

Homelessness duties – background information

How we assess a homelessness application

When assessing a homelessness application we have to consider five tests. Are you:

- eligible for assistance (this is about whether you usually live in UK, your nationality, and your immigration status)
- homeless, or threatened with homelessness in 28 days
- in priority need (this will depend on your circumstances, for example, how old you are and who is in your household)
- intentionally homeless (this is about what you have or haven't done that has caused your homelessness; for example, if you failed to pay rent or mortgage when you could afford to, or moved out of a property when you could have stayed there)

and

- do you have a local connection within King's Lynn and West Norfolk (there are rules about local connection and homelessness that apply across England)

If you meet all five tests then we may have a duty to secure suitable accommodation for you.

(from Council website)

- Detailed information can be found in a house of commons briefing paper:

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN01164>

- or within the BCKLWN Homelessness Strategy available on

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/housing_20001/housing/269/strategy_policies_and_information

Local authorities in England do not have a duty to secure accommodation for all homeless people. Those who approach an authority for help who are deemed to be homeless but not in priority need may find themselves sleeping rough.

Rough sleeping

- Detailed information can be found in a house of commons briefing paper:

<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN02007>