

## **Delegated Approval of changes recommended by the NPSS as part of the implementation of the new Housing Register system with Housing Partners**

Included in the cost of the new EHR and ATLAS Housing Register and Choice Based Lettings Systems was an element of review from the National Practitioners Support Service. This review was completed on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and whilst it was very complementary of the policy there were a few minor non statutory changes recommended. These have now been incorporated into the policy along with some clarifications to ensure that the policy is as transparent as possible and implemented consistently by officers. These changes have been tracked in the attached draft policy V2.2.

The Council's Housing Allocations Policy 2018 update report taken to Executive on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 gave delegated authority as follows:

**authority be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director for Leisure, Environment & Community Services in conjunction with the Legal Service Manager to make any future amendments to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy that are deemed to be necessary and which do not trigger the statutory obligation to consult the persons affected by the changes pursuant to section 168(3) of the Housing Act 1996.**

### **Allocations Policy Changes Recommended by NPSS**

#### **1. Domestic Abuse**

**NPSS recommendation - Consider consolidating the existing information relating to domestic abuse cases into one section**

##### **Policy Change**

Domestic violence and abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to, psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse.

The Council will exempt victims of Domestic Abuse from residency requirements where they are living in a refuge or other form of safe temporary accommodation in the Borough having escaped domestic abuse in another local authority area. The Council recognises that victims and household members indirectly affected by domestic abuse are likely to have medical and welfare needs, and that long-lasting physical and mental health issues are likely to constitute a disability therefore the Council will also apply the medical and welfare reasonable preference category to victims who have escaped abuse who are being accommodated temporarily. Those in temporary accommodation who have applied for an allocation because of domestic abuse will ordinarily be statutory homeless and owed the accompanying duties under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

#### **2. MAPPA and MARAC**

**NPSS recommendation - Consider whether the scheme should give priority to DA cases (reciprocal), MARAC and MAPPA cases, ex-gang members wishing to exit gang culture and prisoners from abroad.**

##### **Policy Change**

The Council will work in partnership with key agencies such as the Police to support the housing needs of those being dealt with under specialist initiatives for example those under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) or Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) etc. Where it is agreed that social housing is appropriate for that household they will be direct matched to a suitable property.

## **Other Clarifications requested by Housing Options**

### **1. Effective Date to be Added to the Glossary.**

<b>Effective Date</b>	This will be the date that a fully completed application with proofs and evidence of need is received or the date that an applicant is awarded reasonable preference due to a change of circumstances, with the exception of homeless applicants whose effective date will be the date of approach. If the applicant meets the armed forces additional preference criteria a 6 month backdate will be applied to the effective date to award additional preference. Where an applicant loses their reasonable preference their effective date will revert to the original effective date which is likely to be their registration date.
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### **2. Clarification relating to Move On from Supported Accommodation**

This status is awarded where an agreement between the Council and the Supported Housing provider, or designated accommodation provider for those fleeing Domestic Abuse, is in place for applicants to move on from supported accommodation in the Borough where they have not been placed in that accommodation by another local authority, or from any domestic abuse accommodation regardless of location. Move on from supported accommodation status may also be awarded for those who have been placed into specialist supported accommodation outside of the Borough by agreement with the Council and the support provider. Due to the number of units in the Borough, a limit may be imposed on individual supported accommodation providers to ensure that this category of applicants does not dominate the allocation of single person accommodation in the Borough.

The above changes are approved by:

Sue Hanley .....Dated: .....

Claire Felton..... Dated:.....