

## Factsheet 10

# I am currently living in temporary accommodation

Local authorities are duty bound to provide temporary accommodation to families and individuals who meet certain legislative criteria if they have no alternative housing. Who meets this criteria is for the assessment of the Local Authority.

Once these duties have been triggered they can be brought to end due for a number of reasons and potentially with short notice. This includes failing to keep to the terms of any accommodation agreement you have, so make sure you have carefully read and understood your responsibilities.



Depending on your occupation agreement and depending under what duty you were provided the accommodation, means that the notice the council has to give to end the accommodation varies.

The type of accommodation you are provided depends on your circumstances and if you think it doesn't meet your needs, make sure that the council has all the relevant information about your needs, to ensure that it is. A Council can only consider circumstances they have been made aware of.

### Charges

You may be responsible to pay rent, a service charge towards shared bills and even Council Tax whilst in temporary accommodation and your occupation agreement should clearly set this out.

If you are on a low income then you should ensure you have claimed Housing Benefit and Council Tax support and made sure that you provided all the required evidence. If you are paying off an overpayment of a previous Housing Benefit, you may have to pay a greater rent top up.



### If you are finding your finances are difficult to manage

In the first instance, speak to your Housing Options Officer as soon as you can to make them aware so that they can support you.

Looking at your financial situation and working out how you can pay your rent should always be a priority.

If you are on a low income you can assess your entitlement to benefits and complete a budget planner to help to maximize your income at [folkestoneandhythehomelessness.entitledto.co.uk](http://folkestoneandhythehomelessness.entitledto.co.uk)

## Help to budget

FHDC have an inhouse Money Advice Service which any resident can access for free advice regarding their benefits and household income and budget. You can self-refer into this by emailing [revenues.benefits@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:revenues.benefits@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

## Why is it 'temporary'?

Depending on the outcome of the homeless application, you may or may not be owed a duty to be rehoused. As this is such an important issue we advise you not to wait for this outcome and you will have been given advice by the Council on how to secure you own accommodation. Including any assistance available to help you do this. The more action you take now, the greater the options you have as Council's are only obliged to make 1 offer of suitable accommodation and this may not meet your personal preferences even if you are owed a rehousing duty.

For help to find accommodation see our factsheet 'Housing Advice in the Folkestone and Hythe District'.

## Moving In – Tips

- Make a note of your meter readings - for any utilities you have to pay
- Make a note of when you submitted any Housing Benefit and Council Tax claims
- Add the landlord/councils number to report any maintenance issues, to your mobile.
- Make sure you know what information the Council is awaiting for – if any – and any deadline to provide this by. If you know you won't meet the deadline, call them and discuss.
- Do you know where to put your rubbish?
- Are you responsible for maintaining a garden?
- Do you know how, where and when to pay your rent?
- Do you know your nearest fire exit?
- Are there specific conditions for visitors?



## Moving On - Tips

- Make a note of your meter readings when you leave – for any utilities you have to pay –
- Update the relevant Council's benefit team when you moved out, if you are in receipt of housing benefit and council tax.
- Have you left the property in a clean and tidy condition?
- If you have removed any furnishings, return them.
- Have you arranged with the Council or the landlords to return the keys?
- Have you spoken to your housing officer to make sure they are aware you have left and provided forwarding details?
- Do you need to update your address with any banks, agencies or other services?
- Do you need furnishings or white goods for any new home?