

Appendix 2

Eligibility Criteria for Social Care Services

1. Central government defines the criteria for eligibility for social care. They are defined in terms of four bands:

- Critical
- Substantial
- Moderate
- Low

2. Each local authority decides at what level to set its eligibility criteria. Brent Council's Executive decided on *substantial and critical*. Should the council wish to change its eligibility criteria it is good practice to consult users, and to take into account the views expressed when coming to a decision. Criteria should not indirectly discriminate.

Critical Needs	Substantial Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life is, or will be, threatened; and / or • Significant health problems have developed or will develop; and / or • There is, or will be, little or no choice and control over vital aspects of the immediate environment; and / or • Serious abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and / or • There is, or will be, an inability to carry out our vital personal care or domestic routines; and / or • Vital involvement in work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • Vital social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • Vital family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is, or will be, only partial choice and control over the immediate environment; and / or • Abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and / or • There is, or will be, an inability to carry out the majority or personal care or domestic routines; and / or • Involvement in many aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • The majority of social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • The majority of family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.
Moderate Needs	Low Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is, or will be, an inability to carry out several personal care or domestic routines, and / or • Involvement in several aspects of work, education, or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • Several social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • Several family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is, or will be, an inability to carry out one or two personal care or domestic routines; and / or • Involvement in one or two aspects or work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • One or two social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and / or • One or two family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

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Source: "Fair Access to Care Services: Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care".
Published by Department of Health: to be implemented by April 2003.

Paragraph 19 of the Department of Health guidance states: "Councils should review their eligibility criteria in line with their usual budget cycles. Such reviews may be brought forward if there are major or unexpected changes, including those with significant resource consequences."