

Cheshire West & Chester Council

West Cheshire Homes Bedroom Size and Overcrowding Eligibility Criteria



Introduction

This help guide aims to provide applicants with information around eligibility relating to their household size and the type of property they will be able to bid for. In addition to household and bedroom size we have also detailed the criteria we will use when assessing if an applicant is overcrowded in their current accommodation.

Household size and property eligibility

The table below provides examples of typical household size and the property size as well as the number of bedrooms an applicant would be eligible to bid for.

Household size	Eligible to bid for
Single person	Bedsit or 1 bed
Two adults, no children	1 bed
Single person or couple, one child	2 bed
Single person or couple, two children same gender under 18	2 bed
Single person or couple, two children, different sexes, both under 10	2 bed
Single person or couple, two children, different sexes, one 10 or over	3 bed
Single person or couple, two children both over 18	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children all under 10	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children, 2 boys under 10 and 1 girl 10 or over	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children, 2 boys, one over 10 and girl under 10	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children, 2 boys, one over 10 and girl 10 or over	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children, all aged 10 – 18	3 bed
Single person or couple, three children, all 18 or over	4 bed
Single person or couple, four children all under 10	3 bed
Single person or couple, four children, 3 under 10 and one 10 or over	3 bed
Single person or couple, four children, 2 under 10, 2 10 or over but under 18 Could qualify for 4 bed depending on family make-up e.g. Three girls plus boy 10 or over	3 bed or 4 bed
Single person or couple, four children, 1 under 10 and 3 10 or over but under 18 Similar to above, would depend on ages and sexes of children Would qualify for 4 bed if girl was under 10 with three boys 10 or over	3 bed or 4 bed
Single person or couple, four children, all 10 – 18 Similar to above, would depend on ages and gender of children Would qualify for 4 bed if three boys and a girl or vice versa	3 bed or 4 bed
Single person or couple, four children, 3 under 16 and 1 18 or over	4 bed

Household size	Eligible to bid for
Single person or couple, four children, 2 under 16 and 2 18 or over Would depend on ages and gender of children If two under 18 are both 10 or over and different sexes, then would need 5 bed	4 bed or 5 bed
Single person or couple, four children, 1 under 18 and 3 18 or over	5 bed
Single person or couple, four children, all over 18	5 bed
Single person or couple, five or more children Would depend on the gender and ages of children	4, 5 or 6 bed

Overcrowding definition

Detailed below is how we define overcrowding and the criteria we will use to determine if an applicant is overcrowded.

Overcrowding is defined as requiring two or more additional bedrooms to reach the bedroom standard or requiring one bedroom for applicants with children. For the purpose of this policy the Department for Work and Pensions bedroom standard will be used with the following deviations:

- 1) Children under the age of one will be expected to share a bedroom with their parents
- 2) Lodgers, border or non-family members over 18 will be discounted
- 3) Two children of the same sex under the age of 18 would be expected to share a bedroom

To help applicants understand the above definition and criteria we have detailed below two case studies.

Overcrowded by two-bedrooms case study

Miss Jones (the applicant), her partner and their two-year and five-year old daughters are currently living in a three-bedroom house which they share with Miss Jones parents, her 16-year-old sister and 14-year-old brother. In terms of bedroom requirement, Miss Jones and her partner require a bedroom, their children also require a bedroom, her parents require a bedroom and both her sister and brother require their own bedroom. With the above in mind, this means that the property Miss Jones shares with her partner, children, parents, sister and brother is overcrowded by two bedrooms i.e. they are short by two bedrooms.

Overcrowded by one-bedroom case study

Mr Bloggs (the applicant), his partner and their one-year-old daughter are currently living in a one-bedroom flat. In terms of bedroom requirement, Mr Bloggs and his partner require a bedroom and their one-year-old daughter requires a bedroom of her own. With the above in mind, this means that the property Mr Bloggs and his

partner share with their one-year-old daughter is overcrowded by one bedroom i.e. they are short by one-bedroom.