

Housing Pathway for Service Personnel in Kent

The Armed Forces Covenant is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether Regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most, such as the injured and the bereaved.



In housing terms, this means that Armed Forces personnel and veterans who are in the services or who have left within 5 years, will not need a local connection to apply for social housing. This removes the disadvantage which applied to the armed forces when a local connection to a particular council area had to be proved



However, although Armed forces Personnel and veterans can apply for social housing, it is not an automatic right to allocation. This will depend on the level of housing need and other factors, such as disability. In some cases, those accepted onto the housing register, will be placed in a higher band.

Still in Service/transitions – the MOD Joint Service Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) provides advice on civilian housing options. Advice Line is 01252 787574. Information on housing is also available via half day presentations across the UK and overseas. Website: www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-service-housing-advice-office-jshao



Buying a home- The Help To Buy scheme. The Government lends you between 10% and 20% of the cost of your new-build home, so that you'll only need a 5% cash deposit and 75% mortgage to make up the rest. Contact BPHA 03333 214044 Email: helptobuyeastandsoutheast@bpha.org.uk

Website:
<https://www.helptobuyese.org.uk/contact-us>



Renting Privately –social housing is in short supply, so it is sensible to look at the private rented sector by contacting letting agents or looking in local newspapers. Many landlords these days require two months deposit and a month's rent in advance. The average private rent on a 2 bed property in Kent is approximately £800 per month although this varies between districts . Many local authorities can help with a rent deposit bond.

Homelessness – If you are homeless, there are organisations that may be able to help you. Contact your local housing authority for advice and assistance, (details on next page). There are priority groups under homelessness legislation that the local housing authority has a duty to find accommodation for. Being ex Service Personnel is not an automatic right to priority.

Local Authority Housing Options Teams – housing advice and assistance

Ashford	01233 330 688	Sevenoaks	01732 227000
Canterbury	01227 862142	Shepway	01303 853 300
Dartford	01322 343 822	Swale	01795 417 511
Dover	01304 872 265	Thanet	01843 577 277
Gravesham	01474 337 366	Tonbridge & Malling	01732 876067
Maidstone	01622 602 440	Tunbridge Wells	01892 554 140

SSAFA offers advice and assistance for all veterans and their spouses, including disabled ex-service personnel, separated families for temporary supported accommodation, or those who are homeless. Tel: 0800 731 4880

Website: <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/kent>

The Royal British Legion is there to support and offer practical assistance to every ex-serviceman or woman who is homeless or living in temporary accommodation. Tel: 0808 802 8080

Website: www.britishlegion.org.uk

Shelter is a homeless charity that provides specific advice for ex-forces on housing, homelessness and financial help.

Tel: 0808 800 444

Website: <http://www.shelter.org.uk/>

Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI) offers a range of accommodation, welfare support and convalescent care to those with a connection to the Armed Forces Community or with a disability or health condition. Tel: 01622 795900

Website: <http://www.rbli.co.uk/>

Haig Housing is a housing association that provides rented accommodation for people who have served in the armed forces. Tel: 0208 685 5777

Website: www.haighhousing.org.uk

Stoll Foundation provides housing and support to disabled ex service personnel, including those with poor mental health, alcohol problems or homelessness issues. Tel: 0800 389 7970

Website: www.stoll.org.uk/

Veteran's Aid helps with homelessness among the ex-military community. Their aim is to address homelessness and its consequence and to prevent it . . . and prevent it recurring. Tel: 0800 012 6867

Website: <https://veterans-aid.net/>

Kent Homechoice has some very useful information and advice on housing including the bidding system for social housing. www.kenthomechoice.org.uk There are specific pages for service personnel and veterans:
<http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/choice/Content.aspx?wkid=60>