

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards - DOLS Prioritisation Guide for Care Homes, Hospitals and Hospices - Version 9



Following the Supreme Court ruling on 19 March 2014, Suffolk County Council needs to prioritise the allocation of assessments. It would be helpful if you use this guide when preparing a DOLS referral.

Priority 1 - Features of P1 might include:

- Continuous 1:1 care during the day or night
- Restraint used regularly – equipment or persons
- Renewals – DOLS Authorisation in place and coming to an end BUT where the previous authorisation identified Conditions which needed to be actioned
- Objections from family / friends
- Objections from relevant person – through language or behaviour
- Attempts to leave
- Confinement to a particular part of the establishment for any period of time
- Current CQC status
- Organisational abuse enquiry or concerns raised about a provider that are substantiated

Priority 2 - Features of P2 might include:

- Renewals – DOLS Authorisation in place and coming to an end BUT where the previous authorisation had not identified the need for any specific Conditions
- Concerns from care staff about person's well-being
- Concerns from professionals or safeguarding issues that are DOLS related

Priority 3 - Features of P3 might include:

- Some moderate restrictions are in place
- Some periods of observations / monitoring
- Where general concerns have been raised by Adult Protection
- Infrequent restraint used in response to risk
- Some 1:1 during the day or night

Priority 4 - Features of P4 might include:

- Not free to leave
- Continuous control and supervision
- Appear happy and settled • No specific restraints or restrictions being used

Reviews

Where it is considered a review of an existing DOLS authorisation is required, this will be prioritised according to the identified need.

Examples of the need for review would include:

Where the relevant person is considered to have regained capacity to consent to the arrangements, or
Where the conditions of the authorisation are not being met

Accelerated priority or change of priority status- To meet the criteria for accelerated, 2 or more of the P1 criteria have to be met.

Where a more immediate response is identified to be required by the Suffolk DOLS team, an assessment may be commissioned straight away.

Where the relevant person's authority is considered to have changed, the