

Proposed Eligibility Criteria for Children's Services
Report by Joan Tranent, Head of Children's Services**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** To seek approval for the implementation of an eligibility criteria for Midlothian Council's Children and Families.
- 1.2** From 1 April 2014 local authorities need to meet the requirements of the new Self Directed Support (Scotland) Act 2013. Guidance on the Act promotes the use of eligibility criteria to determine if a person's needs call for the provision of services.

This report should be read in conjunction with the wider Self Directed Support information prepared for Council via the Self Directed Support Project Board.

2 Background

- 2.1** The new Self Directed Support Act provides a framework for transparency and clarity in how partnership and collaborative practices can be effective in supporting practitioners to work creatively and resourcefully. The eligibility criteria supports the new Act in providing a fair, equitable and transparent system for allocating resources across children and families.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Support/Self-Directed-Support>

- 2.3** The guidance on eligibility criteria describes four bands of need - Critical, Substantial, Moderate and Low. Midlothian Council has produced the attached eligibility criteria based on the principles contained within the practitioners guidance (Appendix 1).
- 2.3** In addition, the eligibility criteria is to be used alongside a newly developed outcomes focussed assessment tool which will support workers in assessing and determining the level of need within families.

3 Report Implications**3.1 Resource**

As part of our preparation for self directed support we have undertaken a service review within our children with disabilities team. The outcome of the service review was that the children with disability team would be more integrated and aligned within our *Getting it Right for Every Midlothian Child* locality service model.

The aforementioned service model is an interim arrangement to provide an opportunity to further explore the wider self directed support implications for children and families. Furthermore, in keeping with our 'test of change' approach, the interim position provides an opportunity to pilot and evaluate the effectiveness of both our eligibility criteria and outcomes focussed assessment tools.

3.2 Risk

The wider risk associated with the introduction of eligibility criteria will be addressed within the wider self directed support project board. Care has been taken to monitor and reduce any associated risk by way of reviewing and reconfiguring the children with disabilities team.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value

3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

This work is a part of the Single Midlothian Plan's key priority and also aligns with the preventative and early intervention approach.

3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The intention is that the Act will provide more choice and control for families and through doing so will transform future service design. In the longer term, this should lead to improved performance.

3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The provision of high quality early learning and childcare strongly aligns with the National GIRFEC and Early Years agendas.

3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

An EQIA has been completed and is attached. The implementation of the Eligibility Criteria will reduce the negative inequality within this group of children.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Scottish Government has committed to the Act and have produced national practitioner guidance.

4 Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- Agree the content of the report, and associated papers.
- Agree the eligibility criteria produced for Midlothian Council's Children's Services,
- Note the correlation of this work with Midlothian Council's wider self directed support.

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Background Papers:

Appendix 1 Eligibility Criteria
