



## HOUSING

There are many housing options out there, which one is right for you pretty much depends on your personal circumstances and choice.

We have listed some of the most popular options available to help you decide which one is right for you. There is no right or wrong as everyone is different. If you would like further information or advice, please feel free to contact us on [info@sharan.org.uk](mailto:info@sharan.org.uk)

## SHELTER

If you need advice and help in an emergency and you are not sure what to do, phone Shelter's free national helpline on **0808 800 4444** to talk to a housing adviser who can:

- explain your rights
- tell you your options
- tell you what (if anything) is available in your area.

### **Sheltered Accommodation**

Sheltered accommodation might appeal to you if you want to live independently, but like the idea of having someone to call on if there is an emergency. Sheltered housing differs from other types of housing because of the presence of a case worker (sometimes called a Welfare Officer) who lives on the premises, or nearby. Accommodation generally takes the form of a room within a shared house that is not known to the public.

Many sheltered housing schemes provide 24-hour emergency assistance through an alarm system

### **Hostel**

In many cases, hostels provide a short-term solution for people requiring an affordable and immediate place to stay. Usually a room with shared facilities such as bathroom and kitchen. There are many hostels in London for young people and some that specialise in accommodating women only.

Be sure to find out if they have a resettlement worker who can assist you with making housing claims for your long-term housing needs.

### **Room Share**

If you have low level support needs and are in a position to place a deposit to rent a room within a private house, room share could be for you. Whilst allowing you the independence of living on your own, you have the added advantage of other tenants being there if you need any assistance.

Please ensure you check the tenancy agreement before signing as they are usually binding for 6 to 12 months.

### **Housing Associations**

Housing associations are independent not-for-profit bodies that provide low cost housing for people in housing need. They are fast becoming the single largest social landlords and can provide support towards getting your own place. Rental is usually below market prices and they usually offer additional specialist support including how to claim housing benefits.

Many housing associations work on a referral basis although some are happy to accept self referrals.

### **Council/Local Authority**

There are 32 London boroughs, and each has its own housing policies. Under the Housing Act 1996, local authorities have a duty to provide accommodation to people who are judged to be 'homeless' and have a 'priority need' for accommodation. Many Council offices have a Homeless Persons' Units deal with 'priority homeless cases'.

You may be offered a bed and breakfast hotel or a hostel place until a more permanent solution is found. If you are not considered priority homeless they will provide you with a list of hostels and private accommodation in the area.

### **Student Accommodation**

Many students spend their first year in university residence or halls and then rent privately from landlords or agencies thereafter. First point of call for looking for student accommodation is to contact your Student Union or student welfare officer who can assist you in assessing your options. You may also find accommodation in a shared house through local classifieds.

As with any agreement that you enter into, please ensure you understand and agree before you sign.