

Prison leavers Housing Advice



Lets talk about you

- Have you recently been released from prison?
- Are you currently sofa surfing or between friends and family and have no settled accommodation?
- Are you due to be released from prison and worried about not having accommodation?

If you find yourself in this situation with little support, the information below, may be the starting point you need to find somewhere for you.

What will happen if I approach Tamworth Borough Council for help?

- **Step 1:** You will need to provide identification if you are applying as homeless or for housing. We will accept Prison ID with your photo but it will be expected for you to apply for a copy of your birth certificate from the district you were born in.
- A referral to Housing Solutions may be sent by your probation officer or resettlement officer. They will help you work with us and will often provide information to us if you are unable to.
- **Step 2:** Once we have assessed if you are eligible we will then assess if you are threatened with homelessness or homeless immediately.
- **Step 3:** After a full assessment, Tamworth Borough Council will establish whether emergency temporary accommodation will be provided to you. This decision will be based on the information you have provided to us.
- **Step 4:** We will work closely with you to find and secure accommodation for you which will be done by completing a Personal Housing Plan. This plan will look further at your housing needs, and will list actions for you and us to complete. It is important that you are honest with us during this assessment and provide us with all the information you can, so support can be tailored to you.

Types of accommodation we can support you in securing:

Depending on your age and bedroom need we will work to find accommodation that is affordable for you to maintain. This accommodation can range from;

- Hostels outside the Tamworth area
- Supported accommodation
- Room in a shared house
- A flat through private rent or housing association
- A council property

Supported Accommodation Available:

Name of Organisation	Who they can help	Contact details
Anew Young Persons Accommodation	They provide supported accommodation for 16-18 year olds. Support & Accommodation is provided to the following service users: Care Leavers, Young people with learning difficulties and young offenders.	Tel: 01782 720094 Website: http://www.anewyps.co.uk/
Derventio Housing Association	Accommodation for 18-60 year olds with medium support. Areas covered; Tamworth, Burton, Cannock and Derbyshire	Tel: 01332 292776 Website: http://www.derventiohousing.com/
Doorway	Supported accommodation for 18-25 male and females. Properties in Nuneaton and Bedworth.	Tel: 02476 345583 Website: https://www.doorway.org.uk/
Cornerstone Housing Association	Properties in the Tamworth area supporting 16- 26 year old males and females.	Tel:01827 319918 Website: http://www.tcha.org.uk/
Select Homes	Providing support and accommodation to individuals who are vulnerable or have an offending history. To apply you must have a benefit payment in place.	Tel: 0121 439 3381 Email: info@selecthomesukltd.co.uk

Support for you

Money Matters

Upon release from Prison it is important for any applicant to get started with setting up an income. You may need to apply for **Universal Credit** if you have had a break in your last benefit. Universal credit replaces a number of benefits including: income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Housing benefit.

Further information relating to **Universal Credit, Money Management, Budgeting and Charitable Funding** can be found at:

- **What You Need To Know-**
<https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/universal-credit>
- **What To Do If Benefit is stopped or suspended-**
<https://www.gov.uk/benefits-and-prison/benefits-that-stop-or-are-suspended>
- **How to keep Payments going whilst in Prison-**
<https://nhas.org.uk/docs/Prisoners - keeping your home.pdf>
- **Citizen's Advice Tamworth-** <http://www.ses-cab.org/tamworth>
- **Turn2Us-** <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/A-prisoner>
- **Clinks-** <https://www.clinks.org/funding-for-offenders>
- **The Princes Trust-** <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/who-else/housing-health-wellbeing/ex-offender-support>
- **Charitable Trusts- Educations Grants For Prisoners-**
<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/InfoonCharitableTrusts.pdf>

Getting back into Employment

Employment doesn't just have to be about earning money, it can be a source of socialisation, learning, support networks and being part of something.

Unlock- Organisation for people with convictions

- <http://www.unlock.org.uk/>

NACRO- Supporting agency who offer advice on Education and Training, a Resettlement Advice Service and much more.

- <https://www.nacro.org.uk/>

Mental Health Support

Tamworth Borough Council

Marmion House, Lichfield Street,
Tamworth B79 7BZ

Tel: 01827 709709 Fax: 01827 709590

www.tamworth.gov.uk

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Tamworth Borough Council has links with the Mental Health Access team based in Tamworth, which provides immediate support for our staff to be able to signpost people.

Name of Organisation	Who they can help	Contact details
Tool Box	Lottery Funded to support people in their emotional health. Open access, for 18+ which aims to enable self empowering, emotional wellbeing signposting service.	Tel: 01543 301139 Website: https://ssnmentalhealth.co.uk/toolbox/
Pact- Prison Advice and Care Trust	Supporting prisoners, people with convictions and their families make a fresh start.	Tel: 0808 808 3444 Website: https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/
Rethink	Useful information is available about your next steps before and after release.	Tel: 0121 522 7007 Website: https://www.rethink.org/

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

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.

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