

# What is temporary accommodation? Information for families or pregnant women **Factsheet**

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## What is it?

Temporary accommodation is emergency housing that the council will seek to place you in if you are homeless and satisfy the criteria for homelessness. It is housing that will be provided on the day you need it. You will be offered temporary accommodation while we consider your homeless application. Temporary accommodation is not permanent accommodation and will be cancelled by the council if we have made a negative a decision about your application. If it is cancelled, you will be given notice of the cancellation in writing.

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## Where will I be placed?

- You will initially be placed in emergency temporary accommodation; a council run hostel or a property in the private rented sector in Islington or another borough. If no accommodation is available you may be placed in emergency hotel accommodation.
- Properties in the private sector will be self-contained and fully furnished, although kitchen equipment and bedding is not provided. A managing agent will look after the property and deal with any repairs or health and safety issues.
- You will be expected to pay a nightly charge for your accommodation. You may be able to apply for housing benefit to help you pay this. You will also be responsible for paying gas, electricity, water and council tax bills.
- The council will make every effort to place you in accommodation that is suitable to your needs. However, due to the shortage of properties available the council may be restricted in what it is able to offer you.

## What happens when a decision has been made about my case?

- If the council accepts a housing duty for you, you will remain in temporary accommodation until you are re-housed into settled accommodation (provided you keep to the terms of your licence).
- If the council does not accept a housing duty for you, you will need to leave your temporary accommodation and make your own housing arrangements. The council may be able to provide you with advice on this.

## Once the council has accepted a housing duty for me; what sort of temporary accommodation will I be in and how long will I be there for?

The council will offer you longer term leased accommodation, either in Islington or in another borough.

If there are no suitable leased properties available, you will remain in your emergency accommodation.

Due to the lack of family sized permanent properties available, you are likely to stay in your accommodation a number of years.

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# Moving on to settled accommodation

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## Moving to a council or housing association property

There is large shortage of family sized properties owned by the council and housing associations. You will have to wait a number of years for an offer of permanent housing.

If you are in leased temporary accommodation, you may be given lease end points when your lease expires. You can then use your points to bid for a permanent property through the Home Connections scheme. You will be expected to secure a property within 3 months. Alternatively, the council may make you an offer through its Supported Choice scheme.

## Homefinder UK

People living in temporary accommodation whose case has been agreed, can also apply to Homefinder UK to bid for a permanent council or housing association property, in London or in other parts of the UK.

## Accepting a private sector offer

The council can also help you find a settled home in the private rented sector.

The council will discuss with you which areas you are able to live in. This could include areas outside of London. We will take into account your personal preferences as well as what rents you are able to afford.

The council will then find you a property with a private landlord that is affordable and suitable to your needs.

When you accept a private sector offer, you will no longer be considered as living in temporary accommodation. You will be considered as adequately housed and no longer in housing need. The council will discharge its housing duty towards you.

However, you may be able to apply to the council's waiting list to be considered for a permanent council or housing association property.

The council can advise you of all housing options available to you.

## Please keep us updated

Whilst you are living in temporary accommodation, it is important to keep your caseworker informed of any change in circumstances that may occur to you or your family, as this may affect your housing options.