

If you are single or a couple and homeless

It is unlikely that we will offer accommodation to single adults or adult couples. You should find yourself a room to rent in a shared house. If you need to move quickly you will have to look across or outside London.

If you're not working you may be eligible for Housing Benefit to help with your rent.

Councils only have a duty to provide emergency housing to single homeless people who are in priority need.

Useful websites

www.gov.uk/housing-benefit

Contact us

Housing Advice Team

☎ 020 8424 1093

✉ housing.advice@harrow.gov.uk

Contact us for an appointment.

Worried about becoming homeless?

Because there is such a housing crisis in London you should try to keep the home you're in to avoid having to move away. Contact us straight away if you think you might have to leave your current home.



Worried about becoming homeless?

Are you homeless?

We consider you to be homeless if you don't have a roof over your head or, for example:

- You and your family have nowhere to stay and are on the streets
- You and your family have been evicted, illegally evicted or required to leave your last home
- You have been released from prison or discharged from hospital with nowhere to go

We can't offer accommodation to every homeless household who contacts us for help.

If you are eligible for help we will usually find you a private rented home but this may not be in or near Harrow. Becoming homeless does not help you get a council flat or house.

Offer of accommodation

If you are offered emergency or temporary accommodation you have to pay for it.

Depending on your income (wages or benefits) you may have to move outside London if nothing is available locally or if you cannot afford the accommodation that is available.

Emergency accommodation

This type of accommodation is usually:

- hostels
- bed and breakfast (B&B)
- other short-term housing

We can only offer emergency accommodation to eligible households:

- without a place to sleep
- with a priority need

Emergency accommodation is likely to be outside Harrow. It is not a short cut to getting permanent council housing.

Temporary accommodation

When your emergency accommodation ends you may be offered temporary accommodation but:

- it will probably be outside London
- it doesn't mean you will be offered a permanent council or housing association tenancy

Private rented accommodation

You can rent from a private landlord but rents in Harrow and London may be too high for most homeless households.

If you claim benefits or have a low income you may be able to claim Housing Benefit to help pay for some of your rent but you will need to pay the difference from the rest of your income.

Benefits changes

From April 2016 the amount of benefit you can receive will decrease:

- the benefit cap in London will be lowered to £23,000 per year
- it could be £57.69 less per week based on the new benefit cap
- working-age benefits will be frozen for four years
- some types of support will be limited to the first two children only

This means that the lower your income the further away from London you can afford.

What is Harrow Council doing?

- We are prioritising all forms of accommodation in Harrow for those with the greatest need to stay locally
- We will do our best to help you to find private rented accommodation outside London, for example in Luton, High Wycombe, the Midlands or anywhere else you would like to live where you can afford the rent

We will help with the cost of moving if you are eligible for assistance and we will provide local information to help you settle into your new home

- We are building the first new Council homes in a generation and looking to purchase private properties to rent

Neither of these options will meet the current demand for housing and will be prioritised for people with the greatest need to stay in Harrow.