

MEDICAL GRADINGS FOR HOUSING (Min 86/96)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to extend the number of grading categories for medical and disability factors for those people on the Council's Housing Register and tenants wishing to transfer.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Head of Revenue and Housing Management reminds Members of the policy to provide medical priority for Housing Register Applicants and tenants wishing to transfer was reaffirmed at the meeting of the Health & Housing Services Committee on 6 February 1996 (Min. 85/96).

3 CURRENT PRACTICE

- 3.1 At present when correspondence is received from a General Practitioner on behalf of an applicant, a report is prepared taking into account the current housing situations. The report is referred to the Council's independent medical adviser who grades the need for rehousing on medical grounds based on all information available.
- 3.2 There are currently 4 categories – A,B,C and D. Grades A – C attract additional points on the housing register and a D grade indicates there is no need to consider rehousing on medical grounds. The A grade indicates a very high priority for rehousing and would normally result in that tenant or applicant being allocated the next suitable property which becomes available for reletting.

4 PROPOSED CHANGES

- 4.1 The independent medical advisor has indicated there is insufficient scope within the current grading structure for him to distinguish fairly between varying degrees of medical problems and has requested that an additional grade be inserted.
- 4.2 The Appendix to this report shows the proposed gradings with outlines of medical conditions likely to fall within those gradings A – E. The points awarded range from 50 to 0 on the Transfer List and 200 to 0 on the Register.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

HOUSING MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE - 7 November 2001

5.1 None other than reprinting of guidelines.

6 RECOMMENDATION

E.1 It is proposed that the Sub-Committee **RESOLVES**

That the number of medical gradings for tenants wishing to transfer and applicants on the Housing Register be as set out on the Appendix.

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Background Papers:

None.

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR MEDICAL PRIORITY FOR HOUSING

	E (0) Nil (0)	D (10) Minor (5)	C (25) Significant (10)	B (50) Major (20)	A (200) Urgent (50)
<i>Physical Health</i>	Risk to physical safety and functional ability would not improve by re-housing. Pregnancy itself is not regarded as an illness.	Some concern about potential risk to physical safety. Re-housing is required to prevent deterioration in functional ability over a three-year projection.	Medium risk to physical safety and functional ability; unlikely to be improved unless by alternative house design/location.	High risk to physical safety and functional ability; unable to be improved unless by alternative house design/location.	Crisis situation requiring re-housing in the very near future, otherwise serious repercussions on health.
<i>Mental Illness / Disability</i>	No significant improvement in quality of life likely to be gained by re-housing.	Current accommodation contributes to social isolation, restricts independence and re-housing is required to prevent deterioration.	Only to be awarded in this category if re-housing is beneficial and enhances independence.	Only to be awarded in this category if inability to cope is solely and directly related to housing.	High risk or actual breakdown. To live in alternative housing is essential to avoid loss of life.
Environment	Stress/illness will not improve by re-housing.	Poor surroundings may affect illness and re-housing is the only way to improve the situation.	Some health improvement if alternative housing provided.	Clear evidence of significant health improvement if re-housed.	Life threatening situation developing if not re-housed away from existing home/ neighbourhood.