



**Macc webinar:** Manchester City Council Update: The New Manchester Housing Allocation Scheme

**Date of webinar:** Thursday 22 October

Webinar was delivered by Councillor Joanne Midgley, Assistant Executive Member for Housing Regeneration and Mark Ellison, Project Manager, Housing and Residential Growth.

The Manchester Housing Allocation Scheme sets out the principles and rules by which people apply for social housing, including who qualifies to join the housing register and how the council prioritises who gets a home.

Manchester's housing situation has changed significantly since 2011. There has been a significant rise in homelessness and the associated cost of the rising number of households in temporary and supported accommodation is unsustainable.

The main objective of the review of the Manchester Housing Allocation Scheme provides the means of managing the allocation of a scarce resource (social housing) in a fair and equitable manner, focusing on those in greatest need.

## **Q&A**

**Is the limit £60k for household income?**

Yes – this stayed at 60k

**Does continuous residency of 2 years apply to homeless people?**

No – it's one of the exemptions

**Does 2 years residency apply to victims of domestic abuse fleeing from another area?**

Generally, no – it is one of the exceptions but every case will be looked at individually. Perhaps another opportunity is needed to give more detail on specific DV examples.

**What proof is necessary to demonstrate 2-year residency. What about those who have no proof?**

Utilities bills, bank statements, council tax, whatever works. People can be assisted to understand how to prove it. Direct individuals to their social landlord for support with this.

**Will those who've been accommodated out of area (emergency) be exempt?**

Yes

**Can you identify where we can read the reasonable preference in the housing act?**

Housing act 1996, section 166A(3)

**Will this be the same for those in refuge - Band 1?**

They are homeless so exempt from 2-year residency requirement as a consequence

**Are bands 3/4/5/6 gone in the new system?**

There are now only bands 1,2,3,4 and 5



**Band 1 - bed blocking - does this include those being discharged from psychiatric hospital?**

Anyone who can't be discharged because their house/home isn't suitable would be in band 1

**You said those fleeing DVA are going to be in Band 2 - currently the majority are in Band 1. Does this mean those fleeing DVA will have to compete with others for a house?**

The system works the same as it does now for DVA – this is emergency so they would be in band 1.

**Two children sharing a room would be 1 bedroom short - does living with family members effect this?**

The bedroom standard is national standard and lays down who can and can't share. Two siblings can share a room, regardless of whether they are a boy or a girl until the age of 10. After 10, they have to have separate bedrooms. If they are the same sex they can share up to the age of 21 (when you're entitled to own room under the bedroom standard)

**Does a moving group include older sibling?**

There is no provision for all adult households, apart from exceptions such as carers etc. However, there is an exception for 2 adults who can bid for non-family accommodation depending on their circumstances. But if someone is adequately housed with family and wants to leave, they would be in band 4 so unlikely to be housed.

**I help people with Manchester Move applications - a homeless person outside Manchester was told after the initial assessment she couldn't apply for social housing.**

Moving to new system in advance of it going live, because in a weeks' time they would not qualify so it started a little earlier so it can be accurate from day 1. Safeguards were built in, anyone in reasonable preference categories have all been dealt with.

**If the rules on domestic abuse are complicated could we have another webinar just on this category?**

Joanna clarified DV is the same as it was before and acknowledged it is complicated

**Are there any plans to update the Manchester Move webpage mobile friendly so that people could fill in the form themselves using a smartphone? This would mean people being able to be more independent.**

Not Mark's area. Will feed back that someone may need to check that it's fully mobile optimized.

**Mathematically it's not going to work out. There's not enough housing – what's going to happen?**

All agreed it's the key issue. Joanna added that the council are building what they can, e.g. 'Project 500' for building new social homes in the city and are also working with partners. It's their priority but there's not enough funding from central gov. It will help that some people will drop off the register having not been resident for 2yrs yet.