

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 means that Local Authorities in England have a duty to help prevent you becoming homeless or help you find alternative accommodation. If you are eligible by immigration law; if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness in 56 days we will carry out a Housing Assessment with you and create your PERSONAL HOUSING PLAN. This is a legal process and it is not the same as applying for council or social housing through North Yorkshire Home Choice. During the process Housing Options will try to prevent your homelessness or resolve it in other ways.

Duty to Provide Advice

If you are eligible and homeless, or threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days you are entitled to free information and advice from the council, including information on:

- preventing homelessness
- securing accommodation if you are homeless
- your rights if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness
- any help that is available if you are homeless or likely to become homeless as well as how to access that help. This advice will be tailored to meet the needs of your particular case. You can access

this information by contacting Housing Options Team:

Main contact

Housing Options at West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA

Monday – Friday 8.30am-5pm (excl. bank holidays). Please try and come in before 3.30pm.

Contact Housing Options on [01904 554500](tel:01904554500) or housing.options@york.gov.uk

Assessment and Personalised Housing Plan.

If we are satisfied that you are homeless or threatened with homelessness and you are eligible for assistance we will carry out an assessment of your situation. The assessment will include the circumstances that have caused your homelessness and the housing and support needs of you and your household. We aim to reach an agreement with you on a **Personalised Housing Plan (PHP)** which sets out the steps that you and the Local Authority are going to take to ensure accommodation is secured and/or retained.

Your assessments and agreements must be kept under constant review until we have determined that no other duty is owed to you under Part VII of the 1996 Act.

The relief duty: if you are homeless

If we are satisfied that you are threatened with homelessness and are eligible for assistance, we will take 'reasonable steps' – with reference to your assessment – to help you secure accommodation for at least six months unless you are referred to another Local Authority due to having no local connection to the City of York.

Relief duty starts when the prevention duty has come to an end or if you are homeless immediately. The relief duty would continue for 56 days. You will have a right to request a review of a decision to end this duty.

We may have a duty to provide temporary accommodation to people who we have reason to believe may be homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need until we make a decision on whether the council is obliged to provide some form of longer term settled accommodation.

Temporary accommodation means a hostel, a Women's refuge if you are escaping domestic abuse or, occasionally a bed and breakfast. You will have responsibilities whilst living in temporary accommodation, please read the temporary accommodation agreement carefully. You must agree to accept the support that is offered to you and

you are responsible for paying the temporary accommodation charge. If you are in receipt of benefits or a low income you can apply to Housing Benefit for help. We will ask you to leave the temporary accommodation if you fail to pay your charges or housing related debts or you cause any nuisance.

In order for us to accept a full duty to rehouse you, we have to be satisfied that you meet the following five points of homeless legislation.

Eligible under immigration law – the habitual residence test.

Homeless or believed to be homeless in the next 56 days.

Priority Need means you have children, are pregnant or are vulnerable.

Unintentional – you have not caused your own homelessness.

Local Connection – you have a connection to York as defined in the Housing Act.