



Are you at risk of homelessness after being released from prison?

for the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts



Listening Learning Leading



www.southoxon.gov.uk

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk



If you are due to be released from prison and do not have anywhere to stay, you need to engage with the prison's support services to try and arrange accommodation on your release. This may include hostel accommodation.

If you were recently released from prison, there are services that provide practical support and help to find accommodation. You may be entitled to support from Probation or a Community Rehabilitation Company.

Should you have nowhere to stay and may have to sleep rough, please contact Streetlink on 0300 500 0914 who will refer you to our outreach service.

Contact us

If you get in touch, one of our housing officers will consider your circumstances including offending history, health and local connection. They will assess whether you are eligible to apply to the housing register.

If you are applying as a homeless person, we have a duty to provide free housing advice and assistance to eligible households. This may include referring you to an area where you have a local connection.

We will create a housing plan with options that you need to explore. This could include:

- Asking family and friends about accommodation
- Looking for work
- Applying for benefits
- Looking for accommodation
- Securing bail accommodation through probation services
- Referral to your local authority





Leaving prison does not necessarily mean you have a “priority need” and therefore the council has a duty to provide you with emergency accommodation. The housing officer will assess whether you are in priority need. The assessment will consider whether you are vulnerable for any of the following reasons:

- You have a mental health condition
- You have a learning or physical disability
- You are under 21 and have been in care
- You were in the Armed Forces
- You are escaping violence or threats of violence

If you are in priority need, the council may not provide you with accommodation if we consider that you made yourself intentionally homeless because of criminal or anti-social behaviour.

What is a local connection?

When you apply for housing assistance from any council, the housing officer will base their advice and support on your connection to the local area. Your local connection is established if you:

- Live in the district and have done so for the last six months
- Are currently employed in the district on a permanent contract
- Have a mother or father, brother or sister or adult child living in the district for more than five years.

Time spent in prison in a specific area does not give you a local connection. If you cannot establish a local connection with any area, or you are escaping domestic abuse, you can apply to any council.



Our contact details

South and Vale Housing Team 01235 422452
housing@southandvale.gov.uk

Online assistance

You can receive online housing assistance, tailored to your circumstances, by completing our self-help housing options tool:

Vale of White Horse District Council:
<http://www.whitehorsehomechoice.org.uk/>

South Oxfordshire District Council:
<https://www.southoxfordshirehomechoice.org.uk/>

You may also be asked to complete the online assessment to help our team ensure you receive the best housing advice available.

Our service promise – all emails will receive a response within one working day

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

Our office hours are 8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.30pm on a Friday





Useful contacts

Shelter 0808 800 4444

Connection Floating support 01865 711267

Aspire 01865 204450

Connections 01865 711267

Mind 01865 773 836

Crisis 01865 263 900



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