



# Losing your home?

Our housing experts can offer support and advice and help you to look at your options



## Are you at risk of becoming homeless?

We may be able to help if you're having a dispute with your landlord - contact us using the number on the back of this leaflet.

If you become homeless, the help we can offer is often limited. Taking action yourself is usually the quickest way to help your situation. Start looking for somewhere else to live as soon as possible.

Your money will go further if you rent outside of London.

**If you find a new place to rent, we may be able to help you with the deposit.**

**If you claim benefits or have a low income you may get help to pay some of your rent.**

## Short term accommodation

Being homeless does not give you priority for a council house.

If you're about to become homeless, we may be able to provide emergency accommodation which you will need to pay for. You may be entitled to Housing Benefit.

You should use this time to find somewhere else to live. Emergency accommodation can be in a hostel or bed and breakfast and it may cost you more per night than other accommodation, and more than housing benefit covers.

Many people are not entitled to more help. Some qualify for temporary accommodation, rented from a private landlord, but this is often outside London and you will still need to pay the rent.

## Other sources of help

### Home Finder UK

This service advertises available social housing in the UK. There are more than 300 affordable homes online and ready for renters.

**[www.homefinderuk.org](http://www.homefinderuk.org)**

### DSS Move

All the properties on this site are available for people who receive benefits.

**[www.dssmove.co.uk](http://www.dssmove.co.uk)**

### Other property sites

[www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com)

[www.zoopla.co.uk](http://www.zoopla.co.uk)

[www.rightmove.co.uk](http://www.rightmove.co.uk)

### Benefits Calculators

[www.harrow.entitledto.co.uk](http://www.harrow.entitledto.co.uk)

[www.gov.uk/housing-benefit](http://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit)

[www.gov.uk/housing-and-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/housing-and-universal-credit)

## Who qualifies for help?

We will look at your level of need - the help you get will depend on this level.

People with children and those with medical needs are likely to qualify for help.

If you're assessed to have a low need, the amount of help we will be able to offer you is limited. Look inside this leaflet for further information.

Housing in Harrow is expensive. If you're finding it hard to find affordable accommodation we advise also looking outside the borough or considering smaller properties than you need.

## Contact us and find out more

Contact us for advice and to see what help we can offer. We will always treat you fairly and give you an honest assessment of your circumstances.

Call **020 8424 1093**

or email **housing.advice@harrow.gov.uk**

### Further help

Harrow Citizens Advice

**020 8427 9477**

Shelter

**0808 800 4444**

Age UK

**0800 678 1602**

