

Friends

Let all your friends, work colleagues and family know that you are looking for somewhere, as word of mouth can usually be a good way of circulating information. You may find that some of your friends are also looking and if you found somewhere together this could make the rent cheaper.

Students

If you are a student looking for somewhere to live contact your college or students union, they may be able to help you find somewhere to live.

NB. If you are on Benefits or a low income before you accept any private rented accommodation, phone our Housing Benefits Department and ask them to do you a trial calculation, to see how much help you may be able to get towards your rent.- on 01905 822744.

Suitable accommodation

- Decide on the area in which you wish to live.
- Decide what type of property you want to live in.
- Can you afford the rent? (Check with Housing Benefits if necessary).
- View as many properties as you can - Avoid viewing at night.
- Take someone with you if possible.
- Check the property is in good repair.
- Do not be rushed into signing an agreement.

Information

If you are placed in Temporary Accommodation overnight, we will need to see you the following morning. We will arrange an appointment, which you must turn up for. We will always try to make it at a time and place convenient to you.

We may need to fill in various forms with you, so please supply any information that you are asked for as quickly as possible to enable us to help you.

How to contact us

Wychavon District Council
Housing Needs Department
01386 565020
housingneeds@wychavon.gov.uk
www.wychavon.gov.uk

Homelessness Housing Options

3. your choices if you become homeless



Homeless housing options

There are a number of Housing Options that can be considered depending on your circumstances and what is available to you at the time you are homeless.

The first thing you need to do is to contact us so we can best advise you on what to do next.

Staying with relatives/friends

If you find yourself or family suddenly homeless this maybe the most practical option for you in the short-term until more settled accommodation can be found.

If we are looking at a homeless application for you and we find that you are in 'Priority Need', then staying with relatives/friends will be a better solution for you rather than Bed & Breakfast.

Bed and breakfast

If you are homeless and in priority need you may be placed in Bed & Breakfast on a temporary basis while we investigate your homeless application (we try to avoid this if we can).

You would have to consider this carefully, as it can have quite an impact on the family, as it is very restrictive.

You may be asked to contribute towards the cost of your stay there (unless you are entitled to full housing benefit).

Hostels

If you are a single person, homeless and not in priority need we will offer you hostel numbers:

Birmingham City Mission 0121 6436182

St Paul's Worcester 01905 723729

YMCA Worcester 01905 423197

You will need to contact these numbers daily to see if they have any vacancies.

Out of hours

If this office is closed then you will need to call 08450 568 035

Domestic violence

If you have had to leave your home because of Domestic Violence from your partner/person belonging to your household or outside parties, please contact us as soon as possible, for advice and assistance on what to do next.

You can be placed in a Women's Refuge where it will be safe for you to stay while we are looking for suitable permanent accommodation for you/family.

We can put you in touch with more specialist organisations such as:

Women's Aid 0117 9444411

Help Line (24 hour) 0808 2000 247

Please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Refuges

Many women are frightened to leave a situation, as they have lost all trust. Refuges are a safety net for women; their addresses are kept secret so they can provide safety and security, as this is essential to the people who live there.

There are staff on hand to offer support and advice. You may need legal advice, or help claiming housing benefit, they can help you with this.

Normally you will have a room of your own, but will have to share other facilities, such as bathroom, kitchen etc.

Men are not allowed and it is usual that males over 15 will not be accommodated

Tips on looking for accommodation

Newspapers

Look in all the local newspapers, many people advertise houses, flats & bedsits to let. This is one of the best ways to advertise, as most of the local people will read these papers.

Letting Agents

These agencies manage properties on behalf of Landlords. They often advertise in the local press, Yellow Pages and the Thompson Directory. You may have to go to several agencies and get your name on their books so they know what type of property you are looking for.