

**Eligibility** A person is not eligible for housing assistance if he/she..

- Is not a British citizen and/or does not have full rights to live here because of immigration status
- Is not considered to be habitually resident in the UK

**Homelessness / threatened with homelessness** A person is homeless if s/he..

- Has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere that is available for his/her occupation and that s/he has a legal right to occupy
- Has accommodation but cannot secure entry to it
- Has accommodation but is a moveable structure, for example, a caravan or houseboat
- Has accommodation but it would not be reasonable for her/him to occupy it

A person is threatened with homelessness if s/he..

- Is likely to become homeless within the next 28 days

Housing authorities must not wait until homelessness is imminent before providing assistance

**Priority Need** A person is in priority need if..

- She is pregnant or if dependent children live, or might reasonably be expected to live with her/him
- S/he has become homeless or is threatened with homelessness as a result of a flood, fire or other disaster
- S/he is aged 16 or 17 and is not a 'relevant child' or a child in need who would be covered by the Children Act 1989 (except a person who is in full time education and whos term time accommodation is not available during a vacation – 'a relevant student')
- S/he is aged under 21 and was looked after, accommodated or fostered between the ages of 16 and 18 (except a 'relevant student')
- S/he is aged 21 or over and is vulnerable as a result of having been looked after, accommodated or fostered between the ages of 16 and 18 (except 'a relevant student')
- S/he is vulnerable due to 'old age, mental illness, handicap, physical disability or other special reason'
- S/he is vulnerable as a result of having been a member of Her Majesty's regular Navy, Military or Armed Forces
- S/he is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence, being committed for contempt of court or other offence or being remanded in custody
- S/he is vulnerable as a result of ceasing to occupy accommodation because of violence or harassment from another person that are likely to be carried out

The duty generally extends to other members of the person's household

**Intentionality** A person is considered intentionally homeless if s/he..

- Deliberately did or did not do something
- Which caused her/him to leave housing which s/he could otherwise have stayed in
- And it would have been reasonable to stay there

All these points must apply

**Local Connection** A person has a local connection if s/he..

- Has lived in the area by choice for a certain time (usually for six of the last twelve months or three of the last five years)
- Has a family connection in the area
- Works in the area
- Has a connection with the area for 'another special reason'

If any of these applies then a person has a local connection

**Application Criteria**

**Duties**

