

Preventing homelessness

support for
single people



Placement and assessment team for homeless singles (PATHS)

PATHS is primarily responsible for trying to prevent your homelessness.

PATHS works by assessing support needs and housing circumstances so that appropriate support can be provided to prevent homelessness. If this is not possible or appropriate PATHS will seek to provide appropriate supported accommodation or where it is essential to provide short term temporary accommodation.

We work with other organisations to provide help and support to homeless persons and vulnerable people who need help in finding and keeping accommodation and services.



We aim to:

- maintain independent living for vulnerable people in the community
- provide a better range of quality support services based on local need

What is supported accommodation?

This is housing with support from key workers that might range from weekly visits to intensive 24 hour support for people with a variety of needs. These include:

- homelessness
- mental health problems
- offending history
- refugees
- young people
- substance use
- learning disabilities

How can I be referred to the team?

You can present to the H&F Advice Centre or be referred by certain organisations, including one of the following:

- social services
- Drug Interventions Project
- Probation Service
- local advice agencies
- community mental health teams
- Youth Offending Service
- supported accommodation providers
- the council

Who is eligible?

You must:

- have a local connection to Hammersmith & Fulham Council
- be homeless or be threatened with homelessness



How will I be assessed?

Your case worker will help complete most of the paperwork for you. This will include a referral form as well as reports and assessment completed by other people working with you.

You can also directly approach the council at the H&F Advice Centre and you may be referred on from there.

Once we have received the referral form, your assigned caseworker will assess your housing and support needs and will contact the person who referred you for further information if required.

If we think that supported accommodation is not suitable for you, the caseworker will give you general housing advice and help.

If we think that supported accommodation is suitable for you we will place you on a waiting list with other people with similar needs.

We may place you in unsupported temporary accommodation if we have no suitable supported alternatives for you or while we investigate whether or not we have a duty to house you.

What happens next?

Most supported accommodation projects in the borough pass on details of vacancies to us so we can match your details with vacancies that become available. If we think that you are suitable for a particular vacancy and your needs will be met, we will refer you. We liaise with the supported accommodation projects and your key workers/care managers on a regular basis to make sure you are suitably placed and whether you require a move to alternative accommodation if your needs change.

Supported housing placements for single people

Supported housing placements are made available to single people to enable them to gain independent living skills which are required to hold and manage a tenancy successfully. A resident may share communal areas such as kitchen, sitting area, bathroom and toilet facilities with other residents in the scheme. Some supported hostels offer bedsits which may also have a private kitchen area and/or toilet.

Permanent accommodation

Permanent accommodation can be made available to people who are able to live independently after a stay in supported accommodation and provided they are over 18 years of age at this time. This will usually be into private sector rented accommodation. Only in exceptional circumstances and for a very small number of people will move-on be arranged into social housing for people for whom the council has not accepted a housing duty.

Move-on

A supported accommodation provider can also refer people to PATHS who have been in supported accommodation and are ready to move on. This may be into other forms of supported accommodation due to their changing needs or to permanent accommodation.

Permanent accommodation is almost always in the private sector but a very small number of social housing units are available for move-on for clients who are currently capable of living independently but who may, because of an underlying condition be at significantly greater risk of future homelessness without the relative security of social housing.



Please ask your provider to contact PATHS for further advice or visit **www.lbhf.gov.uk/housingoptions** (search for support for single people under homelessness prevention) to view the decision making tool that PATHS applies when deciding which is the most appropriate option for move on.

Visit our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk

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