

Appendix 6 – Enfield’s Housing Panels

The Council’s Housing Panels are important for assessing an applicant’s housing and support needs. Each panel will consider an applicant’s priority for social rented housing and the support they will need to live independent lives. Each Housing Panel comprises Senior Officers and who have been granted delegated authority by the Council to make decisions about housing as appropriate.

Mental Health Housing Panels

Applicants are referred to the Mental Health Assessment Panel where there is a need for more in depth discussions and sharing of information about their mental health issues. The Panel will assess:

- The vulnerability on grounds of mental health of applicants requesting assistance from Enfield Council because they are homeless
- Whether to award a mental health priority to an applicant applying through the Housing Register for a Council or housing association home

The Panel reviews on average 120 cases each year. Of this number about 40 cases will involve a review of an applicant’s housing and support needs.

The Panel is chaired by the Medical Assessment Officer and comprises a Senior Community Mental Health worker and Team manager from the Council’s Housing Options and Advice Service. This panel may refer applicants to the full Mental Health Panel if necessary.

The Mental Health Panel reviews on average 40 cases each year. The Head of Housing Options and Advice or other delegated officer chairs the meeting. Applicants may attend. The Panel comprises a Senior Officer from the Community Mental Health Team or Community Psychiatric Nurse to enable the panel to decide on the suitability of independent accommodation and award an appropriate priority.

Care Leavers Housing Panel

Enfield’s Care Leavers Housing Panel reviews the cases of young people who are due to leave the care of the local authority because they are owed a duty by Enfield Council under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

The aim of the panel is to:

- ensure a young person is fully prepared for move-on into independent living
- identify their support needs with, for example, the CBL bidding process