

## ***Definition of a Household***

We will only consider applications to house the applicant, their partner, their immediate family, and anyone else with an exceptional need to live with them (and which is the 'eligible household' or household for the purpose of this scheme). This is because we have such a severe shortage of larger properties, so families need to consider whether other people living in their household could move into smaller properties of their own.

### Partner

Partner means someone who lives with the applicant as a partner, or who would live with them if they were able to. This includes mixed-gender and same-sex couples, whether or not they are married or in a civil partnership.

### Immediate Family

Immediate family means the applicant's children or their partner's children, aged 21 or less, who live with the applicant all the time, or for four or more nights every week. If a child is living with a partner or has his/her own children, s/he may not be included on the application unless they have an exceptional need to live with the applicant.

Immediate family does not include the applicant's (or their partner's) parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends or lodgers – unless they have an exceptional need to live as part of the household. Please note that the applicant's children, or their partner's children, aged 21 or over will not be included as part of the household for the purposes of being re-housed, unless the children have an exceptional need to live as part of the household (see below).

### Separating

If the applicant and partner are separating, they must provide us with evidence of who is legally allowed to remain in the property, such as a court property order detailing to whom the property is assigned. Accommodation for children will be allowed for with only one parent, on whom the children are dependent.

### Exceptional reasons

In order for a relative to be included in the application under the ground of exceptional reason they would normally need to be living with the applicant and have done so on a long term basis.

People who have an exceptional need to live with the applicant means people who are not included in the definition of 'immediate family', but who have a real need to live as part of the household in order to give or to receive care or support. This may include:

- A child (of the applicant or partner) aged 21 or over, who cannot live independently because of a disability or care need
- A carer, if someone in the household needs full-time care and no one in their immediate family is able to provide this. In exceptional cases consideration will