

Appendix 3 Changes to Lewisham's Allocations Scheme

1. The Local Connection rule be changed from two years to five years, subject to the exceptions to the local connection rule already set out in the policy.
2. The current bedroom standard stated in the scheme be replaced by the following:

A separate bedroom to each of:

- married or cohabiting couple
 - adult aged 21 years or more
 - pair of adolescents aged 10-20 of the same sex
 - pair of children aged under 10 regardless of sex
3. The policy regarding rent arrears changed so that applicants must have a rent account balance of zero as well as no outstanding former tenant arrears at the point of being offered social housing. This will be subject to the exceptions already set out in the policy.
 4. A 'Right to Move' quota to be introduced to the Allocations Scheme stating that at least one per cent of all lettings are made available to households eligible under the 2015 'Right to Move' guidance published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.
 5. To clarify the Allocations Scheme regarding the One Offer Only policy and Emergency Housing Panel and Supported Housing Priority cases to make clear that the waiting time for a property will be dependent on what properties become available.
 6. Change the policy regarding Direct Lets to remove the requirement that a household in temporary accommodation must have lived there for not less than 12 months before they can be offered a permanent tenancy.
 7. To change the section regarding Chain Lettings so that these properties can be offered to any priority group on the housing register, so as to maximise the number of chain lets that can be facilitated.
 8. To change the Allocations Scheme so that an applicant who rejects three offers may be suspended from the register for 12 months. Not attending an appointment to make an accompanied viewing of a property will be considered as a rejected offer.
 9. To clarify in the Allocations Scheme that the Council's housing medical advisor may recommend that a household requires an extra bedroom on medical grounds.