

Advice and help for young people

Information for young people facing homelessness and agencies which could provide support for you

Assistance from the Council

The Council can offer you advice if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness. You can make a homelessness application to receive further advice and information about your housing issue. You will need to contact us to arrange this www.southwark.gov.uk/finding-a-new-home/advice-about-homelessness?chapter=3

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

As of April 2018, The Homelessness Reduction Act changed the homelessness duties for Southwark Council to help all eligible applicants – rather than just those with a ‘priority need’.

It also adds two new duties:

Duty to prevent homelessness: Southwark Council has to help people at risk of losing suitable accommodation as soon as they are threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This means that we will try to prevent your homelessness by helping you to remain in your current accommodation, if that is possible.

Duty to take steps to relieve homelessness: We will help all those who are homeless to secure suitable accommodation, regardless of whether they are ‘intentionally homeless’ or have a priority need. This means that all eligible households will be offered help to find alternative accommodation for themselves.

Will the Council provide me with accommodation?

We can provide advice and support to you to help you find alternative accommodation. However we will not have a duty to provide emergency accommodation or temporarily house you unless you are considered to be eligible, homeless and have priority need. For more information on the homelessness criteria please visit www.shelter.org.uk or contact Shelter on 080 8800 4444. In addition, you can discuss this with the council when making a homelessness application.

If you are a single person with support needs, the Single Housing Pathway can discuss with you a referral for floating support or supported housing.

If you are under 18, we have a legal duty to support you. This will be through children’s social services and you could be supported through family mediation if you are at home or you could be accommodated in children’s homes, foster care or hostels.

Where else can I get housing support?

New Horizons Youth Centre

New Horizons Youth Centre re a vital support network for 16-21 year olds who have no one else to turn to. We provide everything from hot food, showers and laundry to finding them accommodation, training and employment. We offer counselling, drug and alcohol support, health, fitness, art, music

and communication skills workshops - everything they need to create a positive future.

<https://nhyouthcentre.org.uk/>

Open seven days a week from 10.30am to 4.00pm providing the following services:

- Help with accommodation
- Employment, education and training
- Self-development
- Health and fitness

Centre Point

Centrepoint is a charity supporting homeless people aged 16-25. If you're rough sleeping, sofa surfing or don't feel safe in your home, the Centrepoint Helpline is there to support you. You can also get in touch if you're worried about a young person. Call the Centrepoint Helpline free on 080 8800 0661 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. www.centrepoint.org.uk)

Stonewall Housing

Stonewall Housing is the specialist lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) housing advice and support provider in England. We provide housing support for LGBT people in their own homes, supported housing for young LGBT people, as well as free, confidential housing advice for LGBT people of all ages.

Advice line- 020 7359 5767 (Monday-Friday 10am-1pm)

For more information and other ways to contact visit- www.stonewallhousing.org/

The Mix

The Mix is the UK's leading support service for young people under the age of 25. They tackle issues from money to mental health, homelessness to finding a job, from break ups to drugs. There are many ways to contact The Mix, through webchat, group chat, one to one chat, web/telephone counselling, email and through the helpline. For more information visit: www.themix.org.uk/ or the helpline on 080 8808 4884 which is available from 11am-11pm every day.

Depaul – Alone in London

Who can they help? 16-25 year olds who are at risk of homelessness.

What can they help with? Advice about getting accommodation and benefits, family mediation, counselling, school mediation and training and employment. They have access to showers and laundry.

How do I get support? You can be referred to Depaul: Alone in London or call to make an appointment.

Financial support

Universal Credit

Universal Credit is being introduced across the UK in stages. It will replace the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit has already been introduced in Southwark. Anyone making a new benefit claim or reporting a change of circumstances should be asked to claim Universal Credit in Southwark. If you already claim benefits and your circumstances don't change, you won't be asked to move over to Universal Credit until at least 2019.

Housing Benefit

If you are under 35 years of age, single and do not have children then you are usually only entitled to benefits which would cover renting in a shared accommodation. The maximum housing benefit that you would get would be the rate for renting a single room in a shared house and this rate would be given to you even if you live in a self-contained flat.

Shared accommodation is when your tenancy agreement states that you have access to one bedroom only and shared use of a bathroom, kitchen and living room. The shared accommodation rate differs depending on where you live.

You can check the shared accommodation rate in your area by going to:

<https://lha-direct.voa.gov.uk/search.aspx>

Please note that the shared accommodation rate only applies when renting from a private landlord (so doesn't apply to council or housing association properties).

The shared accommodation rate doesn't apply if you live with another adult or child. There are also other exceptions if you:

- Have a history of care and are aged under 22

- Are a registered foster carer
- If you receive a severe disability premium or someone receives this for you
- Are someone who has a proven need for overnight care and has a spare bedroom that a non-resident carer regularly stays overnight in
- If you are aged over 25 and have spent at least three months in a homeless hostel or hostel specialising in rehabilitating and resettling within the community.
- Are a former prisoner and are managed under the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)

If you are a part-time or full-time student, you can get Housing Benefit if you receive income support or income-based JSA or you are a lone parent or a member of a couple who are responsible for a child and are both full-time students. For more information visit: www.gov.uk/housing-benefit

To apply for Housing Benefit you have to go to your local council website (if you are a Southwark resident: www.southwark.gov.uk)

I'm studying/in education

Job seekers allowance (JSA)

Full time students:

If you're studying for A level or an equivalent qualification you can't usually get JSA until you have stopped studying and your parents have stopped getting Child Benefit for you. Child Benefit payments stop after the last day of February, May, August or November (whichever comes first).

If you're studying for a degree-level qualification:

If you have children, you may be able to claim JSA during the summer holiday. Part-time students:

You may be able to get JSA while studying part-time (including part-time Open University Courses) as long as:

- you take a job if it's offered to you
- you do everything you can to look for work, as agreed with your work coach

Most part-time and full-time students are not entitled to Income Support. However, you may be entitled to this benefit if you are: a lone parent with a child under five; a lone foster parent of a child under 16; receiving long-term Incapacity Benefit; a refugee who is learning English to obtain employment or under 21 or have reached 21

Income support:

Most part-time and full-time students are not entitled to Income Support. However, you may be entitled to this benefit if you are: a lone parent with a child under five; a lone foster parent of a child under 16; receiving long-term Incapacity Benefit; a refugee who is learning English to obtain employment or under 21 or have reached 21, whilst enrolled on or accepted on a full-time non-advanced course and you are without parental support.

You can claim income support during the summer holidays if you are a single parent with a child or a member of a couple with a child (and your partner is a full-time student). This would depend on whether you have a low income.

Other benefits:

- If you are responsible for a child, as a part-time or full-time student you can still claim Child Benefit.
- If you are responsible for children as a lone parent or as a member of a couple, you may get Child Tax Credit.
- If you or your partner are working and have a fairly low income, you may get Working Tax Credit
- You may be able to get Universal Credit if you're on a part-time course that is accepted as being compatible with your work-related requirements if you are subject to these.

University Hardship Funds:

If you are experiencing financial hardship, you may be able to get financial support from your university or college. It is under the discretion of the university whether you will receive support. Your university or college may also be able to advise you on bursaries, grants, benefits and debt. You can get more information by contacting your student welfare/liaison department.

For additional advice on student finance please visit:

- www.turn2us.org.uk
- www.gov.uk/student-finance
- www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

External support

Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust works with disadvantaged young people aged 11-30. They provide training, personal development opportunities and grants to help young people to get into work, education, self-employment or training.

www.princes-trust.org.uk

080 0842 842 (freephone)

or text 'call me' to: 079 8338 5418 Young People

Contact us

If you need advice, assistance and support with your housing needs, please contact Southwark Council's Housing Solutions service.

Housing Solutions service

25 Bournemouth Road, Peckham Rye, London, SE15 4UJ

020 7525 4140

Out of hours phone:

020 7505 5000

housing.options@southwark.gov.uk

Call Southwark Advocacy and Support Services (SASS) for further information on 020 7593 1290 or for more information on the council's work in this area please access information on the Southwark Council web site at www.southwark.gov.uk