

LONDON HOUSING TRUST

RESETTLEMENT POLICY

This document is written to familiarise residents with London Housing Trust's Resettlement Policy.

The work of London Housing Trust

London Housing Trust provides single men with safe and supportive temporary accommodation. It also offers assistance in moving people on to shared accommodation and occasionally into small, independent studio flats, or to supportive shared accommodation. **Although the Project has no legal obligation to provide residents help with moving on, we consider resettlement to be our main task.** It is important to understand that we expect residents to co-operate with staff in moving on as quickly as possible and that London Housing Trust does not provide a 'home for life' at the hostel. This said, moving on can be a lengthy process.

How the Project does its work

Many different kinds of people come to London Housing Trust with many different kinds of needs. Because of this, it is important for the staff to get to know the residents, so that we can offer the most effective kind of help. The way we get to know residents is by completing a full assessment of needs and giving each resident a key worker, who is a member of staff who will offer you support to address your issues during your stay at London Housing Trust. If you do not meet regularly with your key worker, we will not be able to help you with resettlement.

London Housing Trust and housing

It is important to know that there is a serious shortage of housing in London. This is mainly because a lot of people in London are trying to find somewhere to live. As a result, there can be a long wait for accommodation to become available to you.

London Housing Trust does not have any control over the accommodation opportunities offered to it. This means we have to offer residents opportunities to move on from the Project as and when these opportunities become available.

We try to distribute accommodation as fairly as possible. The fairest way of doing this is by using a first-come, first-served system. We do, however, have to make some exceptions to this rule.

The first type of exception is for people who have severe disabilities or whose health is being badly affected by living in the hostel. The second type of exception is where the providers stipulate criteria for the residents they will offer places to, e.g. the offers may be limited to certain age-groups, immigration status, need for support, or past history.

This means that some residents may move on more quickly than others because of their eligibility for certain kinds of accommodation opportunities. Even in these circumstances, we will do our best to distribute accommodation as fairly as possible.

Any offers of accommodation made to the project and not to individuals will be discussed at the staff meeting.

This means that decisions about resettlement are not made by any individual member of staff.

The Resettlement Policy

London Housing Trust has some rules about resettlement that you should be aware of:

- Client's needs and risk assessments must show that the client is equipped for independent living, please see below.
- Residents are expected to accept any reasonable offer of accommodation offered to them as only one offer will be made.
- Reasonable accommodation includes shared accommodation.

Should a resident decline an offer of accommodation the Project will make no further offers. The resident would then have 1 month to seek his own accommodation and to leave the hostel. In effect, 1 months notice would be given at the moment a resident declines an offer of accommodation made to him.

Independent or Shared Accommodation

London Housing Trust will only offer independent accommodation to residents who have the basic abilities to manage on their own. This means that to be offered independent accommodation, residents must have:

- An ability to provide themselves with at least one meal per day.
- An ability and willingness to respond to letters, forms and appointments from benefits agencies.
- An ability to budget personal finances without repeated loans/consistent debts.
- An ability and commitment to staying out of debt with the Licence Charge.
- An ability to train/apply for full-time employment, unless likely to be claiming benefits indefinitely.
- An ability to live alongside neighbours without creating/taking offence unduly.
- An ability to cope with living alone and or have adequate support networks.

This said, there are a number of routes into accommodation, some supported and some not. These will be discussed in detail with you at the appropriate time. London Housing Trust works creatively to improve fair exit and move on outcomes for individual clients into the community.

During the closing stages of your stay at London Housing Trust a new support plan and risk assessment can be completed to cover a period of time as agreed by the client and key worker for some continued support after re-housing has taken place.

Residents who have been evicted from the Project will only be offered advice. No resident who has been evicted will be offered any active assistance in moving to new accommodation.

The Project is not required to offer any assistance to residents who are more than two weeks in arrears with their Licence Charge, unless there are special circumstances. Residents who continuously fail to pay the Licence Charge will be evicted from the hostel and will not be re-housed.

It is important that you have read and understood this document. If there is anything you do not understand then you should discuss it with your key worker.

I have read and understood this document

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Witnessed by.....

Print Name.....

Date.....