

## Are you homeless?

You are likely to be considered homeless if you:

- or your family have no accommodation which you are all entitled to occupy anywhere in the world; **or**
- have accommodation but cannot gain entry to it; **or**
- have a home but we consider that if you continue to live there it is probable that this will lead to violence against you or a member of your family; **or**
- have a home but we consider that it is unreasonable for you to carry on living there.

## Are you in priority need?

You are likely to have a priority need if:

- you have a dependent child who normally lives with you; **or**
- you or your partner are pregnant; **or**
- you are 16 or 17 years old; **or**
- you are 18, 19 or 20 years old and have previously been in care; **or**
- We consider that you or someone living with you is 'vulnerable' due to mental illness/ disability or physical disability; **or**
- We consider that you are 'vulnerable' because you have been in care, or have suffered threats of violence; **or**
- You are homeless following a fire, flood, or similar emergency; **or**
- You are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse.

## Are you intentionally homeless?

You are likely to be found intentionally homeless if you have:

- given up accommodation that you could have continued to occupy; **or**
- lost accommodation through your own fault; **or**
- made an arrangement with somebody in order to take advantage of homelessness legislation.

## Local connection to North Somerset

You have a local connection if you, or anyone who usually lives with you, have:

- lived in North Somerset for six months in the past year or three years in the last five years; **or**
- permanent employment in North Somerset; **or**
- immediate family who have lived in North Somerset for the last five years; **or**
- other special connections with North Somerset

Being in prison, hospital or another institution does not count as a local connection, neither does casual employment.

If you meet the other criteria (for the main homelessness duty) but do not have a local connection with North Somerset, we will usually refer you to the council with which you have a local connection.



30700 1021



# Homelessness – our duty to you

## How can we help?

This leaflet will help you to understand what to expect if you approach North Somerset Council as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

### Are you:

- eligible for assistance; **and**
- homeless; **or**
- threatened with homelessness within 56 days; **or**
- In receipt of a valid section 21 notice?

If **yes**, we will assess your circumstances, housing and support needs.

If **no**, you will be offered advice but we have no further duty towards you

### We will work with you to create a Personal Housing Plan. This will identify:

- steps for you to take to try to resolve your housing situation
- steps that we will take to try to resolve your housing situation.

You should note that deliberate and unreasonable refusal to take the steps in your plan may result in the council ending certain duties towards you.

## Preventing homelessness

If you are at risk of homelessness within 56 days or have a valid s21 notice, the council have a duty to help you try to prevent your homelessness.

## Issuing a decision

### If we decide we do not owe you a duty, we will:

- tell you and give our reasons in writing
- offer you advice about how to find somewhere to live.

### If we decide we owe you a prevention duty:

- We will do everything we can to help you stay in your current home
- You will be assessed to enter onto North Somerset Council's housing register. Rent arrears or a history of anti-social behaviour may result in your banding being lowered meaning it is unlikely you will be offered social housing.
- An offer of accommodation to discharge our prevention duty to you may be into the private rented sector.

### I want help, what should I do?

Complete an online assessment form:

<https://northsomerset.housingjigsaw.co.uk/>

This link is also on the council's homelessness webpage

### Contact:

Email: [HP.Triage@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:HP.Triage@n-somerset.gov.uk)

Tel: 01934 426 330



## Relieving homelessness

If you are or become homeless, the council has a duty to help you try to relieve your homelessness and help you and your household try to find suitable accommodation.

If we decide we owe you a relief duty:

- We may place you into temporary accommodation but this is dependent on your circumstances.
- You will be assessed to enter onto North Somerset Council's housing register. Rent arrears or a history of anti-social behaviour may result in your banding being lowered meaning it is unlikely you will be offered social housing.
- An offer of accommodation to discharge our relief duty to you may be into the private rented sector.

## Main homelessness duty

If the steps to prevent and/or relieve your homelessness are unsuccessful, a decision will be made as to whether the council owes the 'main homelessness duty' to you. The council owes the main homeless duty to people who are eligible, homeless, in priority need and not homeless intentionally.

## Are you eligible?

You are likely to be eligible for assistance unless you are:

- a person from abroad subject to immigration control; **or**
- not habitually resident in the UK, the Republic of Ireland, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.