

# Substance Misuse and Homelessness

Advice for those facing homelessness with  
substance misuse issues

And details of agencies which could support you

## Can the council provide me with advice?

The Council will be able to provide advice if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness and you are unable to make provisions for yourself. You can make an application to receive further advice and information about your housing issue.

## 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](http://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.

## Southwark Drug and Alcohol Recovery Pathways

Our substance misuse services work closely together and you can access it directly via a single point of contact. Any of the following can also refer you to the single point of access:

- Other departments of the Council
- Health Services
- Family/friends/carers
- Criminal justice services

## Other Related Support

If you would like some further advice and assistance regarding substance misuse, you can talk to your GP about possible referrals they can make to aid your recovery. For information on the services available visit [www.cnwl.nhs.uk](http://www.cnwl.nhs.uk)

## Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Helpline for people with drink problems, staffed by recovering alcoholics. Open 365 days a year. They can give details of local AA groups and contact with local member.

Helpline for London: 020 7833 0022 (10am to 10pm daily)

National helpline: 080 0917 7650

[alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

## Narcotics Anonymous (NA)

NA is a non-profit fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. They are all recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean, you can find details of local groups on their website: [ukna.org](http://ukna.org)

UK Helpline: 030 0999 1212

## Talk to Frank

Offers free confidential drugs information and advice 24 hours a day

Freephone: 030 0123 6600

[talktofrank.com](http://talktofrank.com)

## Drinkline

Advice and information for people with alcohol problems or anyone concerned about alcohol misuse. Provides advice on sensible drinking and information on services to help you to cut down on drinking.

Helpline: 030 0123 1110

9am-11pm weekdays, 6-11pm Sat & Sun

## Drugs line

Drugline is an independent drugs crisis, information and support charity. It provides free and confidential information and support for people with drug- and alcohol-related issues, their families and friends.

Freephone crisis & support line: 080 8160 6606

[drugline.org](http://drugline.org)

## Adfam National

Adfam is a national charity working with families affected by drugs and alcohol and is a leading agency in substance related family work including database of local support groups that helps families hear about and talk to people who understand their situation.

[adfam.org.uk](http://adfam.org.uk)

## Alateen

Alateen offers telephone support to young people aged 12 to 20 affected by someone else's drinking, usually that of a parent. Part of Al-Anon Family Group.

Helpline: 020 7403 0888

[al-anon.alateen.org](http://al-anon.alateen.org)

## London Friend- Antidote- LGBT

Antidote is the UK's only LGBT targeted drug and alcohol support service. They work with both drug and alcohol users and healthcare professionals. They offer non-judgmental free advice and support delivered by highly trained staff and volunteers – all of whom identify as LGB or T, and have a good understanding of the pressures and problems that come with recreational drug or alcohol use.

Antidote helpline: 020 7833 1674 (10am-6pm, Monday to Friday). Ask for one of the Antidote Team.

For more information: [www.londonfriend.org.uk/get-support/drugsandalcohol](http://www.londonfriend.org.uk/get-support/drugsandalcohol)