



Housing Self-Help Guide 1 Homelessness



Definition of Homelessness:

A Person could be considered 'homeless' if -

- they have no accommodation available to them in the in the UK or abroad
- they have a split household and accommodation is not available for the whole household i.e. family members living apart
- it is unreasonable to continue to occupy the accommodation i.e. landlord has given notice
- they are at risk violence from any person(s)
- their home has been subject to fire or flood etc. and is inhabitable.

Where to find help:

**Families (with children) or vulnerable
due to old age or other factors
(including hospital discharge)**

**Birmingham City Council Housing
Options Centre:
0121 675 5779
Out of hours Service:
0121 303 2296**

Fleeing Domestic Abuse

**Birmingham & Solihull Women's
Aid:
0808 800 0028
Out of Hours: 0121 303 2296
or
National DV Helpline 0808
200247**

**Young people 16-25 with no
dependent children or under 18 with
dependent children**

**St Basils Youth Hub 0300 303 0099
Out of Hours:
under 18 call: 0121 675 4806
over 18 call: 0121 303 2296**

**Single person/childless couple
aged 25+ with social care needs**

**Sifa -fireside
48 -52 Allcock Street B9 4DY
0121 766 1700 (option1)
Out of Hours Service 0121 303 2296**

**Single Person / Childless Couple
aged 25+**

**Sifa-Fireside
48 -52 Allcock Street B9 4DY
0121 766 1700**



What can I expect when I approach Birmingham City Council as homeless ?

Before any decision is made as to whether you are eligible for accommodation as homeless, the local authority must assess your situation by using five tests of homelessness:

Test 1: Homelessness – are you homeless or threatened with homeless?

Test 2: Eligibility – you will need to provide documentation that you eligible for assistance, including your immigration status.

Test 3: Priority Need – You will need to demonstrate that you have a priority need. For example, this could be if you are pregnant or you have children or dependents; your age; or if you have a health need, based on either your physical or mental health issues.

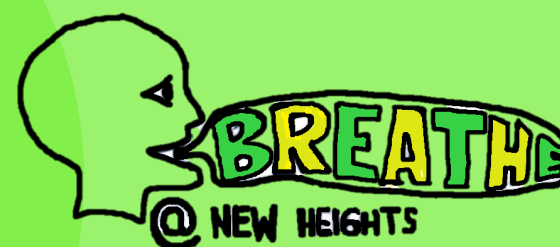
Test 4: Intentional Homeless – you will need to demonstrate that it is not your fault that you are homeless. You could be deemed as intentionally homeless if you:

- Left or gave up your home when you could have continued living there
- Didn't pay your rent or mortgage when you were able to.
- Been evicted from your home because of criminal or Anti-Social-Behaviour

However, if your circumstances meet the first three tests but you have been classed as intentionally homeless, the local Authority must provide you with temporary accommodation for a short period of time. You should seek further specialist advice if this is the case – please see below for links to sources to other organisations regarding this.

Test Five – Local Connection – you need to show that you have a local connection with the area that you are making a homeless application. These include:

- You must have been living in the area for at least 6 months during the previous 12 months, or for 3 years during the previous 5-year period.
- You are employed in the area
- You have close family in the area such as parents or children. Remember, the Local Authority will assess each individual case on the facts and circumstances of each case and will make their decision based on the information provided to them.
- There might be another special reasons i.e. you need to receive specialist health care



What does Prevention Duty mean?

The Local Authority's Prevention duty comes in to force when you are threatened with homelessness i.e. within 56 days. This means the Local Authority must take reasonable steps to help you remain in your current accommodation. Please note that if you become homeless during the prevention stage the prevention duty will end and the relief duty will come in to affect.

What is Relief Duty?

The Local Authority relief duty requires reasonable steps to be taken to help a homeless applicant secure suitable alternative accommodation that is available for at least 6 months in both the private and social housing sectors

What is a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP)?

A PHP is tailored to the specific homeless applicants' needs. This will set out what steps both the applicant and the local authority will take to prevent or relieve a specific homeless situation. PHP's are drawn up at both the prevention and relief duty stage

You can access further information and advice by visiting these websites:

I need accommodation now | I need accommodation now | Birmingham City Council

How to ask the council for help - Shelter England

For independent housing advice and advocacy contact
Shelter: 0344 515 1800 www.shelter.org.uk
Citizens Advice: www.citizenadvice.org.uk

