

# Housing Options Service

## **1. What is The Housing Options Service?**

The Housing Options Service offers housing advice to households in the city regardless of their tenure, i.e. owner occupiers, private rented tenants, social housing. We also perform the Local Authority's statutory function to carry out homelessness assessments under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017. (HRA)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted>

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/housing/housing-advice-and-support/salford-housing-options-point->

## **2. How to access our service**

If you are working with a household or individual who has a housing need or they are homeless or threatened with homelessness:

Tel: 0161 793 2020

Email: [housing.advicecentre@salford.gov.uk](mailto:housing.advicecentre@salford.gov.uk)

Opening hours are 8.30am -4.30pm Mon to Fri. Public bodies / agencies must refer in using our Duty To Refer link <https://www.salford.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/public-duty-to-refer-homelessness/>

## **3. Homelessness prevention**

Households who are threatened with homelessness within 56 days trigger prevention duty which lasts for 56 days.

Each household has their own Housing Options Advisor that will see case through from presentation to solution.

## **4. Prevention schemes**

These are the prevention options utilised by officers to prevent homelessness:

- Early intervention
- Pre-Eviction Protocol (Social and private)
- Hospital Discharge Protocol
- Migrant worker's pilot
- Referrals to Welfare Rights and Debt Advice
- Salford Home Search credits (SHS)
- arranging garden clear-outs, buying accessible ramps, etc

## **5. Homelessness Relief**

If we are unable to prevent homelessness or a household presents to us late the homelessness relief duty is triggered (lasts for an additional 56 days)

- may trigger temporary accommodation duty
- Continue to work with client to resolve issue
- additional credit SHS

## **6. Main homelessness duty**

If the Housing Options Service is unable to prevent or relieve homelessness a main duty homelessness decision will be made to determine what rehousing duty is owed to the household

- Full rehousing duty
- No priority need
- Intentionally homeless

Regardless of the outcome of the homelessness decision we will still work with the household to enable them to access accommodation.

## **7. Rehousing Options**

These may include:

- trying to save current tenancy where safe to do so
- social housing
- private rented accommodation to include Salford Property Link and Rental Bond Scheme
- Supported hostel accommodation

Main focus of managing expectations of the client about what is available and where including realistic timescales. Where a homeless duty is owed to a client this duty will be discharged with a suitable offer of accommodation.

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### **Additional Information**

Visit: <https://safeguardingchildren.salford.gov.uk/>

Email: [SSCP@salford.gov.uk](mailto:SSCP@salford.gov.uk)

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