

DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS (DHP)

Additional funding to help with shortfalls in rent

DHP's are discretionary payments that may be administered if you 'appear to the authority to require some further financial assistance'. Each Local Authority has its own guidelines on how these are administered.

Generally DHP's will NOT be given if:

- The amount given, alongside Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support would exceed your eligible rent and council tax in any one week
- Your benefit has been reduced or suspended
- It is to cover service or support charges
- It is for water or sewage charges
- It is for the payment of rent and council tax and you are not entitled to the relevant benefit for these (e.g. if you are only eligible for CTS, you cannot get a DHP for a rent payment).

Most DHP's are given in exceptional circumstances where there is a shortfall between the eligible Housing Benefit and the amount of rent payable.

DHP's can only be made on a temporary basis, usually for 3 or 6 month periods but this is at the discretion of the Local Authority and the budget is limited.

DHP's are normally awarded if you need help to remain in your home and there is a good reason why you cannot make up the shortfall, or to help you move to another property. This might include money for deposits or rent in advance where no other sources of help are available. You must be in receipt of Housing Benefit, or receiving help towards your Housing costs through Universal Credit.

You must be trying to find a solution to your current housing situation in order to qualify.

Southdown is a leading provider of care, support and housing services for vulnerable people across Sussex

www.southdown.org