

## Homeless prevention

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### Housing options for people discharged from hospital

Housing authorities have a duty ([section 179](#)) to provide advisory services free of charge to people in their district. The service must be designed to meet the needs of certain groups, which include people leaving hospital. If you are currently in hospital and you have somewhere to live which isn't suitable for you, or you won't have anywhere to live after you're discharged you may need advice and assistance.

### Remaining in your home

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If you have a home already but it needs to be adapted, the hospital will refer you to the adult social care team who can arrange for an Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment. The OT service is responsible for adaptations or Disabled Facilities Grant. We can help with adaptations to make it easier for you to live safely in your home if you are disabled. You can find out more about this grant on the GOV.UK website.

This could include:

- access improvements such as ramps, rails or wider doorways
- adapted bathroom facilities such as a level access shower
- adapting a stairlift, step lift or through lift
- adapting a kitchen
- safety improvement or adaptations to heating or lighting

### Apply as homeless

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If you have no address to go to after you are discharged, your housing situation should be considered while you are in hospital and not at the time you are ready to leave, and any discharge plan should identify if you have nowhere to live.

From 1 October 2018, a new legal duty on specified public services begun. If you are receiving the provision of any of the following NHS health services, you should be referred to our service for help.

- accident and emergency services in a hospital
- urgent treatment centers
- in-patient treatment (of any kind)

We can visit or call you in order to take an application from you and to start the assessment to decide if we have a duty to provide you with emergency accommodation when you leave. We will continue to work with you to look at other options even if you are homeless.

## Vulnerability

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North Somerset Council will consider whether you are vulnerable and therefore in “priority need” for emergency accommodation if you are homeless. This will be determined by your personal circumstances and if you have something significant that makes you vulnerable when compared to ordinary people.

When deciding if you are vulnerable, North Somerset Council may consider:

- what support you have access to
- whether you are vulnerable as a result of disability
- what your physical and mental health medical conditions are
- any current and future treatment
- any requirements to help manage the condition
- whether you have been in hospital for any mental health problems, either voluntarily or by being detained
- how you cope with activities of daily living
- whether you have a protected characteristic and how it affects you

## Support

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The Home From Hospital Service is funded by North Somerset Council and is based at Weston General Hospital and provides help and support for patients to move back home safely after a stay at the hospital. Contact Home from Hospital at Weston General Hospital: 01934 636363 ex 3193

If care needs are identified by the hospital you may be assessed by a social worker prior to discharge.

## Contact us

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Phone 01934 426330 or email [Housing.advice@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.advice@n-somerset.gov.uk). You can also send the team a message through your Homechoice account and receive replies.

## Still need help?

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You can get further advice from Shelter’s free\* housing advice helpline (**0808 800 4444**)

[https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing\\_advice](https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice)

