



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 East Suffolk through the Gateway to Homechoice allocation scheme. You can complete an online housing application at www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk

Or email

housing.needs@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Our duties towards ex-forces

You may qualify for help from East Suffolk 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 the 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.

East Suffolk 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.

East Suffolk 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, East Suffolk 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

Contact 0333016200

Housing.needs@eastsoffolk.gov.uk