

## PRIORITY GROUPS

### ONGOING PAYMENTS

#### GROUP A:

#### **Households where alternative arrangements are not a realistic option.**

This includes those who are subject to circumstances where making alternative housing arrangements is difficult, or where there are severe obstacles preventing them from improving their financial position.

- Households subject to the under occupancy rules where the property has been adapted to suit the disabled persons needs.
- People who are victims of domestic abuse, or who have moved because of the threat elsewhere.
- Households subject to benefit cap reductions and who have a number of children which will make moving to suitably sized accommodation difficult.
- Households where children have had to be removed by social services and where there is evidence that the children may return to live at the property
- Households where there is a serious medical reason for an additional room, that cannot be covered under extra room rules e.g.: where partners cannot share a room due to a medical condition.
- Applicants who are engaged in caring full time and as a result face additional difficulties in getting back to work.
- Applicants who would break a court order by moving to a smaller property or a different area such as an ex-offender with probation conditions
- Where the claimant/partner is pregnant, including those in shared accommodation.
- Applicants awaiting a court judgement regarding custody of children
- Applicants with joint custody arrangements of children but who are not receiving Child Benefit payments for those children.

## **GROUP B**

### **Households being supported themselves or where changing household arrangements would disrupt that support.**

- Households where there is active social services intervention e.g.: vulnerable adults or children at risk
- Former homeless people being supported to settle in the community.
- Households subject to under occupation where the age of the children is such that they will soon be allowed an increased number of bedrooms.
- Households where there is evidence to support that children cannot share a bedroom, where PIP has been applied for or refused and awaiting the outcome of an appeal.
- Single households who have been placed in accommodation suitable to their needs, by social services, homeless placement etc where moving to smaller accommodation would present a risk of relapse or disruption to any rehabilitation.

## **GROUP C**

### **Households where there are exceptional short-term personal or social barriers to moving**

This Group represents those who have short-term barriers that prevent them from changing their housing arrangements. These could be either personal or social obstacles or both. The challenges may be addressed but only through additional external support. This could be support that is offered by the council or its partners or third sector providers such as charities and voluntary sector.

- Older applicants who have lived in the area for a long time and would find it difficult to establish support links in a new area
- Applicants for who would significantly increase their travelling costs if they moved.
- Where the applicant has a baby (less than a year old) and has both family and a support network to help with the care of the baby e.g.: health visitor, local doctor surgery etc.

## **ONE-OFF PAYMENTS**

### **GROUP A:**

**Households where alternative arrangements are facilitated by a DHP Award.**

- To cover the cost of rent deposits/rent in advance for a tenancy, or removal costs which would mean that the under-occupancy rules, benefit cap or LHA restriction would no longer apply.

### **GROUP B**

**Any other reasonable circumstances.**