



Allocations and Lettings Eligibility and Assessment Criteria

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Arc's eligibility and assessment criteria are the mechanism by which managers assess applications for our housing and support services, in order to determine whether or not we can accept them.
- 1.2. To make the process as fair and transparent as possible, these criteria will be publicly available and will be reviewed annually.
- 1.3. Consideration for Arc's supported housing is based on a comprehensive needs and risk assessment. The needs assessment will ascertain the applicant's needs for support and housing. The risk assessment will ascertain the degree to which they present a risk to themselves, other clients, staff, neighbours and the local community.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1. To be eligible for Arc's supported housing, applicants must in the first instance meet all of the following criteria, as specified in our Allocations and Lettings Policy:
 - Be aged 18 or over,
 - Be homeless or at risk of homelessness,
 - Have support needs which mean they would otherwise be unable to sustain a tenancy,
 - Have the right to permanent residence in the UK; those subject to certain immigration restrictions are not eligible,
 - Have a local connection to Somerset, as consistent with housing legislation and Somerset Council policy, with the exception of those in the Armed Forces and Veterans, who are exempt from residency qualification under housing regulation.

3. Assessment Criteria

- 3.1. The assessment criteria are based on information collected at the referral stage and at interview with the applicant. They fall into three categories.

- 3.1.1. Personal and current housing information, which covers:
- Whether the applicant is an armed service veteran,
 - Their current housing status, e.g. sofa-surfing, sleeping rough, in prison,
 - How long they have been homeless or when they expect to become homeless,
 - The reason(s) for their homelessness.
- 3.1.2. Income, which covers:
- Benefits,
 - Debts and/or rent arrears,
 - Savings.
- 3.1.3. Health and support needs:
- Physical health or accessibility needs,
 - History of, or current mental health issues,
 - History of, or current substance misuse,
 - History of violence or aggressive behaviour,
 - History of criminal offending or custodial sentences,
 - Whether they are engaging with social services,
 - Whether they are engaging with any support services
 - Details of any medication,
 - Details of any pets,
 - Any other information provided by the applicant.

4. **Monitoring and Performance**

- 4.1. The board has overall responsibility for this document.
- 4.2. The board will receive assurance that the eligibility and assessment criteria are being complied with through management information and internal audit activity.

5. **Background documents**

- 5.1. This document should be read in conjunction with:
- Allocations and Lettings Policy
 - Allocations and Lettings Process

Author	Senior Management Team
Policy owner	Board
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