

Prioritisation Framework (tiers) and consideration of vulnerability.

The tiered framework set out below allows the Council to prioritise vulnerable residents, and the urgency and circumstances that have led to the request for support, whilst managing demand against available budget.

This model, and the costs mapped for each tier, will be proto typed for four months and reviewed ahead of April 2025 as discussed in paragraphs 4.20 – 4.29 of the main report.

	Tier One	Tier Two	Tier Three	Tier Four	
Crisis Payments	Category 1				HSF or similar Separate criteria expressed according to scope of funding
	Category 2 and vulnerable				
		Category 3 and vulnerable			
			Category 2 non vulnerable		
				Category 3 non vulnerable	
				Category 4 and vulnerable	
Re-settlement Grant	Primary items	Secondary items			Flooding Hardship Separate criteria expressed according to circumstances and funding.
Essential Items Grant		Primary items and vulnerable			
			Primary items non vulnerable		
				All secondary items	

Vulnerability

Criteria developed based on case assessor experience, consultation response, Public Health priorities, and the reflections of the Equality Impact Assessment.

An applicant may experience one or more circumstances that may lead to them being vulnerable. These factors will be explored through conversations with the applicant; information known to Adult Social Care and Health / Children's Services; information available on the Department for Work and Pension's Customer Information System (CIS); and support from wider professionals where available.

<i>The factors that a case assessor will take into account when considering the vulnerability of an applicant to the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund will include:</i>	
Care leaver	Carer for someone with a disability or long-term health condition
Child who is disabled and/or family receiving support from Children's Services	Disability or long-term health condition
Ex-services personnel	Experience of financial scam/abuse, or at risk of
Learning disability and/or autism	Homelessness/ including 'sofa surfing'
Parent or guardian of baby under one	Pregnant or postpartum women
Poor Mental Health	Recently released from prison (within 2 months)
Refugee	Experience of violence or abuse, including domestic violence

Whilst vulnerability does not in itself determine if an applicant will, or will not, be made an award, it is a factor that will be considered in the assessment process and is reflected in the prioritisation framework. Other factors will include the basic principles set out in the DDF policy, including the reason the application is being made, whether an applicant has received an award previously, and whether alternative provision is available that would meet this need.

This guidance will be reviewed during the early stages of delivering the revised DDF offer and adjusted as required.