

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS – DECISION CRITERIA

GENERAL CRITERIA

- Did claimant check to see if rent would be restricted before moving in?
- Has the claimant claimed DHP before? If so, with whom and what was the outcome?
- Why did the claimant move to the property? Were there problems staying in the previous property?
- Has the claimant tried to negotiate a rent reduction with their landlord?
- Has the claimant tried to move to cheaper accommodation?
- Could the claimant live with friends or relatives?
- Is the claimant undertaking further education?
- How long has the claimant lived in the area?
- Has the property been significantly adapted because of the disablement needs of someone in the household?
- Is the claimant a foster carer where there is a gap between placements?
- Has the claimant's Housing Benefit been restricted by the social sector bedroom restriction?

FAMILY CRITERIA

- Is the claimant a lone parent with children under school age?
- How many children does the claimant have? What are their ages?
- Do the children attend school in the area?
- If the claimant does not have custody of the children, is the accommodation to allow them to live near them?
- Does the claimant need an extra room for children to stay where they have joint custody or a staying order?
- Has there been a death in the family in the past 12 months?

- Has the claimant or a member of their immediate family (spouse or child) suffered from a severe illness in the past 12 months? Do they have special educational/medical needs?
- Is the accommodation to live near to relatives?

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

- Could friends or relatives help financially?
- Does the claimant have rent, Council Tax arrears, or other debts reasonably incurred?
- Is the claimant facing eviction or court action for those arrears?
- Is the claimant in full or part-time employment?
- Is the claimant claiming all the state benefits they are entitled to?
- Does the claimant have any capital?
- Does the claimant's expenditure exceed their income?
- Is the claimant's income below Income Support/Universal Credit/Pension Credit (Guarantee) levels?
- Is there any prospect of the claimant's financial position improving in the near future e.g. finding work, an inheritance or benefit award?
- Is the claimant affected by the benefit cap?

REMEMBER! -The above is not an exhaustive list and all of the claimant's individual circumstances must always be taken into account.