

Personal Housing Plans

Southwark Council will give you a personal housing plan after your assessment.

The aim of the plan is to try and make sure you have somewhere suitable to live for at least the next 6 months.

The personal housing plan sets out the steps that you and the council must take to:

- stop you becoming homeless
- find housing if you've already lost your home

Southwark Council will ask you to agree to any steps included in the plan. If you don't agree, Southwark Council decides what steps you must take and records the reasons you disagree on the personal housing plan.

What goes into the plan?

The focus is usually on helping you to stay in your home if it's safe and affordable. Where that's not possible, Southwark Council must try to help you find another suitable home.

Southwark Council must reassess your situation if it changes and update the plan.

Southwark Council help to keep your home

The focus is usually on helping you to stay in your home if it's safe and affordable. Where that's not possible, Southwark Council must try to help you find another suitable home.

Southwark Council must reassess your situation if it changes and update the plan.

Southwark Council help to find you a home

Help could include:

- help to find a private tenancy
- payment towards a deposit or rent in advance
- an offer of a council or housing association home
- referral to a supported housing project

Steps you should take to keep or find a home

You could be asked to:

- apply to the housing register
- look for an affordable private tenancy
- get benefits or debt advice
- take part in mediation

How long does the personal housing plan last?

If your landlord has given you a section 21 notice, Southwark Council must usually help for as long as you're facing homelessness.

In other cases, help under a personal housing plan is usually limited to:

- 8 weeks while threatened with homelessness

- a further 8 weeks when homeless

If you remain homeless after 8 weeks of help, Southwark Council decides if you qualify for longer-term housing. This is sometimes called the 'main housing duty'.

When Southwark Council can stop helping you

If you have or refuse suitable housing

Southwark Council can stop helping if your housing situation is resolved, for example:

- you find somewhere else to live
- your landlord or parents agree that you can stay

There must be a reasonable chance that suitable housing will be available for at least 6 months when Southwark Council end its help.

In many cases, Southwark Council can also stop helping if you refuse a suitable housing offer.

If you don't keep to the plan

Southwark Council can stop helping if we think you have deliberately and unreasonably refused to take a required step in your plan. Southwark Council must give you a written warning and reasonable time to do what is asked of you before we end their help.

If you're already homeless, any ongoing help from Southwark Council depends on whether you qualify for longer-term housing.

If you're not yet homeless, you can still ask for help if you become homeless later. Southwark Council must carry out another assessment and draw up a new plan.

Change the decision

Southwark Council must write to you and explain why they no longer have to help.

You can ask for a review if you think the decision is wrong.