



One minute guide

Housing and Homelessness Service

July 2020

Coventry City Council's Housing and Homelessness Service has 4 teams:

Homelessness Advice Team -This team works with people who are threatened with homelessness or who are already homeless. The main aim of the service is to help people to continue to live where they are or if this is not possible, to support them to find another place to live. This will involve having a housing assessment to understand their current personal and financial circumstances in order to create their personal housing plan (PHP). The team will need to see some documents such as, proof of identification and information relating to their current home. This team also respond to all 'Duty to Refer' referrals made to the service.

Accommodation Team – This team has two roles. The first role is to find people temporary accommodation for those people who are homeless (they have nowhere safe to stay) and have a priority need. The second role is to work with private sector landlords to provide affordable rental accommodation for people living in Coventry as an alternative to social housing.

Coventry Homefinder Team – This team manage the administration of the Housing Register (Coventry Homefinder). This is the system for allocating social housing in Coventry. The team monitors registrations, annual reviews and assesses priority banding applications. The team also places bids for suitable properties on behalf of vulnerable people and those applicants who have been accepted as homelessness (Main Duty)

Rough Sleeping Outreach Team – This team predominately works alongside partner agencies in the community to support those people at risk of or sleeping outside (rough sleeping) and remove barriers which prevents them from having a home.

Commissioned Services (P3, St Basils and Salvation Army) - these organisations receive funding from Housing and Homelessness Service to provide services to people who are eligible on behalf of the Housing and Homelessness Service.

- **P3** – Housing support to families facing homelessness and those who are in temporary accommodation. Also Housing related floating support for older single people (25 years and over) who may or may not have complex needs.
- **St Basil's/YMCA** – provide supported single/shared accommodation (18-24 years) includes care leavers 18+, without dependent children. This service will include the provision of direct access beds for those Young People with complex needs, those who are roofless and are in housing need. Floating support provided for singles and couples without dependent children (aged 18 – 24) including care leavers 18+
- **The Salvation Army** – Severe Weather Emergency Provision, provision for rough sleepers, street outreach, annual rough sleeper count, direct access beds for people with complex needs. Supported accommodation and specialist ex-offender supported accommodation and floating support.

Responsibilities

The responsibility of the Housing & Homelessness Service is to support people to obtain or keep their current housing before they become homeless subject eligibility under the relevant housing legislation. For people seeking homelessness assistance out of hours they are initially supported via the Emergency Duty Team (EDT) who will help out-of-hours and then handover to Housing and Homelessness Service for a full housing assessment to be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

How to refer

Public Authorities - Professional referral – If you are aware of an individual or family who is facing being homeless in the next 56 days (six weeks) then you **MUST** complete a ‘Duty to Refer’ referral to the Housing and Homelessness Service via www.coventry.gov.uk/s213b This will involve professionals creating an account on the Housing Jigsaw Alert Portal, you can register for the portal at any time and this will enable you to make a referral to any Local Authority.

Self-referral – People can tell us online by registering on our customer portal and completing a **self-referral form**. There is a [step by step guide](#). Once they have completed their referral, the Housing and Homelessness Service will contact them within 3 working days.

How you can help

- If you work for a public authority you must make a referral (Duty to Refer) to the service. If not, then ask the resident to make a self-referral – see below.
- Help the person to seek support from their friends or other family members to provide temporary place to stay.
- Look for accommodation in the Private Rented Sector, including shared accommodation (e.g. renting a room in a shared house).
- Complete an application for Coventry Homefinder and help people bid for properties as they become available.
- Support people to understand their finances and how to prioritise essential household bills and where appropriate signpost to for debt advice. (CAB or CIAS).
- Manage expectations of the support that will be provided - the majority of housing available in the Coventry is within the Private Rented Sector.

There is very limited social housing available especially those seeking family sized accommodation.



How to Contact the Housing and Homelessness Service

Homelessness Advice – Telephone – 024 7683 4025 – Email homelessness@coventry.gov.uk

Accommodation Team – AccomodationTeam@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry Homefinder Team – Telephone – 024 7683 4024 –
Email coventryhomefinder@coventry.gov.uk

Rough Sleeping Outreach Team – You can tell us about a person sleeping rough through Street Link - <https://www.streetlink.org.uk/>

If a person is homeless tonight

If a person does not have anywhere to sleep tonight, please direct the person to report to the Housing and Homelessness Service at Broadgate House, Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm, Telephone Number 024 7683 4025. Outside these hours then please contact Emergency Duty Team on 024 7683 2222.

If a person may become homeless.

Please don't wait until the person becomes homeless before asking for advice and help from the Housing and Homelessness Team. The earlier the team is made aware of the person, the more likely they'll be able to resolve the housing issues before they are made homeless.

All Professionals including Children Services staff MUST complete a form – DUTY TO REFER, as soon as they are made aware that a family they are working with is at risk of homelessness. www.coventry.gov.uk/s213b

Residents can now self- referral, so direct them to coventry.gov.uk/homelessnessadvice [self referral form](#)

Key Contacts and Further Information

[Coventry City Council website](#)

[Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership website](#)

[Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board website](#)