



Hospital Discharge Housing Advice

When someone who is homeless is admitted to hospital, research shows that when they leave hospital, if they don't get the right support, many risk being discharged straight back onto the streets, further damaging their health.

Housing is key to a 'safe discharge' from hospital, as well as to reducing the ongoing burden on the NHS.

Housing and Health link

People in Tamworth spend significantly more time in ill or poor health compared to other areas in the West Midlands and poor housing conditions or becoming homeless will further affect their quality of life. Tamworth Borough Council is committed to a more aspirational, prosperous, healthier and safer Tamworth which will result in better housing options, better housing conditions, improved neighbourhoods and more sustainable healthy lifestyles in the borough.

Duty to refer

As part of the changes introduced through the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, from October 2018 a number of public authorities including Prisons, Social Services and Hospitals will have a statutory duty to notify local housing authorities of service users they are working with who they think may be homeless or threatened with becoming homeless in 56 days.

A referral can only be made with the service users consent and once received, the local authority will contact the individual to provide housing advice and assistance.

What if I am homeless and need hospital treatment?

- Once in hospital be honest about your personal housing circumstances- suitable support can then be provided.
- Work with the hospital by giving consent to a referral to your local authority who can support you with your housing options
- Before you leave hospital, a meeting will be arranged so you can discuss what kind of care you need. This might include things like practical help around the home, help with finding

accommodation, or facilities for day time activities. It is in your interests to participate in this meeting so that personalised support can be given.

Managing hospital stays

If you have to go into hospital on a pre-planned basis, it is important you consider the following in order to ensure your accommodation remains available to you upon discharge:

- **Benefits-** If you're receiving benefits you will need to tell the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) that you're in hospital as this may affect your entitlement.
- **Money, bills and debts-** You will need to think about how your money is managed while in hospital. Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Allowance and Attendance Allowance stop if you are in hospital for 28 days, however you can continue to get housing benefit for up to 52 weeks. You could make a plan with a relative or friend so they know what to do if you have to go into hospital. They could help with your finances while you are in hospital. If your benefit is suspended while you are in hospital you may need to make a new claim for Universal Credit. Further information on making a claim can be found by visiting our website:
<https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/universal-credit>

What housing help and assistance is available to me when I leave hospital?

A wide range of housing options are available to you when you leave hospital should you property be unsuitable for you to return to or you have entered hospital as homeless. You could consider the following:

- Possible application to adapt your current property to make it suitable for your needs
- Consider applying for a mutual exchange
- Shared accommodation
- Supported accommodation
- Social Housing provision either through a local authority or a registered provider
- Consider renting a property through the Private rented sector
- Respite care or consider staying with family or friends on a temporary basis

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Accommodation Options Available:

Name of Organisation	Who they can help	Contact details
Tamworth Borough Council Sheltered Housing	A range of sheltered accommodation options are available for applicants aged over 60 years old. Please complete a housing application form in order to be considered.	Tele: 01827 709709 Website: http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/housing
Derventio Housing Association	Accommodation for 18-60 year olds with medium support. Areas covered; Tamworth, Burton, Cannock and Derbyshire	Tel: 01332 292776 Website: http://www.derventiohousing.com/
Cornerstone Housing Association	Properties in the Tamworth area supporting 16- 26 year old males and females.	Tel:01827 319918 Website: http://www.tcha.org.uk/
Select Homes	Providing support and accommodation to individuals who are vulnerable. To apply you must have a benefit payment in place	Tel: 0121 439 3381 Email: info@selecthomesukltd.co.uk

Local Housing Associations

- **Bromford** - They have a selection of social rent, affordable rent and shared ownership properties located across the borough.
- **Orbit** - a housing association that rents homes to a wide variety of people with a range of needs.
- **Housing 21** - provides sheltered housing for older people.
- **Metropolitan** - mainly provides properties in the district for people with mental health problems.
- **Trident** - a social registered landlord.
- **Waterloo Housing Group** - a social registered landlord.

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Homelessness and Mental Health

Housing and mental health are often linked. Poor mental health can make it harder to cope with housing problems, while being homeless or having problems in your home can make your mental health worse.

Tamworth Borough Council has links with the Mental Health Access team based in Tamworth, which provides immediate support for our staff to be able to signpost people. We will continuously review the advice and services available to you, and develop outreach support services according to your needs through your Personal Housing Plan that will be completed in partnership with you.

Name of Organisation	Who they can help	Contact details
Tool Box	Lottery Funded to support people in their emotional health. Open access, for 18+ which aims to enable self empowering, emotional wellbeing signposting service.	Tel: 01543 301139 Website: https://ssnmentalhealth.co.uk/toolbox/
SSNMH (South Staffs Network for Mental Health)	Toolbox project to provide emotional wellbeing and mental illness prevention service. Service for anyone age 18+ needing support with emotional wellbeing and not currently receiving secondary services	Tel: 07494 273175 or 01543 301139 www.ssnmentalhealth.co.uk Email – toolboxreferral@ssnmentalhealth.co.uk
Community Mental Health Team	Services for adults, family, friends, carers or professionals concerned about mental health	Access Service for Adult Mental Health Tel: 0300 555 5001
Mind	Provide support and advice to anyone with mental health problems	Tel: 0300 123 3393 or text 86463 Web: www.mind.org.uk
Mencap (Tamworth and Lichfield)	Provide services and activities for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities	Mencap Direct 0808 808 1111

		Email help@mencap.org.uk Tel: 01283 500 650 www.together-uk.org/yourway Email: staffordshire-yourway@together-uk.org
Together Your Way	Services offered to anyone aged 16+ Community support, Your Way, Peer support, Social networking, Volunteering, Your Way individually tailored support	
Care First	Provide Skills for Life for people learning difficulties, learning disabilities, challenging behaviour, mental health and/or autism spectrum disorder including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and independence skills • Making choices • Road and health and safety awareness • Food hygiene and culinary skills Workshops (bike, gardening, woodwork, etc.)	Care First Management Services Limited Tel: 0121 358 8161 carefirstltd.co.uk
Young Minds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help for young people. • Helpline for parents or carers of young people with mental health concerns • Committed to emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people 	Tel: 0808 802 5544 Web: www.youngminds.org.uk

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