



Key Changes to Overcrowding Criteria Fact Sheet

Anyone who wishes to apply to join the housing register must have a local connection to the Cheshire West and Chester area. This means that an applicant must either currently live, work or have family in the area to be considered.

What is overcrowding?

There are two legal definitions of overcrowding - the room and the space standards. If either or both of them apply, the dwelling will be statutorily overcrowded. The room and the space standards apply to any premises let as a separate dwelling (such as a house, a flat or even just a room if it is let separately from the rest of the building). They apply to both tenancies and/or licences.

What were the old overcrowding criteria?

In the old Allocations Policy applicants who were overcrowded by two bedrooms would be placed in band B and applicants who were overcrowded by one bedroom would have been placed in band C.

So what's changed?

The new Allocations Policy defines overcrowded as someone requiring two or more additional bedrooms to reach the bedroom standard or requiring one bedroom for applicants with children. The new Allocations Policy uses the Department for Work and Pensions bedroom standard albeit 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 gender under the age of 18 would be expected to share a bedroom

Applicants who meet the above overcrowding criteria would be given a band B housing priority.

So what happens if an applicant does not meet the new overcrowding criteria?

If an applicant has been assessed as not meeting the overcrowding criteria then they will be placed in the Housing Options Band. However, if an applicant feels that their circumstances have changed and/or they disagree with the decision not to award an overcrowding priority they can contact West Cheshire Homes directly via

Telephone: 0300 123 2442

Email: westcheshirehomes@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Post: West Cheshire Homes, Council Offices,
4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port, CH65 0BE.



West Cheshire
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