

# CONCESSIONARY TV LICENSING IN SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEMES POLICY

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Policy approved by:	Si Welch
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EIA Required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Revision number:	3
Lead officer:	Jane Allen

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## 1 TITLE

1.1 Concessionary TV Licensing in Sheltered Housing Schemes Policy

## 2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Stockport Homes Group (SHG) purchases a TV Licence for each Sheltered Scheme for watching and recording TV in any communal areas.

2.2 TV Licensing has an 'Accommodation for Residential Care' scheme (ARC). The ARC applies to sheltered schemes amongst other residential care options. This entitles tenants within sheltered schemes to a concessionary TV licence if they fulfil certain specified criteria.

2.3 Tenants who do not qualify for the ARC Scheme must purchase their own TV Licence for watching or recording TV in their individual flat.

## 3 STRATEGIC LINKS

3.1 This policy links to:

- Stockport Homes' and SHG aims: Support customers in all aspects of their lives through effective partnership working
- Grow by making the best use of our resources and diversifying into businesses that complement what we already do
- Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council Older Person's Strategy

## 4 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

4.1 The ARC Scheme applies to tenants living in sheltered housing schemes with a Sheltered Scheme Manager that works for 30 hours or more per week at the scheme. In 2016 a restructure of Older Persons Services was carried out and there are currently no qualifying schemes. Tenants must also meet the qualifying listed in 4.4 below.

4.2 The ARC concessionary television licence is valid for one year; the usual period covered is from 1st February to 31st January, unless otherwise stated on the licence.

4.3 For schemes where the Sheltered Scheme Manager works less than 30 hours per week, tenants are not eligible unless they hold a 'preserved right'. A preserved right is held for tenants who became a tenant of their current property when the sheltered scheme did meet the requirements. For all other tenants under 75 years of age, the full price must be paid directly to the TV Licensing Authority.

4.4 Tenants are eligible for the ARC concessionary licence if they are over 60 years of age, retired (or working no more than 15 hours per week) or have a disability.

4.5 Tenants over 75 receive a free concessionary TV licence in line with TV Licensing Authority regulations.

4.6 Tenants who do not watch or record television via any technological means (e.g. smart phone, tablet, PC download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer) do not require a licence.

4.7 Tenants who do not qualify for a concessionary TV licence must purchase one directly from the TV Licensing Authority and pay the full amount due.

4.8 Tenants who move from a sheltered scheme to non-sheltered accommodation may be entitled to concessionary or free TV licences but this will depend on their age.

4.9 Those moving to a temporary property that does not qualify under the ARC Scheme will not be eligible for the concessionary licence at the temporary property. Stockport Homes may contribute to out of pocket expenses as part of the decant process.

4.10 No refunds will be given to tenants when terminating their tenancy.

## **5 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 This policy is governed by the regulations set by the TV Licensing Authority who offer older customers a reduced TV licence rate. The protected characteristics contained in the Equality Act have been considered and it is extremely unlikely that this policy will have a differential impact on any groups. An EIA screening form has recorded a low impact.

## **6 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING AND REVIEW**

6.1 The policy is owned by the Neighbourhoods and Support Directorate and will be reviewed in line with the Policy Review Group schedule on a three yearly basis.

6.2 Any queries with the policy should be forwarded to Lauren Atherton, Policy and Performance Officer on 0161 474 2859.