

The pathway of support for homeless young people



The support that someone receives if they go to their council for help because they are homeless or at risk varies across each nation.

England and Wales

The journey of support in England and Wales is essentially the same, though some of the language used to describe the steps different.

The Wales (Housing) Act 2014 was the first legislation in the UK to introduce a duty to prevent homelessness and was inspiration for the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 in England.

In both nations, you can expect to receive prevention or relief support regardless of whether you are priority need or are deemed intentionally homeless. In both

nations, single homeless young people who may not have previously received support should now all receive up to 56 days of both prevention and relief support.

The changes are particularly significant for those young people who are at risk, but not yet at the point of crisis as previously they may not have received support, as they are less likely to be priority need.

If the prevention and relief work is unsuccessful then young people are assessed to determine if they are owed a full housing duty.



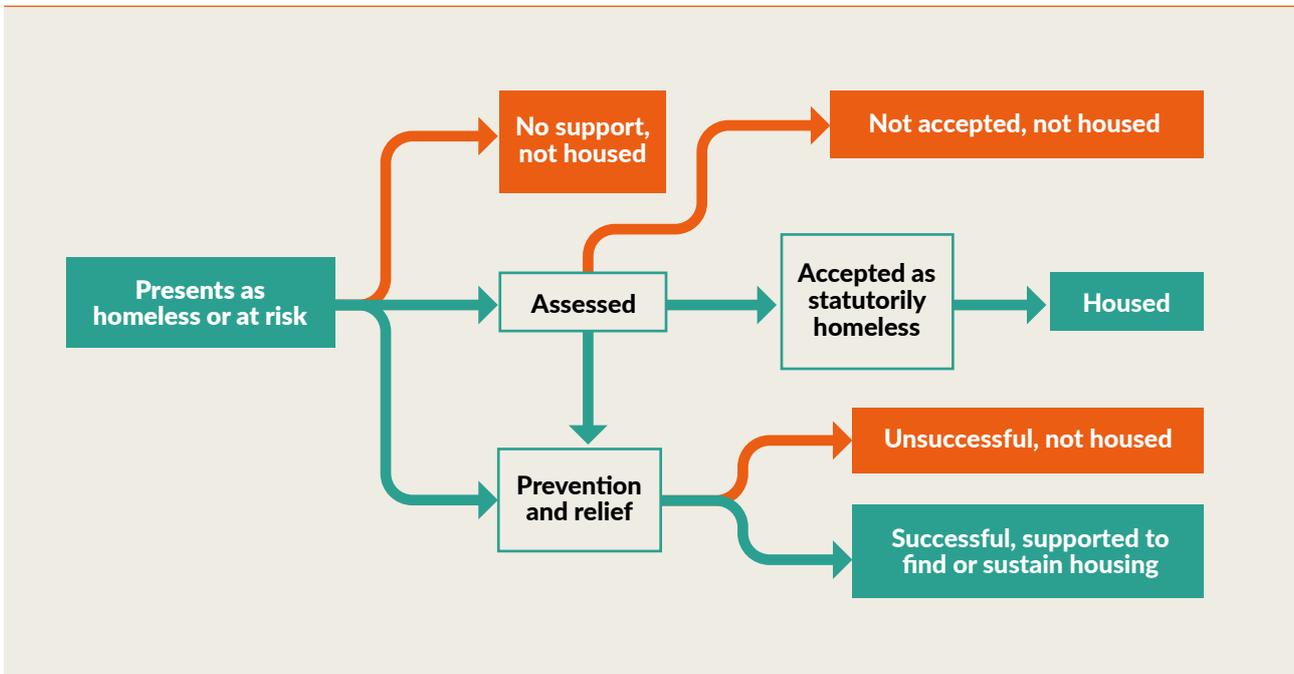
Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) assesses whether someone is homeless or at risk across the whole nation, rather than individual local councils.

Young people in Northern Ireland who are eligible, unintentionally homeless, and in priority need are owed a duty to help them secure accommodation.

Eligibility criteria are more complex in Northern Ireland than elsewhere in the UK as prior behaviour is also considered.

For anyone who is not owed a housing duty, the NIHE only has a duty to provide advice, though often additional prevention and relief work is carried out.



Scotland

Scottish homelessness policy operates on a significantly different model to the other nations.

Local authorities have a duty to find permanent accommodation for all those who are not deemed intentionally homeless. They also have an interim duty to secure accommodation whilst they assess whether or not an applicant is homeless.

If the applicant is assessed to have become homeless intentionally, a local authority has a duty to provide advice and assistance and they must also provide temporary accommodation for long enough to give them a chance to find their own housing.

