

DHP – What will be taken into account when looking at an application?

Priorities

The DHP fund for 2015/16 is required to once again provide additional financial assistance to a broader range of applicants that are affected by all of the welfare reforms introduced in recent years, along with any other reasons why a customer may struggle to meet any shortfall between their rent. Since 2012 there has been a significant increase in the number of applications made to the DHP fund than in previous years and for this reason, WBC have drawn up a list of priorities that will form part of the decision making process. The priorities help to ensure that decisions are made in a fair and consistent manner throughout the course of the financial year. It should also ensure that those with the most pressing needs can be given awards where appropriate.

The priority list will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it continues to identify where the greatest need is. All cases will be assessed based upon individual merit and although may fall to be considered under a high priority, awards will be dependent upon fund availability and subject to meeting all of the relevant eligibility criteria set out within current policy.

High Priority

An award will have a significant (substantial) and immediate effect in improving a vulnerable person's circumstances by removing a risk of imminent homelessness or extreme distress, such as removal of a family member from the household. Or to help to secure and move to alternative accommodation where the prospective move

- Under Occupancy – where customer or partner has a disability and the accommodation has been significantly adapted, whether short or long term
- Under Occupancy - foster carer where more than one bedroom is required for foster children, whether short or long term
- Under Occupancy – where a dependent child has been taken into care and there is an ongoing case with court/social services involvement
- LHA restriction/ODRT – e.g. under 35 year old where required assistance is for a short term period while claimant secures alternative accommodation or seeks employment
- Unforeseen circumstances e.g fleeing domestic violence, sudden change in household, sudden ill health

Medium Priority

- Shortfall in rent where customer has a disability and moving to more suitable accommodation is not an option
- Under Occupancy - couple unable to share bedroom (must be on DLA)
- Benefit Cap – to help with short term rental costs while the claimant seeks employment
- Benefit Cap – to help with short term rental costs until claimant secures alternative accommodation

- Under Occupancy - where there have been unforeseen circumstances e.g. a change to household such as non-dependant leaving (who was contributing to household finances), ill health of the claimant/partner
- Family with a disabled child/children (dependant must be on DLA)

Low Priority

- Under Occupancy – any other reason
- Benefit Cap – short term rental costs for any other reason
- LHA restriction/ODRT – e.g. under 35 yr old and the prospective period of required assistance is long term

The above list is not exhaustive or exclusive.

Name	Date	Action
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