

CLARIFICATIONS TO HARINGEY'S HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

This note seeks to clarify how Haringey's Housing Allocation Policy 2015 will be interpreted in the light of new legislation and regulations which have come into force since the policy was last updated on 14 March 2018.

Section 1.14.4

Following the introduction of the EU General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018, the Council no longer charges for data access requests.

Haringey therefore clarifies that the £10 data access fee described in 4.14.4 will no longer be collected.

Section 3.4.5

Section 5.4.1 on the Haringey's Housing Allocations Policy excludes those without a local connection from joining the housing register. Section 3.4.5 sets out a local connection period of 3 years unless the applicants meet an exemption

As those escaping Domestic Violence/Abuse are typically placed outside their own borough, section 3.4.5 of the Housing Allocations Policy specifically allows Haringey residents to retain their local connection when placed outside the borough. However, most of those escaping Domestic Violence/Abuse who are residing in a refuge in Haringey will have been placed there by another borough.

Haringey therefore clarifies that the refuge exception should be interpreted as including those fleeing domestic violence/abuse and living in a refuge or other similar safe accommodation within the borough. This local connection will also be deemed to have met the local connection requirement as set out in Section 5.4.1. Those leaving such accommodation will continue to meet this local connection criteria so long as they continue to reside in the borough.

Section 3.5

Section 3.5 lists people who do not qualify to join the Housing Register including;

- *Owner-occupiers (unless exemptions apply as set out in section 5.9)*

However, there is no 5.9 in the policy and this reference is incorrect and should refer the reader to the preceding section 5.8.

Section 9.1.3

Section 9.1.3 of Haringey's Housing Allocations Scheme permits properties in Sheltered and Community Good Neighbour Schemes to be allocated to people under the age of 50 where they may benefit from supported housing and provides examples where this may apply.

Haringey Council clarifies that the examples given in 9.1.3 of the Housing Allocations Policy do not represent an exhaustive list of where it might be appropriate to allocate sheltered housing to younger people.

As well as mental health, learning and physical disability, sheltered housing lettings might be considered where it will create a mutual benefit, for example to facilitate intergenerational relationships and support between younger and older people. All decisions to allocate sheltered housing lettings to young people will be made on a case by case basis.

Section 9.2.3 and 9.4.3

Section 9.2.3 and 9.4.3 of Haringey's Housing Allocations Policy sets out the use of Sheltered Housing lettings for those who are "*homeless or about to become homeless*" or are "*threatened with homelessness in priority need and owed a housing duty*" in relation to the Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. However, these sections make no reference to duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which was introduced after the publication of the Housing Allocations Policy.

Haringey Council therefore clarifies that for the purpose of sections 9.2.3 and 9.4.3, the terms "about to become homeless" and "threatened with homelessness" are taken to also include duties to prevent homelessness set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act, and that Sheltered lettings may be used to meet these duties.

Sections 9.6.5

The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in April 2018 introduces new stages into how the Council works with those approaching them as homelessness. The following clarifications set out how offers of Sheltered Housing fit into these new stages.

Below 9.6.5

Haringey Council clarifies that applicants who have approached the Council under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and where a Relief or Prevention Duty applies may only receive one offer regardless of whether they are living in temporary accommodation or not.