

What happens next: Bed and Breakfast Accommodation



Dorset
Council

Bed and Breakfast accommodation is an emergency short term option while the Council assesses your housing situation and decides how they must help you in the longer term. We recognise that whatever circumstances have led to you staying in bed and breakfast, it is not a suitable long term solution for you. We are working to provide you with something more appropriate as soon as we can.

Here is what will happen to support you:



**Within 1
working
day**

Meeting with your personal adviser and housing officer, chaired by a Service Manager to agree a plan with you held within 1 working day of you being placed.

Housing will start an assessment, they will have up to 8 weeks to complete it. Whilst this is happening, you will remain in bed and breakfast or you may move to other temporary accommodation.



**5 working
days**

Your personal adviser will visit within 5 working days of you going into the bed and breakfast to assess what additional support can be provided to you whilst you are there to ensure that where you are living is safe and as suitable as it can be at this difficult time.

Within 10 working days you and your personal adviser will update your pathway plan to reflect any changes including health, wellbeing and employment.

You will receive £20 food voucher as we know the cost of food can be more for you when living in emergency accommodation.



**Every 2
weeks**

fortnightly meeting will be held with you, your personal adviser and housing officer, chaired by a service manager to make sure we work together to help you to move on from bed and breakfast.

Housing will continue with their assessment, they may need information from you and your personal adviser can help with this.



**Every 4
weeks**

Your personal adviser will continue to visit at least every 4 weeks, providing you with additional support that can include: food vouchers, signposting to support services and planning for your move on from bed and breakfast.

Housing will complete their assessment within 8 weeks and write to you with their decision. A formal decision will be made and a personal housing plan is agreed aiming to ensure you have somewhere suitable to live (see below for more information)

Remember to contact your personal adviser with any concerns or updates.

Your personal adviser's contact number is:

If you can't get hold of your personal adviser, the Care Leavers teams have a duty service on: **01305 225809** Or email: **18to25duty@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk**

Your Housing Officer's name is:

Dorset Council Housing – 01305 221000

If you need to speak to someone in an emergency out of our office hours, you can contact:

Social Care Dorset – 01305 228866

Dorset Council Housing – 01305 221000

Call 999 if someone is seriously ill or injured, or a life is at risk.

The following information has been adapted from Shelter online. Shelter offers free legal housing advice. <https://england.shelter.org.uk/>

Shelter emergency helpline **0808 800 4444** Opening times: Monday to Friday, 8am - 8pm | Weekends and bank holidays, 9am - 5pm

Emergency housing including bed and breakfast is a short term option while Housing assess your housing situation and decide how they must help you in the longer term. The Council should not use bed and breakfast accommodation to house care leavers under the age of 25 unless there are no other options.

As soon as Housing have confirmed that you're homeless and meet the eligibility criteria they must carry out an assessment and draw up a personal housing plan. Your plan should support with you finding somewhere to live considering what you can afford to pay; where you need to live; size of accommodation and any additional support needs.

If you have not found anywhere suitable after 8 weeks, Housing will:

- decide if you qualify for the 'main housing duty'
- write to you with their decision

If you're offered a bed and breakfast in an emergency but something more suitable becomes available you will be expected to move.

Housing looks at why you are homeless. They may ask for details of where you've lived before.

Help to find a home could include:

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

If Housing decide you are owed the main housing duty they must find you somewhere suitable to live.

If Housing decide that you are not owed the main housing duty they will send you a letter explaining why. Usually Housing will continue to provide emergency accommodation for a few weeks to allow time to find somewhere else to live.

Emergency housing including bed and breakfast must be affordable. You will not have to pay for it up front. You will have to claim universal credit or housing benefit to help with rent. Dorset Council care leavers team have agreed to pay the service charge during your time in bed and breakfast.

Emergency housing especially bed and breakfast is usually furnished. The Council must arrange storage for your belongings if you cannot do this yourself.

If you're offered bed and breakfast as an emergency short term option in a different area but cannot afford to get there, ask the Council for help with travel costs.

Pets are not usually allowed in emergency housing, especially a bed and breakfast or hostel.

If you do not stay in the accommodation, Housing or accommodation provider might cancel the booking and you might not get another offer of emergency housing.

You could be asked to leave at short notice if you break any rules at the accommodation. Make sure you know what the rules are where you are staying. If you're asked to leave emergency housing, Housing may not have to offer anything else until they have reached a decision on your homeless application.