

Housing Advice Sheet 5– Ex Armed Forces

If you're leaving the armed services, or you are a former member, you may be entitled to extra help if you become homeless.

Key advice

- Consider applying for social housing in Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Council through the Gateway to Homechoice allocation scheme. You can complete an online housing application at www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk
- Get help with housing or apply as homeless before you're discharged. You can complete an on line self referral form by going to the following links:

Suffolk Coastal <https://hpa2.org/refer/SUFFOLK>
Waveney District Council <https://hpa2.org/refer/WAVE>

Or email

dutytorefer.scdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
dutytorefer.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Our duties towards ex-forces

You may qualify for help from Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Council if you are a former member of the armed forces and are homeless or threatened with homelessness. In addition you will have to prove to the Council that you are eligible for housing assistance, and have not made yourself intentionally homeless.

Subject to you satisfying the above criteria either District Council has to help you with both emergency and longer-term accommodation if it is accepted that you are homeless and in priority need with regard to needing accommodation.

Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Council must consider if it can help you using both general rules that apply to everyone and special rules that apply to people who were in the forces.

General rules for people in priority need

It can be easier to get help if you qualify under the general rules for people in priority need, for example if you have dependent children or are pregnant.

Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Council should also look to see if you are vulnerable in some way. This may involve showing how a disability, mental health problem, addiction or other issue effecting your ability to secure accommodation for yourself compared with other people who are rendered homeless.

Additional homelessness criteria for the armed forces

You should also be treated as being vulnerable and therefore in priority need for accommodation if you can show that your vulnerability is as a result of being a former member of the armed forces.

When deciding this, Suffolk Coastal or Waveney District Council may consider:

- how long you were in the forces and what role you had
- if you spent any time in a military hospital
- if you were released from service on medical grounds (and have a Medical History Release Form)
- if you have had accommodation since leaving service and if you have been able to obtain or maintain accommodation since you left
- how long it has been since you left service

Housing Needs Service - Contact Information

Suffolk Coastal District Council
East Suffolk House
Riduna Park
Station Road
Melton
IP12 1RT

01394 383789

Housing.options.scdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Waveney District Council
Customer Services Centre
Marina
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 1HH

01502 562111

Housing.options.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk