

Homeless from prison

This is a partnership leaflet between City of York Council, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, Salvation Army and Changing Lives



What to do if you are sent to prison on remand.

If you are expecting to go to prison you should think about your housing before being remanded and make a plan. Talk to your Probation Officer, landlord or mortgage company to arrange rent/ mortgage payments, council tax payments and insurance payments whilst you are away.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: if you are claiming **Housing Benefit** it will NOT be paid if:

- You're likely to be on remand for more than 52 weeks
- You're likely to be in prison for more than 13 weeks (including any time on remand)
- You're not intending to return home on release
- You're claiming as a couple and you've split up
- The property is going to be rented out

A person will **not** be entitled to **Universal Credit** if they are a prisoner but may retain entitlement to Universal Credit housing costs, if they are a prisoner for less than 6 months.

A prisoner is someone who is:

- detained in custody awaiting trial
- convicted and awaiting sentence
- sentenced by a court
- on temporary release

Conditions where a prisoner is entitled to Universal Credit housing costs.

- Single person prisoners can retain entitlement to housing costs if they were already in receipt of Universal

Credit with housing costs immediately before becoming a prisoner and are in prison for no longer than 6 months.

- If one member of a couple is temporarily or permanently absent from the household due to being in custody or prison, they stop be treated as part of a couple claim. The remaining eligible adult must make a single claim to continue to receive Universal credit.

If your benefit is stopped or your rent is not received you will build up rent arrears and could be evicted. Having arrears or historic anti-social behaviour also makes it more difficult to get into housing or hostels after your release.

What to do if you are sentenced to prison and need somewhere to live on release.

If you do not expect to have anywhere to live when released from prison, you cannot arrange to stay with friends or family and have a local connection and want to return to York, talk to the prison resettlement services such as **Through the Gate** or **Shelter** at least 4 months before your release. They can talk to you about what you need to do to find accommodation.

For more detailed information about the timescales and process to apply for housing when leaving prison or an Approved Premise see **York and North Yorkshire Offender Protocol** at www.york.gov.uk

What to do if you are released from prison and have no accommodation

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that night. If you have no accommodation on the day of your release you need to talk to your Probation Officer, the Salvation Army or Housing Options as soon as possible (contact details below). **They will look at finding you emergency accommodation for that night, but due to the high demand cannot promise it.** You will need to work with Housing Options or Salvation Army on a daily basis while they find you longer term accommodation.

What to do if you are living in an Approved Premises - you will have specific licence conditions about where you can live. When you need to look for alternative accommodation you should speak to your support worker or the Housing Options Team who will help you find alternative accommodation. If you do not have a local connection to York your options will be restricted by local policy.

Before being offered any housing. A full risk assessment from your Probation Officer is required before you can be offered supported housing or social housing. You could also look into private rented accommodation.

Private rented accommodation – for information, visit lettings agencies/websites or contact the Housing Options Team

Supported housing (hostels and shared housing) referral via Single Access Point (SAP). E-mail SAP@york.gcsx.gov.uk or www.york.gov.uk for the SAP referral form. **SAP is generally unable to reserve beds**

If you are homeless or at risk of homeless in 56 days the **Housing Options Team** will carry out a housing assessment and agree a Personal Housing Plan with you, offer you support, help with benefits, debts, accessing health services. This is a formal legal process and conditions apply. The council has a duty to help to help prevent homelessness or help you find accommodation but does not have a duty to accommodate everyone who is homeless. The **Housing Options** are at **West Offices Monday – Friday 8.30am-5pm** (excl. bank holidays). If you are homeless you must come in before 3.30pm.

Contact Housing Options on **01904 554500** or housing.options@york.gov.uk

Social housing CYC Housing Registrations **01904 554044** housing.registrations@york.gov.uk or www.northyorkshirehomechoice.org.uk or You can also apply direct to Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust 01904 735000 <https://www.jrht.org.uk/view-our-homes/homes-rent>

Salvation Army will refer you into emergency beds, supported housing and help you find private rented accommodation. **Drop-in held at Peasholme Centre, 4 Fishergate, York at 10am – 12pm Monday – Friday (excl. bank holidays) or contact 07586 570432 office hours).**

Polish : Niniejsza broszura zawiera wszystkie informacje potrzebne w rozwiązaniu jakichkolwiek problemów mieszkaniowych, które może Pan/Pani doświadczać. Pakiet informacyjny jest również dostępny w innych wersjach językowych.

Turkish : Bu broşürde olabilecek bütün konut sorunlarınızla ilgili ihtiyaç duyacağınız bilgilerin tümü bulunmaktadır. Bu bilgiler kendi lisanınızda da tedarik edilebilir.

Cantonese: 这将告诉你如何解决住房问题。我們可以您所需的語言提供該資訊