

Request to use Discretionary provisions within Private Sector Housing Assistance policy

From: Chris Sinnott chris.sinnott@chorley.gov.uk
To: Martin Sample <martin.sample@chorley.gov.uk>
Cc: Angela Barrago <Angela.Barrago@chorley.gov.uk>; Caroline Smith <caroline.smith@chorley.gov.uk>

11/9/20 at 13:53

Hi,

I'm happy to approve that as a grant given the rationale that you have set out.

I think this needs recording as a formal Officer decision, so could you speak to democratic services about the process for that please?

Thanks
Chris

From: Martin Sample <martin.sample@chorley.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 September 2020 12:49
To: Chris Sinnott <chris.sinnott@chorley.gov.uk>
Cc: Angela Barrago <Angela.Barrago@chorley.gov.uk>; Caroline Smith <caroline.smith@chorley.gov.uk>
Subject: Request to use Discretionary provisions within Private Sector Housing Assistance policy

Hi Chris

I'd be grateful if you could consider a case that we have been working on and which under statutory DFG eligibility criteria the applicant is not eligible.

Customer information:

Name: Mrs Belinda Tickle
Address: 28 Sycamore Road Chorley PR6 0JD
DOB: 26/3/1976
Tenure: Accent Housing tenant (for which they pay full rent, ie no HB)

Recommended adaptations:

Level Access Shower (not yet tendered)
Stairlift (quote received £7,408)

Family circumstances

Mrs Tickle lives with her husband and their 9 year old daughter

Financial circumstances

Mr Tickle works as a lorry driver and earns net annual income of £21,320. Mrs Tickle is in receipt of contribution-based ESA and standard rate PIP (mobility and daily living components).

Outcome of financial assessment

We carried out the 'Test of Financial Resources' recently. Their required contribution was calculated at £18,052.59. This means that their required contribution exceeds the cost of the adaptations, and thus they are not statutorily eligible for DFG.

The case to use Discretionary provisions to award the Grant

1. Overall cost of the works is likely to be around £11,000 to £11,500
2. We have a 50/50 cost sharing arrangements with Accent which would mean the Council's costs would be halved to around £5500/£5750
3. We would not wish to inadvertently play a part in their tenancy with Accent failing due to a lack of suitable facilities – we wish to contribute to sustainable tenancies and communities.
4. Nor would we wish to cause them to stop being an economically active household simply to qualify for DFG. Such action would be perverse and would contradict our desire to assist with people's well-being especially at this time with COVID still prevalent.
5. Their financial position is not affluent. They do not have much in the way of savings (as declared to the HIA) and would not be able to afford to self-fund either of the two recommended adaptation items.
6. The amount that the Council would have to spend – ie less than £6000 - is lower than some Chorley Adaptation Grants that we have provided to people who have not been financially assessed but whom we suspect would have 'failed' a means test had one been applied.

I hope that this is sufficient information to enable you to reach a decision. If you would like any other information please contact me.

Regards
Martin

Martin Sample
Housing Team Leader (Private Sector)
Chorley Council

📞 01257 515151 | 🌐 chorley.gov.uk

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