

## Points / Grades Awarded

**Outright** - Re-housing very urgent on health grounds:

- Cannot be discharged from hospital as housing completely unsuitable or are homeless **or**
- Housing severely affects health or causes extreme difficulty or poses a danger to themselves or others and cannot be adapted **and**
- Severe illness and disability, **and**
- Re-housing should absolutely improve the situation.

**High** – Re-housing urgent

- Severe illness and disability, **and**
- Housing significantly affects health or causes significant difficulty or poses a danger to themselves or others **and**
- Re-housing should significantly help situation.

**Medium** – moderate need.

**Low** – marginal need.

**Nil** – No need or not eligible or re-housing will not benefit.

# Medical Priority

Patient & Professional Information

The aim of this leaflet is to give you information about Medical Priority (MP).

Medical priority (MP) is an award of grades which are changed into points within Council Housing Departments' / Housing Associations' Allocation Policies.

The Medical Advisory Service (MAS) advises the Housing Provider on MP. MP is considered in respect of **any** household member.

### **MP does not apply**

- To overcrowding, neighbourhood or environmental disturbance, harassment of any type, house maintenance, condensation and dampness.
- Even where these issues are considered to affect health.
- **Unless** there is a documented history of enduring mental ill health.

### **MP applies where:**

- There are permanent, serious, medical or physical problems **and**
- There are internal aspects of housing which cannot be altered or adapted, **and**
- It is considered that rehousing<sup>1</sup> will help a household members' independence, or help prevent further deterioration in their, or their carer's, medical condition.

### **Homelessness and medical issues**

The decision to award homeless priority rests with Homeless Officers. However, where applicants are, or may be homeless, the MAS may advise the applicant could be considered under **homeless legislation** if there is no specific housing need on medical grounds.

### **Applicants with Special Needs**

Applications to any landlord<sup>2</sup> may be referred to Special Needs Committees<sup>3</sup>, where a household member:

- Has an enduring mental illness.
- Has learning disability.
- Has completed or may require rehabilitation for substance / alcohol abuse.
- Other needs, such that support may be required to help manage the tenancy.
- May require Very Sheltered Housing / Housing with Care.
- May require fully adapted housing.

**Where successful tenancies are likely to be dependent on community support, decisions will depend on receipt of assessments and care plans.**

### **Queries and Reviews**

Applicant's queries should be directed to the relevant Housing Provider.

Applicants, or someone acting on their behalf, can ask for the decision to be reconsidered or reviewed.

- Reconsideration is on the information already provided.
- A **review** is where further information is submitted.

<sup>1</sup> A recommendation for a specific area will **not** be made unless there is a very strong case for doing so on health / welfare benefit grounds.

<sup>2</sup> A few Housing Associations hold their own nominations, but most Special Needs applications go through Committee.

<sup>3</sup> With affected household member's informed consent.