

Housing Advice

Homelessness and Release from prison

You can ask Harrow Council for help if you're homeless now or due to leave prison in the next 8 weeks and don't have anywhere to stay on your release from prison.

The council will carry out an assessment of your housing needs and will give you a personal housing plan.

The council will contact agencies such as the National Probation Service, community rehabilitation company, the Police or the local youth offending team to discuss what support you might need to find and keep somewhere to live. They will also discuss any restrictions or license conditions on where you can live.

You can apply to any council for help but it's usually best to apply to an area where you have a local connection. Being in prison in an area doesn't count as a local connection. If you apply to an area where you don't have a connection, you may be referred to an area where you do have a local connection.

You need a suitable address to stay at before you can be released on bail or home detention curfew (an electronic tag). If you cannot live at your usual address, court or prison staff may refer you to the Bail Accommodation Support Scheme (BASS).

How to get help

If you are at risk of homelessness contact Harrow's Housing Advice Team :

020 8424 1093

020 8863 5611 out of hours

housingadvice@harrow.gov.uk

The council will give you advice about finding somewhere to live. You will be asked for information about your situation and for supporting evidence. You may be entitled to help in finding emergency accommodation.

Most prisons have a housing advice and resettlement service called Through the Gate. The service is delivered by charities including Shelter, St Giles Trust and Catch22. A resettlement worker in prison can help you.

Depending on your circumstances you may be able to apply for a Budgeting Loan, a travel warrant, a discharge grant and a grant for your first night's accommodation before your release from prison.

Your probation officer in the community can give you housing advice and may be able to refer you to a specialist hostel, supported housing or private landlords.

Useful contact numbers

Harrow Adult Drug & Alcohol Service (WDP) 0300 303 2868 / harrow@wdp.org.uk
Harrow Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service (Compass) 020 8861 2787
adminharrow@compass-uk.org

Housing Related Floating Support - EACH Counselling & Support

HarrowFS@eachcounselling.org.uk

Nacro's Resettlement Advice Service 0300 123 1999 / helpline@nacro.org.uk