



## Housing Needs Move-on Scheme for Single People

This leaflet is part of a series of leaflets that sets out key information about Oxford City Council's Housing Needs service.

This leaflet explains how the Council's Move-on Scheme for Single People works.

You can download a copy of this leaflet from  
[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)

### Translations available

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## Housing Needs Service Leaflets Available

- Applying for Housing
- Assessing Applications
- Exceptional Circumstances Panel
- Help with Furnishing Your Oxford City Council Home
- Home Choice
- Housing Options
- Housing Registers Explained
- Incentive Scheme for Under-Occupying Oxford City Council Tenants
- Move-on Scheme for Single People
- Offer of Housing
- Review of Homelessness Decisions
- Review of Housing Allocations Decisions
- Survival Guide for Homeless Families and People in Oxford

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# Move-on Scheme for Single People



## Introduction



The Allocation Scheme takes into account the requirements of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Act 2002. The allocations policy also takes into account the following key factors:

- The scarcity of affordable housing in Oxford versus the relatively high demand placed on the available homes, and the level of homelessness in the city.
- The need to prioritise allocations in an objective, fair, and systematic way.

The full Allocation Scheme (57 pages) can be viewed on-line at the Council's website ([www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)), it can be inspected at our offices on St Aldate's, or can be purchased for £5 by application to this office.

## Move-on Scheme



The 'move-on' referral scheme is an arrangement between the direct access hostels in Oxford and Oxford City Council and has been in place for more than 10 years.

The scheme allows **single general register applicants** who have spent a period of rehabilitation in the hostel and supported housing projects to be prioritised once they are ready to move on to independent accommodation.

An applicant will usually have spent a period of **not less than six months** working closely with support teams before an assessment is made as to their suitability for the scheme. A referral to the scheme is made by the agency involved with the applicant. A referral form is submitted giving details of the applicant and any issues that will affect the applicant's ability to manage a tenancy, such as mental health issues, substance misuse and

aggressive behaviour. The agency will also provide a **support plan** giving details of the services provided once the applicant is permanently re-housed.

The applicants that come through this system would generally not be accepted as statutorily homeless, due to the issues surrounding the loss of their previous accommodation and because issues such as substance misuse do not fall within the assessment criteria.

Whilst living in the hostels, the client must ensure that **rent is paid and other tenancy conditions are kept**. The process involves the client working to address the issues that inhibit their ability to maintain their own tenancy. This period of rehabilitation is a vital element for the success of the scheme.

Once a referral is made the applicant's general register application is amended to **move** status. This will override the normal Allocation Points Scheme. All applications with the status are registered in date order (the date that the referral was received).

The list of projects participating in this scheme are given overleaf.

## Key Issues



Clients referred to the 'move-on' scheme are usually those with issues of substance misuse and mental health problems. They are people who for various reasons have lost previous settled accommodation. Some have been through a period of rough sleeping. Indeed the scheme forms a key element in the Oxford Homelessness Strategy in seeking to reduce the numbers of rough sleepers in the city by ensuring that the hostels are able to offer places.

The majority of clients referred have issues that

require ongoing support once they have been allocated permanent tenancies. The support varies from budgeting and housekeeping skills, to high-level mental health care. It is vital that adequate support is provided to ensure that the client is able to sustain their new tenancy. The referral form gives the Council essential details as to the key support worker and any risk that the client may present. Some additional information may be required direct from the client.

The referring agencies that set support plans in place generally only do so for the first six months of a tenancy. Further, ongoing support, must be arranged by the support worker through community agencies such as Connection and Elmore Team. In instances of mental illness, the support comes from the Community Mental Health Teams and through service providers such as Oxfordshire Mind and Stonham Housing Association. This ongoing support must be identified prior to an offer of accommodation being made to the client.

Council staff must ensure that all relevant information on support packages, support workers and contact numbers, as well as the risk assessment, is available prior to making an offer or a nomination and this information will be passed to the Local Housing Office or RSL.

The Housing Needs Team will take a lead on issues relating to the Move-on Scheme.

## Move-on Scheme: Participating Projects



### OCHA Refugee Project

T: 01865 773000

### OCHA Young Peoples Project

T: 01865 773000

### Gateway Project

Cherwell Housing Trust

T: 01865 260500

### Simon House

T: 01865 726241

### Stonham Housing

T: 01865 790232

### Dolphin Project

T: 01865 721329

### The Bridge

3/5 Iffley Road

T: 01865 794410

### Oxford Mind

T: 01865 793526 T: 01865 241692

### Oxfordshire Women's Aid

T: 01865 791416

### English Churches Housing Group (ECHG)

T: 01865 243071

Lucy Faithful House, 8 Speedwell Street

### Probation Services

T: 01865 248842

### Night Shelter

T: 01865 250153

Luther Street Centre, Luther Street

### Julian Housing

T: 01865 251744

### Oxfordshire Group Homes

T: 01865 223011