

Overview of Homeless & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill

Legislation change	Additional Details	Who it will impact	Indicated timeline
Amends the definition of 'threatened with homelessness' and extends the prevention period from 56 days, to six months.	Already practised in Monmouthshire	HOTs	Implementation: 2027-2028
Introduces Prevention, Support and Accommodation Plans (PSAP)	- Includes the wants and wishes of the applicant. - Includes an assessment of support needs. - No recourse if applicant refuses any of the PSAP To be reviewed every 8 weeks or when there is a change of circs. - Must include steps by other agencies where this is known.	HOTs, HSG, Partner agencies (where applicable)	Training: 2026-2027 Implementation: 2027-2028

	• Communication must be accessible.		
Introduces new rights to request a review for applicants, in relation to decisions taken regarding their case.	• Review of a PSAP can be requested at any point where a PSAP is required. • Review of the suitability of accommodation can be made at any time a duty applies or within 6 months of the offer being accepted. • Review of support needs: an assessment by a local housing authority of the support needed for the applicant and any member of the applicant's household— (i) to retain accommodation which is or may become available;	HOTs, HSG	Implementation 2027-2028

	(ii) to overcome any barrier to living independently;		
Specifies additional circumstances in which duties can be brought to an end.	• Largely refers to the addition of 'settled' accommodation options that can allow for a discharge of housing duty. There are ongoing discussions as to what these options will be but should include returning to family and supported lodgings. • The use of the additional means to discharge duty will invoke a duty to make reasonable attempts to contact a household within 7 months of the homeless duty coming to an end to check if there is a	HOTs	2027-2028

	risk of homelessness.		
Widens the accommodation options to be considered as a means of relieving homelessness.	• S73 removed and application of LC test at S75. • Means TA for anyone believed to be homeless (and eligible). • S68 will become shorter as only LC test applied before S75 duty. • Those not entitled to S75 will be given reasonable time to make other accommodation arrangements.	HOTs	
Abolishes the priority need and intentionality tests.	• Duty to accommodate all believed to be homeless (and eligible) in Monmouthshire at least until S75.	HOTs	2030-2031

Introduces a local connection test for the main homelessness duty	• As is already in use at MCC. • No additional exemptions. • Welsh ministers to be given new powers to determine where a person is to be treated as meeting the local connection test.	HOTs	
Referral of cases to another local housing authority	• No longer need to be in PN or non-intentional for referral. • Can refer to another LA <i>before</i> acceptance of a S66 for those in custody. • LC only applied at S75.	HOTs	
Introduces a new duty to provide help to retain suitable accommodation.	• Applies to households who have been supported to secure accommodation	HSG, HOTs	2027-2028

	under a homeless duty. • Applies “to those whom the local housing authority identifies as requiring support to retain their accommodation”. • End of the duty would be 12 months, where homelessness has occurred, where there is no longer a threat of homelessness or the applicant does not want the support.		
Further circumstances in which the duties to help applicants end	• Narrowing of the unreasonable failure to co-operate test to failure to respond to repeated attempts at contact. • A warning must be issued if applying this with a reasonable period of time given	HOTs	2027-2028

	for the applicant to respond. • Duties can also be ended if: - o The applicant displays violent or threatening behaviour. - o Applicants destroy or seriously damage property (TA)		
Introduces a new duty on specified public authorities to “ask and act” in relation to persons in Wales.	• Specified public bodies will have a duty to “ask and act”. • Identify those at risk of homelessness and refer to the LA.		Training development 2027-2028 Training delivery 2028-2029
Places new duties on local authorities to take reasonable steps to secure suitable accommodation is available for occupation	• Amendment to the SS and W Act. • Applies to certain categories of young people. •	Children’s Social Care, HOTs	

for certain young people leaving care.			
Introduces a new duty for local authorities' co-operation arrangements to include a joint protocol between social services and local housing authorities.	• Statutory duty for protocol between housing functions and social care. • For 16–17-year-olds. • Will set out how the teams will work together to prevent homelessness.	Children's social care, HOTs	2027-2028
Requires local housing authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation between itself and certain other bodies through development of protocols and case co-ordination models.	• LAs required to promote co-operation with other public bodies and third sector organisations. • Protocol for those who are or may become homeless and have other support needs. • Effective case co-ordination	HOTs, HSG (already something similar in HIP)	2027-2028
Clarifies homelessness duties for those	• Those subjected to custody will have the LC test applied at or	HOTs	

entering and leaving the secure estate.	before S66 (and referral if needed). • An applicant with a S75 duty who enters custody and is expected to be detained for longer than 6 months the LA can end duty. • A S66 duty will remain open regardless of sentence length. • If accommodation is lost under S66 whilst applicant is in custody the LA do not issue a S75 if they are not likely to be released within 6 months.		
Protection of property: prisoners	• Due to a change in the duties awarded to those in custody, those incarcerated may not be entitled to a housing duty but	HOTs (Accom)	

	would still need their possessions protected.		
Duty to provide information, advice and assistance: detained persons	• Duty to provide housing information and advice to those detained. • this duty includes persons detained in the authority's area or who have a local connection with its area • the service is designed to meet the needs of people in prison	HOTs	
Broadens the definition of domestic abuse, bringing it into line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.	• Updates previous legislation to align with Domestic Abuse Act 2021. • It includes other kinds of abuse which give rise to harm, including modern slavery and stalking and harassment.	HOTs	

Ensures ongoing engagement with people with lived experience of homelessness.	• Duty to seek views of homeless persons in exercise of homelessness functions. • LAs must consult with those who have lived experience when adopting or developing homeless strategy. • Welsh Ministers must also consult when amending guidance.	Housing Strategy	2027-2028
Requires local housing authorities to have regard to Part 4 of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (condition of dwelling) when determining suitability.	•	HOTs	
Requires Welsh Ministers to report periodically on the use and condition of interim	• Welsh ministers to publish a report on the use and condition of interim accommodation and	HOTs, WG	First report due Dec 2030

accommodation across Wales.	put before the Senedd every 5 years.		
Cooperation	• Expands the duty to apply to a wider range of specified public bodies listed in section 95(5). • Specified public bodies will be required to comply with a request unless it is incompatible with their own duties or otherwise has an adverse effect on the exercise of their own functions.	HOTs, public bodies specified.	
Enables local authorities to request registered social landlords and private registered providers of social housing (“social landlords”) to make an offer of suitable accommodation in their	• LA’s can request an RSL provide accommodation to applicants owed a homeless duty in a ‘reasonable [time] period unless they have a ‘good reason’ (not yet defined).	RSLs, HOTs, Strategy	2027-2028

area for a specific applicant owed the final homelessness duty.	• RSLs must also comply with reasonable requests for information. • LAs can take disputes to Welsh Ministers.		
Requires local housing authorities to take 'reasonable steps' to provide an applicant with an opportunity to view the accommodation being offered, before a duty can be ended.	• Must take reasonable steps for an applicant to view a property if the accommodation is due to bring a duty (s66 or 75) to an end.		
Provides local authorities with the discretion to decide which classes of person are or are not qualifying persons for social housing in their area, provided they are not ineligible for allocation, and subject to certain	• The Bill will provide a power for local housing authorities to determine the eligibility criteria for social housing in their local area, (provided they are a qualifying person) subject to specified	RSLs, Housing strategy	

constraints on qualification.	parameters and conditions. the Bill will also ensure that when assessing unacceptable behaviour, greater consideration is made of the risk of that behaviour occurring at the time of application.		
Introduces a test for those who have engaged in 'deliberate manipulation' of the homelessness system in order to gain advantage when applying for social housing.	- LA can remove preference for social housing if applicant has been found trying to 'manipulate the system'. - Failing this test will not result in the ending of any homelessness duties. - Applied at the allocation stage.	HOTs, RSLs	
Creates a sixth category of 'reasonable	Care leavers to be given additional	RSLs, Children's Social Care.	

preference' for those to whom local authorities owe duties under section 108A of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	preference in social housing allocation. Care leavers do not need to be experiencing homelessness for this preference (should not be going down homeless route).		
Requires local housing authorities in Wales to establish and maintain a Common Housing Register and an Accessible Housing Register for their local area.	- MCC already has a CHR (Homesearch) - Local housing authority must provide and maintain a register of properties with accessible or adapted characteristics within their local area.	Homesearch, RSLs, Housing strategy	2027-2028