

POLICY TITLE	Eligibility Criteria for Supported Housing
POLICY NUMBER	JO/PO/12
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OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW	Amanda Bradshaw

1 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 Tees Valley Housing (TVH) and Erimus Housing (Erimus) aim to ensure that applicants to all supported housing schemes are treated equally and fairly.
- 1.2 TVH and Erimus's staff and Board Members will be expected to adhere to the principles laid down in this policy and have an individual and collective responsibility to ensure that this policy is actively applied in practice.
- 1.3 TVH and Erimus aim to provide a high level of service and support to its applicants and residents. It acknowledges that as each case is different, it will need to be treated on an individual basis.
- 1.4 This policy outlines the eligibility criteria for all TVH and Erimus supported housing schemes including:
- Young People who are leaving care;
 - Homeless project;
 - Young Parents projects;
 - Floating support schemes, including young people at risk, young parents, refugees, parents with learning difficulties and disabilities, and one scheme for anyone aged over 16 years in need of support;
 - Extra care schemes at Pennyman House and Barnaby House;
 - Sheltered schemes at Cedar House, Gresley Court and Mascot House;
 - General Needs scheme at Tai Hua House.
- 1.5 TVH and Erimus recognise that people require a variety of different support to meet their needs. The eligibility criteria have been developed to ensure that applicants are directed to the most appropriate scheme.

2 REFERENCE MATERIAL

- 2.1 Material for this policy was collated from Supporting People contracts, scheme managers, co-ordinators and publicity leaflets.

3 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Homeless – a person who has nowhere to reasonably reside or legally occupy.
- 3.2 Floating Support – housing and emotional support for people to develop their independent living skills in their own tenancy.
- 3.3 Extra Care Scheme – independent living for older people with care needs.
- 3.4 Sheltered Scheme – independent living for older persons.
- 3.5 Family Intervention Project (FIP) – intensive intervention for families with multiple support needs.
- 3.6 Residential Project – independent living for individuals with support needs.

4 POLICY CONTENT

4.1 Eligibility Criteria

4.1.1 TVH and Erimus recognise that people require a variety of different support to meet their needs. The eligibility criteria have therefore been developed to ensure that applicants are directed to the most appropriate schemes. The eligibility criteria for different types of schemes are set out in Appendix A. This information will be available to service users in the appropriate format.

4.1.2 TVH and Erimus will actively promote the eligibility criteria of different schemes to relevant agencies in the wider community.

4.2 Right to Appeal

4.2.1 An applicant whose application has been refused is entitled to appeal against the decision.

4.2.2 The appeal must be made in writing. Appeals will be considered by the Referral Panel. The Referral Panel will notify the applicant of the outcome of the appeal in writing.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

5.1 TVH and Erimus recognises that it operates in a community within which there is a wide social diversity, and is committed to providing equal opportunities and valuing diversity.

6 CUSTOMER INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation on the eligibility criteria has been undertaken with service users, project leaders, project workers and Board Members of TVH and Erimus.

7 MONITORING AND REVIEW

7.1 Monitoring

7.1.1 TVH and Erimus will monitor the administration of this policy via monthly performance meetings and scheme evaluations.

7.2 Review

7.2.1 TVH and Erimus will undertake a review of this policy every three years or whenever there are any relevant changes to legislation, case law or good practice that would impact on this policy.

7.2.2 Procedures relating to this policy will also be periodically reviewed, taking into account any operational issues that arise.

7.2.3 Service users and tenant representative groups will be involved and consulted in any review of this policy, in-line with TVH and Erimus' policy on tenant participation and consultation.

8 RESPONSIBILITY

8.1 It is the responsibility of the Head of Supported Housing to ensure that:

- All Supported Housing staff are aware of the Supported Housing Eligibility Criteria Policy;
- All Supported Housing staff are trained on policies;
- Monitoring records are collected in accordance with the policy;
- Service users are adequately informed of the policy
- Appropriate action is taken against employees whose actions are inconsistent with this policy.

SUPPORTED HOUSING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Young People Leaving Care (St Paul's and Fairway)

These schemes offer accommodation based support for young people aged 16-19, leaving local authority care and wishing to remain in that area or are homeless and vulnerable. This service is provided for up to two years. Priority is given to young people who are care leavers or Section 20, have unstable accommodation or are homeless and are under 18 years old.

Homeless Project (Penrith Road)

Temporary accommodation with support is offered for homeless families in Middlesbrough for up to two years. All applicants must be referred by Middlesbrough Council. Priority will be given to:

- Applicants who have already been placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation;
- Applicants who have been accepted as statutory homeless and for whom Erimus and TVH has identified a responsibility to secure interim accommodation;
- Applicants whose circumstances would indicate the necessity of an investigation being undertaken;
- Applicants who are appealing against an offer of accommodation, or who have requested a review of a decision that they do not qualify for permanent accommodation.

Young Parents Projects (Grace Court, Anna Court, Lewis Crescent, Coney Avenue)

These are accommodation based projects for young mothers and fathers or pregnant women aged 16-25 who need support to live on their own. Applicants must already be residing in the town where the scheme is based. This service is provided for up to two years. Priority will be given to:

- Young parents aged 16-18 living in inadequate housing;
- Applicants where a lack of support from other agencies has been identified;
- Applicants with children or who are in the very late stages of pregnancy;
- Applicants who are in Care or who have left Care;
- Referrals living in the local area.

FLOATING SUPPORT SCHEMES

Young People at Risk

Support is offered to young people and young mothers and fathers aged 16-25 who are vulnerable. Priority is given to those people aged 16-18 who are leaving care and have support needs. This service is provided for up to two years.

Young Parents

Support is offered to young mothers and fathers or pregnant women, age group 16-25, who need support to live on their own. This service is provided for up to two years. Priority will be given to young parents aged 16-18 living in inadequate housing.

Refugees

This service is for people aged 16 and over who have been given refugee status. This service helps people who are leaving National Asylum Support Service accommodation to resettle in Middlesbrough. Priority is given to those refugees who are most vulnerable and have housing support needs.

Parents with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities

This service is for parents, pregnant women, couples, lone fathers and same sex couples aged 16 and over who have a learning disability or difficulty, and who need support to live independently. This service is provided for up to two years. Priorities are not awarded in this service.

Generic Schemes

The Floating Support service is offered to vulnerable people; both single and families aged 16 and over who are homeless or have experienced difficulties managing their tenancies and could be at risk of becoming homeless. This service is provided for up to two years. Priorities are not awarded in this service.

EXTRA CARE SCHEMES

Pennyman House

Applicants must be aged 55+ or living with a partner of that age, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Applicants must have been assessed for support/care needs, be eligible for Supporting People services and have completed a Risk Assessment. Applicants must either be homeless or living in accommodation that is not suitable to their needs. Preference will be given to those applicants residing in the Middlesbrough area.

Barnaby House

Applicants must be aged 55+ or living with a partner of that age, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Applicants must have been assessed for support/care needs, be eligible for Supporting People services and have completed a risk assessment. Applicants must either be homeless or living in accommodation that is not suitable to their needs. Preference will be given to those applicants residing in the Redcar and Cleveland area.

SHELTERED SCHEMES

Cedar House

Applicants must be aged 60+ (applicants aged over 55 years would be considered if there was a medical need that warranted the move). Preference will be given to those applicants living in the Stockton-on-Tees area, but all other applicants would be considered.

Gresley Court

Applicants must be aged 60+ (applicants aged over 55 years would be considered if there was a medical need that warranted the move). Preference will be given to those applicants living in the Redcar and Cleveland area, but all other applicants would be considered.

Mascot House

Applicants must be of Chinese or South East Asian origin and over 60 years of age. Referrals/applicants living in the Newcastle upon Tyne area will be shown preference in-line with the Newcastle upon Tyne Supporting People 'across-authority' targets. Applicants from other areas will be considered if they can demonstrate family ties/support within the local communities.

GENERAL NEEDS

Tai Hua House

Applicants must be Chinese and over the age of 50.