

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY 2026–2029

What this policy is about

This policy explains how we place and support households in Temporary Accommodation (TA) if they are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our aim is to provide safe, suitable accommodation and help you move into a settled home as quickly as possible.

What is Temporary Accommodation?

Temporary Accommodation is short-term housing provided while we:

- Look into your homelessness application
- Help prevent or relieve your homelessness
- Work with you to secure a longer-term home

TA is not permanent housing, and you may be asked to move if a more suitable option becomes available.

Types of accommodation we may use



Council-owned
temporary homes
(our preferred option)



Homes leased from
private landlords



Hotels or nightly paid
accommodation
(emergency use only)



Bed and Breakfast (only as a
last resort and time-limited)



Out-of-area placements
if nothing suitable is
available locally



TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PLACEMENT POLICY 2026–2029

How we decide where to place you

We will always try to place you in suitable accommodation based on your needs. We consider:

- The size of your household
- Health, disability or accessibility needs
- Safety risks such as domestic abuse
- Your children's schooling and support networks
- Location and affordability

We try to place households in or near Winchester and the district where possible.

Who is prioritised for accommodation

When demand is high, priority is given to households with:

- Children or pregnancy
- Disabilities, Serious Health needs or significant vulnerabilities
- Domestic abuse or safeguarding risks
- Young people or care leavers
- Long stays in emergency accommodation

What you can expect from us

We will:

- Provide accommodation that is safe, clean and suitable
- Explain your rights, charges and responsibilities clearly
- Keep in regular contact with you
- Support you to move into long-term housing as quickly as possible
- Review your placement if your circumstances change

What we expect from you

While living in Temporary Accommodation, you should:

- Pay any rent or service charges due
- Follow the licence or tenancy conditions
- Look after the property and respect neighbours
- Report repairs or safety concerns quickly
- Stay in contact and work with us on your housing plan

Moving on to a permanent home

Temporary Accommodation is short-term. We will work with you to find a longer-term housing solution through:

- Private rented housing options
- Bidding for social housing (If you are eligible and qualify)
- Support from partner agencies where needed

Out-of-area placements

Sometimes we may need to place you outside the Winchester area if no suitable local accommodation is available or for safety reasons. If this happens, we will explain why and keep the placement under review.

Have your say or make a complaint

We welcome feedback about your experience. If you are unhappy with our service, you can make a complaint through our Housing Complaints process.

Contact Us

01962 848 163

homelessness@winchester.gov.uk

