

APPENDIX I

FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT MODEL

- 1.1 The functional assessment model is based on clinical reasoning and considers the ability of an applicant to maintain essential day to day activities in their own home. The assessment primarily considers:
- if and why the current accommodation is unsuitable, unavailable or inappropriate to adapt, **or**
 - if rehousing is essential to maintain longer term health, welfare or independence **and /or**
 - if health and welfare or independence could be significantly or moderately improved by re-housing **and/or**
 - if reasonable and practical adaptations can be made to the property but rehousing would meet longer term needs more fully and efficiently.
- 1.2 The assessment process will also provide an opportunity to:
- assess current management of the functional impairment via a signposting approach to identified needs;
 - consider applicants needs for housing and social /care support services if they are available; and
 - consider whether telephone contact or a home visit by an occupational therapist is required in order to gain further in-depth details of the current reported difficulties.
- 1.3. The revised assessment model will move the assessment process from the housing needs officer to the Housing Occupational Therapist (OT). Points will be awarded based on the following criteria:

Category	Criteria	Points
A	Awarded where the illness will become life threatening if the person were to remain in their current accommodation or due to illness and dysfunction it has been clearly established by health professionals that the person is no longer able to safely remain in their current accommodation.	500
B	Awarded where the illness is likely to continue to seriously deteriorate if the person remains in their current accommodation and/or the person is long term and substantially disabled and due to this it has been established by health professionals that they are unable to access and use essential facilities in their current home.	350
C	Awarded where it has been established by a health professional that a change of property would significantly increase the person's level of safety, ability and	150

	independence when completing essential day to day activities.	
D	Awarded where it has been established by a health professional that a change of property would moderately increase the person's level of safety, ability and independence when completing essential day to day activities.	50
E	No points will be awarded where there are no recognised barriers in place for a person to carry out their day to day activities. No points will be awarded where alternative solutions can be provided (e.g. aid and adaptations).	0

1.4 Categories of need (examples)

1.4.1 Category (A) points would be appropriate where:

- essential daily care needs cannot be met due to the barriers within the property;
- a person is not able to return home from a hospital admission due to significant barriers within the property.

1.4.2 Category (B) points would be appropriate where:

- it has been clearly established that a long term health condition (e.g. a severe and advanced autoimmune disease or mental health illness) is seriously worsened by the persons current housing conditions;
- due to long term and substantial dysfunction it has been established that a person is not able to access and use essential first floor facilities.

1.4.3 Category (C) points would be appropriate where:

- due to long term and substantial dysfunction it has been established that the person is at risk when using stairs to reach facilities within the property;
- the health condition is being made significantly worse due to social isolation and immobility.

1.4.4 Category (D) points would be appropriate where:

- steps and stairs or bath access are difficult for the person to use - although they can manage (with equipment or adaptations) on most days;
- social isolation and immobility is making their health condition worse.

- 1.5 Applicants who are not satisfied with the outcome of their assessment will have the right to appeal. An appeals panel comprising of the Housing Needs (Operations Manager), the Senior Housing Needs Officer and the Advanced Occupational Therapist will consider appeals. At the appeal hearing, the Housing OT will be required to present the reasons and rationale for their original decision and the panel would decide thereafter whether the level of priority should remain or change.
- 1.6 As an additional oversight, the Panel will also carry out a random sample of routine functional assessments every quarter to ensure consistency, transparency and good practice.