roll-out of the revised eligibility criteria.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership is committed to supporting people in Falkirk to achieve better personal outcomes within the context of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013, based upon an eligibility criteria framework which enables the achievement of improved personal outcomes; and a coherent approach to the allocation of financial resources based on transparency and equity.
- 3.2 Previous meetings of the Integration Joint Board agreed the background and legislative context to the necessary changes. The Board authorised a thorough consultation exercise and on completion approved the implementation of the revised eligibility criteria. The report to the meeting of 06 September gave detail on the implementation process. This report provides an update on the implementation.

4 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

- 4.1 The revised Eligibility Criteria was implemented on 1 November 2017 for all new cases and reviews and all staff involved have reported no problems with the use of the revised criteria and both service users and carers appear to understand the reasons for the emphasis on assisting people to achieve outcomes which can for example improve a person's independence. The implementation programme has included the development of a tool known as an Individual Budget Calculator (IBC). The IBC enables the care manager and the service user to produce a budget for the person's care plan which is transparent and equitable. The use of the IBC will be tested across Community Care Teams until the end of March to ensure the budget scoring accurately reflects the budget required to achieve the assessed outcomes. The Implementation team will work with Champion Assessment staff and Team Managers, using the Individual Budget Calculator on current cases to ensure the budgets allocated meet identified objectives.
- 4.2 The Abacus system will enable Adult Services to manage the allocation, use and monitoring of all budgets. For example, it will capture all Self Directed Support budget commitments, Options 1 to 4, and allocate them to the appropriate Community or Locality Team budget. This will support better control of budgets whilst not limiting the choice of service users and their carers. The revision of the Single Shared Assessment combined with changes to the current recording system SWIS will record clearly the outcomes required. This will enable assessment staff to complete the Individual Budget Calculator directly linked to the recorded assessment which will be based on the revised eligibility criteria now reflected in SWIS. This will identify the individual budget available to achieve the required outcomes. Finally as SWIS is due for replacement next year, a six week Tender evaluation exercise is underway, from January to March 2018.
- 4.3 Given both the urgency and the importance of the work required, two six month seconded posts have been authorised, funded by the Leadership Fund (part of the Integrated Care Fund). An Enabling Team Manager has been appointed, to work with and support the Community Care Team Managers and their staff to use the IBC across the Partnership. The Officer will oversee the training for staff on this, introduce the necessary changes to the current information system, and as part of the SWIS Tender Group provide on the new Information System operational requirements. A six month secondment Business Support Officer has been funded to provide additional support to the Implementation exercise and recruitment is underway. This post will work with IT, Finance and Admin staff in the roll out of Abacus and the use of the Individual Budget Calculator. The IBC testing and roll out will continue in conjunction with the completion and roll out of the IT and Finance work streams just described.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The actions taken will support implementation and the formal review will confirm the success of the roll out and identify any amendments to support or practice required to meet the aims and objectives of the implementation.

Resource Implications

The additional resource requirements identified after the last update report has been funded via the Leadership Fund. There are no other resource implications at present.

Impact on IJB Outcomes and Priorities

The actions outlined within this report are aligned to the vision of Falkirk Health and Social Care Partnership to enable people to lead full and positive lives within supportive communities. The approaches are underpinned by the principles of the Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 and reflect the FHSCP Strategic Plan Vision and Outcomes relating to Self-Management, Autonomy, Decision Making and Risk Enablement whilst contributing more widely to building capacity and social inclusion.

Legal & Risk Implications

The duties of the Council in relation to the assessment of need and provision of support to eligible people are determined to relevant legislation. This includes Section 12-A (1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 and the Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013. Risk will arise if the Council cannot evidence it is meeting the associated statutory duties.

Equalities Assessment

The ongoing impact will be monitored on selected groups when the Individual Budget Calculator use is embedded in Community Care Teams.

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