

SAFE & SECURE ASSISTANCE

FACT SHEET

Safe & Secure Assistance

Safe and Secure Assistance is a small grant which is generally targeted at elderly or vulnerable households and provides financial assistance to address certain hazards in the home, including essential and urgent repairs.

Hazards in the Home

Safe and Secure assistance is primarily aimed at reducing the risk of harm from potential hazards in the home caused by housing defects, poor design or internal arrangement.

These hazards include:

Risk from fire, cold or intruders; hazards associated with damp and mould growth, hazards including risk from falls due to bad internal arrangement. Also, certain types of housing defect can create serious health and safety hazards to the occupants.

Examples of eligible work include:

- Electrical rewiring
- Repairs to the roof
- Replacement windows or doors with suitable locks
- Security lighting, or
- Uneven, broken and dangerous garden paths

Level of Assistance Offered

Safe and Secure Assistance is limited to works costing no more than £5,000, with a limit of 2 applications amounting to a maximum of £7,000 in any three year period.

Applicants must have occupied their home as their only or main residence for at least 3 years immediately prior to the date of application for assistance, except where the works relate to means of escape in case of fire, or other fire precautions.

Please note that Safe and Secure Assistance is a discretionary grant and is offered subject to funding being available.

How Hazards are Assessed

All requests for Safe & Secure Assistance are assessed by the Council's Housing Standards & Assistance team using a Government derived Housing Health and Safety Rating System, and take into account the nature of the occupier's vulnerability. Under this scheme, hazards graded as "Category 1 or 2" may qualify for assistance.

Applying for Safe & Secure Assistance

This grant is available to owner-occupiers and some private tenants, who are,

- (a) elderly (aged 60 years or over) or
- (b) vulnerable (including the disabled, lone parent families with children under the age of 16 years, or 19 years if in full time education, low income families and the chronically infirm)

and who are in receipt of certain specified means tested benefits or their equivalents:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-based Employment Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Disabled Person's Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support
- Child Tax Credit

Please note that the Council would expect a landlord to undertake any repairing obligations prior to any assistance being offered to a tenant.

How the Contractor is Chosen

All eligible applicants are assisted by WHiA (Warrington Home Improvement and Information Agency), the Council's nominated Home Improvement Agency, who will prepare and submit your scheme for approval, and will employ a builder from their approved list to undertake the works on your behalf. They will charge a fee for this work which can be included in the grant.

Contact:

Housing Standards and Assistance

Tel: (01925) 248482 / 246909

Email: privatesector@warrington.gov.uk

whía:

Tel: (01925) 246812

Email: whia@wha.org.uk