

Our guide to: Homeless or at risk



Help available

If you're homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, Leeds Housing Options may be able to help. Sometimes, the quickest way is to find a private home to rent.

We are responsible for finding out what duty they owe you.

If you need somewhere to sleep tonight

If you need somewhere to sleep tonight, you can visit or call Leeds Housing Options' main office or visit a local drop-in session. Find out how to visit Leeds Housing Options.

If you're at risk of becoming homeless

If you're at risk of becoming homeless, Leeds Housing Options offer free advice and support.

They can help if you are:

- Being asked to leave by family or friends
- If you are being asked to leave your home by family or friends or if you are going through a break up we may be able to:
- Speak to the people you live with and ask for an extension
- Give you advice on mediation, counselling and long term housing support
- Help you find other long-term housing

Unable to pay your rent, mortgage or a deposit

If you are unable to pay your rent, mortgage or pay a deposit for a new property, they may be able to:

- Offer you a home through their Private Sector Lettings Scheme
- Give advice and put you in touch with money and debt specialists
- Negotiate with your landlord
- Give you advice on benefits and council tax support



If you need help with debt, you can also contact StepChange, who are a charity offering free debt advice, or visit the Money Advice Service.



At risk of Eviction

If you are having problems with your landlord or have been served an eviction notice, they can:

- Negotiate with your landlord
- Give you advice on your rights as a tenant
- Check if your landlord has followed the proper steps

The first time we speak to you we'll ask questions about you and your situation. To see how we can help you, call or visit our main office or local drop in sessions.

Extra help with housing

In some other situations, you can get extra support. This includes:

Leaving hospital

Patients in a general ward

If you are in a general ward, speak to the ward sister or ward manager.

Leeds Housing Options can work with the hospital to complete assessments with you in the ward and also see if there are any adaptations to help you stay in your home.

Patients in a mental health ward

If you are a patient in a mental health ward, speak to a Community Links worker based at the hospital.

Community Links will work with Leeds Housing Options to make sure that you have housing available when you leave hospital.

Leaving prison

You can speak to a housing advice and resettlement worker at the prison as soon as you know your release date.

You can also set up an assessment with one of Leeds Housing Options' specially trained housing workers.



Domestic violence

If you are not safe in your home you should contact us immediately. If you are experiencing domestic violence and want to speak to Leeds Housing Options, you can request:

- To see a specially trained worker for your housing assessment
- To see either a female or male advisor
- For your housing assessment to be carried out at a place you choose



Young people

If you are aged 16 to 21 and have been asked to leave home by your parents or guardians, a Leeds Housing Options Youth Mediation Officer can meet with you to discuss your housing options and provide advice on wider issues.

Care leavers

If you're leaving care you'll be able to access housing support from your social worker or personal advisor.

If you don't have anywhere to live, your social worker will arrange and attend an appointment with you.

If you've lost contact with your personal advisor, Leeds Housing Options can arrange another one for you if you are either:

- A care leaver under 21
- A care leaver under 25 and in full time education

People with mental health needs

The Mental Health Homeless Team (MHHT) provide a dedicated service for people who are faced with homelessness and have mental health issues.

This includes support and advice on budgeting and applying for benefits.

They do not provide housing. For more information, call 0113 378 2567 (Monday to Thursday, 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 3:30pm).





Making adaptations in the home

To make sure you can live as independently as possible in your home, support and specialist equipment is available to make daily tasks easier.

Find out about the support and house adaptations you can receive to stay living in your own home.

Duty to refer

Some organisations have to refer you for help and advice if they think that you are at risk of becoming homeless. This is called the duty to refer.

If there is any information you think is incorrect or have any requests for new factsheets, please let us know by giving feedback using the contact details below.

This guide is one of many produced by Advonet, an independent advocacy charity in Leeds. It aims to help you speak up about your rights. This is called **self-advocacy.**

For more of our guides, please go to our website at advonet.org.uk/self-advocacy

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Registered Charity No. 1126132 / Registered Company No. 4229975

Date published: 27/04/2020