

Proposed additions to the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme to incorporate ensure the housing elements of the Nottinghamshire Local Offer for Care Leavers

Leaving a settled placement

Any NCC care leaver exiting any settled placement will initially receive band two status on their housing application.

After an 8 week period the banding will be upgraded to band one status. In order to secure an offer of accommodation the applicant will need to have submitted a positive ready to move (R2M) to support their application. Until such time as this is received applicants placing bids for available accommodation will have their application overlooked as they will not be considered ready to sustain a tenancy.

However, for complex cases that may never reach a R2M positive status a multi-agency meeting will be convened to draw up an appropriate support plan to enable move on from the settled placement. This plan will identify pathways of support to assist the young person to live independently.

Settled placements include but are not limited to a supported housing placement, foster placement, care placement or any other form of accommodation sourced by NCC to accommodate the young person owed duties by them.

In circumstances where the placement does not use the R2M documentation NCC Support Planners will complete this assessment with the young person to ensure consistency and that where necessary, the correct support is provided.

Dates/bandings

To ensure consistency, applications from care leavers will follow the same date/banding processes as those set out in the existing Housing Allocation Scheme. That is, an application is likely to have two dates – its application date and its banding date. These may be the same date if the banding has not been amended since the original application date. In some instances however where the band has been amended the banding date is likely to be a more recent date reflecting the date in which the new banding was applied.

In an emergency

When a care leaver is approaching the local housing authority in an emergency it is likely that an application for assistance under the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 will be necessary.

Section 189 of the Housing Act 1996 as amended provides that the following categories of applicant have a priority need for accommodation:

- (e) a person under 21 who was (but is no longer) looked after, accommodated or fostered between the ages of 16 and 18 (except a person who is a 'relevant student');

(f) a person aged 21 or more who is vulnerable as a result of having been looked after, accommodated or fostered (except a person who is a 'relevant student')

If a care leaver is still an open case to NCC either as a person under 21 or in their extended duty category 22-25 years of age it is likely that they will be considered vulnerable under the above section and would therefore be provided with temporary accommodation, meeting any corporate parenting duties.

Once in temporary accommodation assessments would be made to establish whether moving to a supported housing project would be more appropriate. If this is appropriate then the individual should be transferred at the earliest opportunity. If supported accommodation is not appropriate then longer term housing solutions will be sourced which may include any of the works required in the 'Leaving a settled placement' section.