

Policy Guidelines: Bathing Facilities in Sheltered Accommodation

1. Any member of the public who is resident in the Borough may approach the Social Services Authority requesting an assessment of their needs. The NHS and Community Care Act 1990 places a duty on the Local Authority to provide an assessment if it appears that the person may be in need of a community care service which it may arrange or provide. If during that assessment the person is identified as being disabled, the Council has a duty to assess the person for their needs under the provisions of the Disabled Persons [Services, Consultation and Representation] Act 1986 to determine if they qualify for services under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.
2. Assessment of the client is undertaken by a suitably qualified Occupational Therapist or Community Care Worker in the client's home.
3. Where the client's condition is of a nature that adapted bathing facilities are considered appropriate, the assessment will take into consideration any communal facilities provided on the site.
4. Where a medical need for adapted bathing or toilet facilities is assessed, the Registered Provider (RP) will be requested to offer the client suitably adapted alternative accommodation where possible, or another property which is more suitable for adaptation, if appropriate.
5. When considering whether it is reasonable and practical to carry out the relevant works to the dwelling, by means of a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and having regard to the age and condition of the dwelling, the Council will also take into consideration any future plans the RP may have for the complex, to ensure that public monies are appropriately spent.
6. Where the conditions in [4] and [5] above are met and a referral for a Disabled Facilities Grant is made, then the client will be assessed under the Priority Scoring System, to ensure that available resources are targeted at those in most urgent need of assistance.
7. If the client's priority score is such that this is within the medium or low priority bandings, then the RP will be expected to continue to seek to offer suitable accommodation as in [4] above.
8. If a client unreasonably refuses the offer of such suitable alternative accommodation, then the Council's duty towards the client will have been considered to have been met and the option of a DFG will not be considered.
9. Each case will be considered on its merit and where a DFG is refused by the Council, the client may appeal, in writing, to the Executive Member and the Director of Public Health, whose joint decision will be final.