**Salford Help through Crisis December 2016**

**Homeless or threatened with being homeless in Salford?**

If you are homeless, threatened with homelessness within 28 days or it is not reasonable to stay where you are then you can apply to the Salford Housing Team to see if they have a duty to rehouse you. You can go to Salford Housing Options Point and **ask for a full homelessness interview**. You should go to 7 Wesley Street, Swinton, M27 6AD

**Make a homelessness application**

If there is reason to believe that you may be homeless, the Council should accept a homelessness application from you. If it prevents or discourages you from making an application, its actions may be against the law; get advice straight away if this happens.

**Obtain a written decision**

You may get a written decision on the same day as your application is made but they are allowed to take up to 8 weeks. If you are not happy with the decision then you will have 21 days from getting the decision to request a review. You should then seek advice and assistance.

**The 5 legal tests for homelessness**

1. You need to be **eligible for homelessness assistance** and this will include looking at your immigration status.
2. You need to be **homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days** - You could also be homeless if it isn't reasonable for you to continue living where you are staying.
3. You need to have a **priority need** for housing. This includes those who have any dependent children or if you are pregnant or if you are deemed vulnerable.
4. Did you deliberately do something or failed to do something which caused your homelessness and as such made yourself **intentionally homeless.**
5. You need to have a **local connection** with Salford.

**Emergency accommodation**

You must be given emergency accommodation while they look into the above tests and come to a written decision if the housing authority have reason to believe that you **may** be eligible for assistance, **may** be homeless and that you **may** have a priority need.

**Your homelessness application was successful**

You will be offered temporary accommodation if after making its enquiries the Council decides that you are eligible for assistance, are homeless, have a priority need and are not intentionally homeless.

**The main housing duty**

If you live in temporary accommodation, the Council remains under a duty to find you other accommodation that will end its main housing duty towards you. The main housing duty can only end in certain circumstances including::

* if you accept certain offers of accommodation
* if you refuse certain offers of accommodation. Be careful if you are going to refuse an offer. You should seek help and advice before you refuse any offers of accommodation.
* if you do something that gets you evicted from temporary accommodation.
* if your lose your eligibility (usually if your immigration status changes).

**What about any Belongings?**

If the housing authority is under any duty to accommodate you, then it must also take reasonable steps to protect your belongings (including pets). The Council can make a reasonable charge to do this.

**What if the Council do not offer even an emergency accommodation?**

Contact the Salford Help through Crisis team to look at hostels, shelters, and access to places that may provide meals or food. It may be possible to challenge the Council’s decision. Homelessness law can be complicated, so if you need specialist housing advice then contact us and we can help with making a referral.

**For further information:**

**phone: 0161 212 4407**

**email:** **htcadmin@salford.cabnet.org.uk**

**twitter:** [**https://twitter.com/crisis\_help**](https://twitter.com/crisis_help)

**online:** [**www.salfordhelpthroughcrisis.org.uk**](http://www.salfordhelpthroughcrisis.org.uk)