

Prevention Policy

Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Main Duties

1. Prevention Duty

Applies when someone is threatened with homelessness within 56 days

- The Council must take reasonable steps to help people remain in current accommodation or secure alternative housing
- Involves creating a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP)

2. Relief Duty

Applies when someone is already homeless

- The Council must help secure accommodation for at least 6 months
- May involve interim accommodation if needed
- Involves creating a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP)

3. Main Housing Duty

Applies if relief duty ends without resolving homelessness and the applicant is:

- Eligible
- In priority need
- Not intentionally homeless
- The Council to provide temporary accommodation until settled housing is found

Key Prevention Tools and Measures

Personalised Housing Plans (PHPs)

- Tailored action plans developed
- Reviewed every **2 weeks**
- Include responsibilities for applicant, Council, and third parties

Mediation Services

- Used to resolve disputes
- Aims to prevent eviction or relationship breakdowns leading to homelessness

Rent Top-Up Scheme

(Priority Need Cases Only)

- Financial support to bridge the gap between housing allowance and market rent to increase opportunity to discharge duties into the PRS

Deposit and Rent in Advance Assistance

(Priority Need Cases Only)

- Interest-free loans for private sector tenancies
- Includes affordability assessments and repayment agreements

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

- Temporary financial support when tenancy becomes unaffordable, managed by Housing Benefits

Cashless Bond Scheme

- Replaces deposits with a legal agreement covering up to **£500** in damages or arrears designed for no priority need cases

Partnership Working and Signposting

- Referrals for budgeting, employment, addiction, and mental health support

Domestic Abuse Services

- Specialist officer support, sanctuary schemes, and MARAC participation
- Focus on safety, legal support, and rapid rehousing

Housing Register Access

- Online application system with priority based on assessed need
- Encourages mutual exchanges and transfers for social tenants

House Share & Lodging Options

- Promoted especially for **under-35s**
- Includes vetting and suitability checks

Home Adaptations

- Coordinated with Occupational Therapists to prevent homelessness due to disability or health