

FURNISHED TENANCY POLICY

30 November 2020

Prepared by:	Helen Alderson
Date effective from:	30/11/2020
Policy approved by:	Sandra Coleing
Review Date:	30/11/2023

EIA Required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
EIA Completed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revision number:	1
Lead officer:	Anne-Marie Heil

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Furnished Tenancy Scheme (the Scheme) is for tenants of Stockport Homes (SHG) who have minimal furniture and lack the means to purchase it.

1.2 The aim of the Scheme is to ensure that eligible tenants are provided with essential items of furniture to enable them to set up a home, thereby facilitating sustainable tenancies and preventing homelessness.

2 STRATEGIC LINKS

2.1 This Policy links to the following:

- Stockport Council's Housing Strategy 2016-21
- Stockport's Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2016-21
- SHG's mission of One Team, Transforming Lives
- SHG's aims to "develop our thriving, safe and sustainable neighbourhoods, and provide comfortable affordable homes"

3 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

3.1 SHG is committed to ensuring that customers are supported in times of crisis and will provide services that ensure tenants and prospective tenants are able to live with dignity and sustain independent living.

3.2 SHG is dedicated to continually improving and further developing the range of housing support services available to the residents of Stockport and beyond if required. Customers will be triaged when they are referred to the furniture service to identify their needs and the appropriate service that meets their individual circumstances.

3.3 The Scheme may be offered to new or existing tenants but should not be used to replace an existing tenant's furniture.

3.4 SHG retains ownership of the furniture package. Once a property has become a furnished tenancy it will remain a furnished tenancy property even on a change of tenant, unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be discussed with the Customer Engagement and Inclusion (CEI) Team Leader.

3.5 A furnished tenancy should not be a barrier to a tenant seeking or maintaining employment. In these circumstances the provision and cost of a furniture package may be reduced subject to the agreement of the CEI Team Leader.

4 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been completed. There are no major impacts on the current systems in place and/or delivery from staff to customers.

4.2 The scheme allows for safeguarding and vulnerability issues to override standard eligibility rules on a case by case basis. A variety of methods such as video calls as well as home visits are being incorporated to allow the scheme to operate in as flexible a way as possible. Stockport Homes will also ensure the supplier of goods is understanding of the vulnerable nature of some of the customers we work with.

4.3 The impact of the Policy is low and a full EIA is not required.

5 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING AND REVIEW

5.1 The Policy is owned by the Assistant Chief Executive Service and will be monitored by the Access and Support Review Group through the schedule for review.

5.2 Any queries with the policy should be forwarded to the Policy Project Officer on 0161 474 4151.