



## Homeless when released from prison

This leaflet is to advise people, including youth offenders, who are soon to be released from prison and may be homeless.

### Definition of Homeless

There are several ways that you could be considered homeless. You may be classed as homeless if:-

- You are at risk of violence or abuse where you are living. This can be from a partner, ex- partner or family member, or someone in your area.
- You don't have 'a roof over your head' i.e. you are street homeless
- You are at risk of losing your home
- You cannot afford to stay where you are
- Your accommodation is very temporary
- You are staying with friends or 'sofa surfing'
- You have been locked out or illegally evicted
- Your accommodation is in very poor condition
- You cannot live together with your partner or close family
- You have nowhere to put your houseboat or caravan

If you think you will be homeless after you have been released from prison, then you must inform your supervising officer within Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) as soon as possible.

Your supervising officer can assist you to seek accommodation for your release. If you do not have accommodation to go to, or if it is not appropriate for you to return to your home, then you may be offered supported accommodation such as that provided by [SAHA](#).

You can also get advice on your housing options from the [NACRO](#) website.

### **How the Council can help**

If you have already been released from prison and you are homeless or could become homeless then you should contact Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's via [customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk), call 02476 376406 or drop into the Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton between 9am and 5pm to arrange an appointment.

It is important that you let the Council know as soon as possible if you think you might become homeless as we can advise and support you within 56 days (or sooner) of you being threatened with homelessness.

Our Housing Solutions team can help you by:

- Assessing your housing situation and determining what your needs are
- Liaising with any support workers that are helping you after your release from prison
- Developing a personal housing plan so you can work towards getting a permanent home

### **If you are released from Prison and are under 18**

If you are under 18 and have been in prison, then the [Warwickshire Youth Justice Service](#) will help you with finding suitable accommodation.

Up until your 18th birthday, the County Council is responsible for providing you with somewhere to live. If you are homeless and under 18, the Council might provide you with [emergency accommodation](#) while it arranges a social services assessment.

Social services must then provide accommodation while they investigate what help and support you need.

### **Can I Claim Benefits?**

If you are a prisoner, on remand or on release, there may be benefits, grants or other financial support available to you and your family.

For information on [Benefit entitlement](#) visit the Turn2Us website.

If you require any further advice or assistance, please call 02476 376406 or email [customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk)

## Useful contact details:

### [Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council](#)

Telephone: **024 7637 6406**

Open 9:00am until 5:00pm, Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays).

### [Warwickshire Youth Justice Service](#)

Telephone: **01926 410410**

Monday to Friday – 8:00am to 6:30pm

Saturday – 9:00am to 1:00pm

### [Citizens Advice](#)

Advice line: **02476 494393** 10am - 2pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Advice line: **0300 3301163** 9am - 4pm Monday – Friday

### [Salvation Army Housing Association \(SAHA\)](#)

Telephone: **0800 970 6363**

**P3** - a local charity based in Nuneaton that helps people aged 25 and over who are faced with homelessness.

Freephone **0808 164 6220** or email [warks@p3charity.org](mailto:warks@p3charity.org) for more information.

### [St Basil's](#)

St Basils is a charity and housing association that works with young people aged 16-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to enable them to find and keep a home, grow their confidence, develop their skills, increase opportunities and prevent homelessness.

### [Nacro](#)

Nacro has a dedicated Resettlement plus Helpline which offers information and advice to ex-offenders, serving prisoners, their families and friends and to organisations working with them.

Telephone: **0300 123 1999**

### [Step Together](#)

Step Together provide tailored one-to-one support to help individuals into volunteering placements that match their needs and interests and help them develop the personal and practical skills required to build a more positive future.

Telephone: **0117 955 9042**

### [St Giles Trust](#)

St Giles Trust runs a range of services designed to help ex-offenders; employment, support, community-based training, and housing/emergency accommodation.

Telephone: **020 7708 8000**

### [Unlock](#)

Unlock is an independent charity for people with convictions who are dealing with the effects of having a criminal record. They give advice and support across areas such as: how to disclose to employers, criminal record checks, getting insurance and travelling abroad through their confidential peer-run helpline.

Telephone: **01634 247350**

### [Working Links](#)

Working Links runs programs throughout the country to fully support ex-offenders with regaining employment.

Telephone: **0800 917 9262**

### [YMCA](#)

YMCA work in partnership with prisons and probation services to support young offenders with citizenship and training opportunities pre-release.

Telephone: **0207 186 9500**

### [Family Lives](#)

Action for Prisoners' and Offenders' Families merged with Family Lives in 2014 and works for the benefit of prisoners' and offenders' families by supporting families who are affected by imprisonment.

Telephone: **0808 800 2222**

### [Clinks](#)

Clinks supports, represents and campaigns for the voluntary sector working with offenders. Clinks aims to ensure the sector and all those with whom they work, are informed and engaged in order to transform the lives of offenders and their communities.

## Help for Youth Offenders

### [SOVA Supporting Others through Voluntary Action](#)

SOVA is a voluntary mentoring organisation in England and Wales working in the Criminal Justice Sector and young people on youth offending orders as well as care leavers, long-term unemployed and refugee and asylum seekers.

Telephone: **0121 392 7364**

### [Trailblazers](#)

Trailblazers is a national charity that reduces re-offending among young people through providing volunteer mentors. They reduce re-offending in young people by helping them change their attitude, thinking and behavior through intensive mentoring, advice, advocacy and targeted specialist support.

Telephone: **07807 267280**

[Doorway](#) - a local charity based in Nuneaton that helps young people aged 16-25 who are faced with homelessness.

Telephone: **02476 345583**

9 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday