

Move On and Accommodation Options

When you're advising clients on their accommodation options, it's important to promote the wide range of accommodation available. You should start by identifying any blockages or barriers that could reduce the options available to clients. It's also important to discuss the client's expectations and their actual housing need and balance this against supporting their aspiration to live in decent and safe accommodation.

Use this good practice fact sheet along with our 'Local Authority Housing Options' and 'Private Rented Accommodation Options' fact sheets, which give further, detailed information to help you support your clients.

TOP TIPS

- Carry out an assessment of a client's Move On options to identify and address any key barriers (start this process at the first interview).
- Make sure the assessment includes the client's current housing status, housing history and support needs.
- Most landlords ask for housing history evidence as part of application process – delays in collating this evidence will hold up the Move On process.
- A client's housing history will help identify patterns, which could have led to the loss of accommodation in the past. It will also help map realistic pathways.

- Ensure your support staff have a good knowledge and understanding of local housing options.
- Make sure that any previous applications made before the client received support are still 'live'.
- Increase clients' Move On opportunities by applying for a range of options. For example, if a client is registered on Birmingham City Council's housing register this will allow them access to the waiting lists for other registered social landlords in the city.

Emergency and supported housing options

If you want information and advice on short term accommodation options, including emergency and supported housing, contact:

Hub Accommodation (for over 25s)

- Single Point of Access **0345 602 0549**
- Single Point of Access (Domestic Violence Refuge Accommodation) **0800 111 4223**

Supporting People funded housing related support services

- Single Point of Access (for vulnerable people, refugees, offenders, people with substance misuse issues [over 25s]) **0345 603 6166**
- Youth Line (under 25s) **0300 303 0099**

Housing information and advice for vulnerable clients

- Homeless Services Centre Housing Advice (over 25s) **0345 602 0549**
- St Basils Link and Housing Advice (under 25s) **0121 233 1508**
- Trinity Housing Resource Centre **0121 554 8745**
- SIFA Fireside **0121 666 7023**
- South Birmingham Young Homeless Project **0121 457 8736**

You can also get more information on Birmingham's housing options at www.birminghamhousingoptions.org.uk

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

A number of RSLs in Birmingham offer specialist accommodation for specific client groups. RSLs that accommodate vulnerable clients in short term and supported accommodation may provide additional priority points that help clients access their general needs accommodation. Most RSLs require a Birmingham City Council (BCC) registration number as part of their application process, and 50 per cent of RSL homes can be accessed through the BCC register. It's therefore important to register (where appropriate) for BCC accommodation. You can find out more about this in the 'Local Authority Housing Options' fact sheet.

TOP TIPS

- Midland Heart and Family Housing Association are currently part of Birmingham Home Choice. More RSLs are likely to allocate their homes through this scheme in the future.
- Some support providers have developed Move On arrangements with RSLs – this can include offering a 'floating' support package and liaising with RSL rent and housing officers to minimise tenancy breakdown.
- Consider setting up a centralised contact point for RSLs to notify you when accommodation lists are open.

- Identify RSLs which offers specialist accommodation and support, such as Carr-Gomm, which provides accommodation and support packages to clients with substance use issues.
- Identify RSLs which offer accommodation specifically to primary client groups, such as Sanctuary Housing, which has a large number of sheltered housing schemes.

You can get a list of RSLs in Birmingham at www.birmingham.gov.uk/rsf

St Basils starter homes

St Basils has developed a starter home model for young people. The scheme offers young people self-contained accommodation with affordable rent. Young people have to be in employment and committed to saving for the future. St Basils saves £10 a week on the tenant's behalf, in a joint savings scheme which the young person can match. After three years, they can use the accumulated lump sum towards more permanent housing such as an equity stake in a property.

For more information on starter homes contact St Basils through the website at www.stbasils.org.uk or phone **0121 772 2483**.

Home Buy (shared ownership) schemes

Home Buy is the collective name for the different shared ownership schemes available. For more information on shared ownership, head for www.orbithomebuyagents.co.uk

Alternatively, you can call Orbit Housing Association on **0345 850 20 50**.