

Allocations Policy Review – Change Summary

Access to the Register

- You have savings, investments and capital assets worth less than £42,000 (reduced from £50,000)
- We have implemented a household-based criteria for maximum household gross income. (Previously this was set at £50,000 as a blanket rule.) The thresholds are now:

Bed Size Need	Annual Gross Household Income Threshold
Shared Accommodation	£21,000
Studio/one bed	£32,000
2 bed	£43,000
3 bed	£52,000
4 bed	£62,000

- You live in Medway and have lived here for at least the last 3 years without a break. (Increase from 2 years):
 - exceptions for fleeing violence, DA, Care Leavers, ready to move on from supported housing (Medway commissioned), armed forces, over the age of 60

Banding Changes

Much of the banding system has remained the same as the previous Allocations Policy, however, there have been some changes.

We have made the decision to categorise each banding section as:

Band A - Households who are considered to have a critical housing need or where the property is of significant strategic relevance.

Band B - Households who are considered to have an urgent housing need.

Band C - Households that are considered to have a significant housing need.

Band D - Households that are considered to have a housing need.

We have also:

- Removed the transfer banding (previously band C)
- Removed band X (inactive register)

Additions to Band A

No new criteria added

Additions to Band B

- Combined a banding for Foster carers, and placed this in band B. Previously it was split into band A and band C.
- Right to move – social housing tenants that need to move to take up or continue employment (previously band C)
- Care leavers (previously no specific banding)
- Move on from Refuge
- Move from Medway commissioned/care supported accommodation (including Medway Care leavers)

Additions to band C

- Move on from care– previously in band C but now includes provision for Non-Medway Care leavers.

Additions to band D

No additions

Community Contribution

Whilst community contribution banding remains in the policy, we have increased the level of evidence of contributing to the community required before this banding can be awarded.

Previously the policy only required 6 months of evidence, however we now require 3 years.

Medical Priority

The policy now provides an “Emergency – Low” threshold indicator to better enable officers to assess medical priority and make it easier for applicants to understand how their banding has been applied.

Emergency (sits in band A) – Where an applicant’s condition is expected to be terminal within a period of twelve months and re-housing is required to provide a basis for the suitable provision of care.

The condition is life threatening, and the applicant's existing accommodation is a major contributory factor.

High (sits in band B)– the current housing conditions are having a major adverse effect on the medical condition of the applicant or a member of their household. To satisfy the criteria for major adverse effect, the housing condition should have a severe and life-threatening impact or risk of causing serious harm, disability or death.

Medium (sits in band C) – the current housing conditions are having an adverse effect on the medical condition of the applicant or a member of their household which creates a particular need for them to move. To satisfy the criteria for adverse effect, the housing condition should have a severe impact and risk of causing serious harm, disability or death.

Low (does not affect banding) – the current accommodation has a low impact on the medical condition of the applicant or a member of their household.