



## Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 was implemented on 3 April 2018, signaling the most significant change to homelessness law for a number of years. The new legislation places a duty on Councils to help prevent the homelessness of all who are eligible and threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.

### Homelessness Reuction Act- Key changes

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has amended the Housing Act 1996 and has added a number of additional requirements.

- An extension of the period in which the authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days
- A new duty to **prevent** homelessness and a new duty to **relieve** homelessness
- A requirement for public services to notify the Council if they come into contact with someone who may be homeless or threatened with homelessness
- A duty on the applicant to co-operate with the authority in resolving their housing issue

<u>Duty to <b>Prevent</b> Homelessness</u>	<u>Duty to <b>Relieve</b> Homelessness</u>
Tamworth Borough Council must help people who are at risk of losing their home within the next 56 days. This means people can get help earlier. We must help by working with the person to create a personal housing plan in order to avoid their situation turning into a homelessness crisis.	Tamworth Borough Council has a duty to help all people who are already homeless. We must help by working with the person to create a personal housing plan which will include reasonable steps for both the applicant and the Council to take in order to secure accommodation for homeless.



## Will accommodation be provided for me?

Wherever possible the council seeks to prevent homelessness. If you have no alternative accommodation and we believe that you are homeless, eligible and in priority need, we may offer suitable accommodation while we are assessing your homelessness application or when you have been accepted as homeless and are waiting for a permanent home. All options around accommodation will be explored and placing you will be avoided where possible. Accommodation which may be provided to you could range from:

Private Sector Leased  
Properties

Refuge

Bed and Breakfast

Out of area temporary  
accommodation

## What is a Personalised Housing Plan?

There is a duty on Councils to assess all cases and develop a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP). The plan must be agreed with the individual and must aim to ensure that the person can stay in their current accommodation or secure new suitable accommodation.

This plan will be tailored to your housing and support needs and its actions must be reasonable and achievable. If an individual does not co-operate once the plan has been developed and actions are not met then the individual will lose their entitlement to support from the Council.

## Rough Sleepers

The term 'rough sleeper' refers to people who are street homeless, with no access to accommodation. You can report yourself as rough sleeping via StreetLink and the information will be sent to the Councils Housing Solutions Service. We will then try and make contact with you and talk to you about your situation and find ways to try and help you.

If you find someone sleeping rough or you are rough sleeping yourself, you can report via:

- The national service website - <http://www.streetlink.org.uk/>
- The phone, calling StreetLink on their 24/7 number **0300 500 0914**.
- Or even through the **StreetLink app**, available on both Android and **Apple** products.

You can also call Tamworth Borough Councils Housing Solutions Service on **01827 709709**.

If you ever see a rough sleeper and want to make a report please make note of any details you can, such as their location, buildings nearby, clothes they are wearing etc.

## **Duty to Refer**

There is a duty on 'Public Bodies' like the NHS and Prisons to refer people to the Local Authority, with their consent, if they have reason to believe that they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The person being referred may choose which Local authority they want to be referred to, regardless of whether or not they have a local connection with that area. The receiving Local authority will be expected to take reasonable steps to support all applicants.

## **Contact us**

The Housing Solutions team are based at Tamworth Borough Council, they are available to give full advice on your housing needs and explain what options are available to you should you find yourself Homeless or threatened with homelessness.

**Contact: Email: [Housingsolutions@tamworth.gov.uk](mailto:Housingsolutions@tamworth.gov.uk)**

**Tel: 01827 709709.**

**If you are homeless and the Council offices are closed, then you can contact the homelessness out of hours service on 01827 709709 and choose option 1. You should only use this service if you have nowhere to stay immediately.**