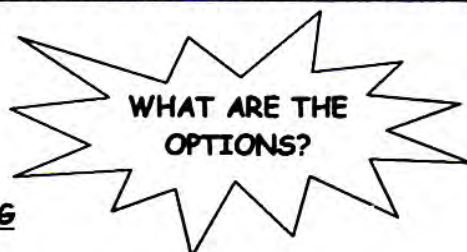


RESETTLEMENT AT COLCHESTER NIGHT SHELTER:

- 1 Each resident will be seen by a Project Worker or CSV on the second day after admission and every week thereafter. The efforts made here include not only housing need but support needs that affect the resident's ability to maintain housing.**
- 2 If a resident does not wish to take part in this process it is their right not to. However this is on the understanding that an extension beyond the normal maximum of 28 nights will NOT be granted.**
- 3 The April Centre has a dedicated resettlement worker who comes to the Night Shelter twice a week to organise application forms for housing, appointments for housing and with other agencies.**
- 4 Unlike the Night Shelter staff, the April Centre resettlement worker can accompany the resident to appointments and advocate on his or her behalf. Equally the AC resettlement worker can arrange for information to be traced and collected.**
- 5 It is best if residents make an appointment with April Centre staff to be sure to be seen.**
- 6 Extensions to the normal stay are granted by the Co-ordinator (Assistant Co-ordinator) in consultation with staff. The main criteria for extensions to be granted is that the resident is working hard towards their resettlement and that co-operation and realism is demonstrated.**
- 7 There is no fixed term for extensions. They are granted on the basis of an assessment of the individual's need and situation.**

MOVE ON INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



☺ SUPPORTED HOUSING

There are Housing Associations who take people with support needs. Some projects specialise in people with mental health issues, some are for people needing 'low support' and some for people with 'high support' needs. Housing Associations usually take referrals from agencies or statutory bodies (such as Councils) but some do accept self referrals.

Please see our resettlement worker for details on how to apply and find out about the eligibility criteria.

☺ HOSTELS

You can ask a member of staff for a list of other Night Shelters or hostels in the East of England.

☺ PRIVATE LANDLORDS

The evening Gazette and the Essex County Standard advertise for bed-sits or flats. However, do check that they are willing to take people on benefits.

Colchester Borough Council also has a list of private landlords.

Private landlords usually ask for a deposit (£100- £500)

You can also go through letting agencies but this can be quite costly as they charge administration fees and run credit checks, it could cost between £1000-£1500 to get a property.

☺ LIVING AT AN EMMAUS PROJECT

There are 11 Emmaus projects in the UK. It is similar to live in accommodation where you work 40 hrs/week for the community. In return, you are provided with accommodation, food and the bills are all paid for. You will need to sign off benefits. You will be given £30-£40 per week for your work. You will also get support e.g.: if you have alcohol issues.

There is no set time on how long you can stay. It could be for 2 weeks or 20 years.

Please see our resettlement worker if you would like more information and be referred to a project.

☺ COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

For all the following options, you will need to see a housing adviser at Angel Court. To be eligible for help by Colchester Borough Council, local connection is usually required.

Colchester Borough Council is now operating a drop-in every day so you do not need to make an appointment. A housing adviser will give you an appointment if required.

Do not hesitate to see our resettlement worker for more information.

- **HOMECHOICE**

The council advertises all available social housing (both Council and local Housing Associations). Applicants on the housing register will be able to tell the Council which empty property they are interested in, giving them more choice over where they live. The home can then be offered to the interested applicant in the highest need (Band).

You will need to complete an **Application for Housing** form to register for the scheme. If you feel you need to be housed quickly because of a health problem, you will need to fill in a **Medical Consent** form. You can get those forms by going to the Homechoice shop or download one for their website

You will then receive a letter indicating what Band (priority) you are in and your registration number.

Every fortnight, starting on a Friday, you can bid for up to 5 properties until the following Wednesday. At anytime, you can consult your position on the waiting list via the Council's website: <http://www.homechoiceatcolchester.org.uk>.

If you come #1 on a property, the council will get in touch with you to arrange a visit. If you are pleased with the property, you will be able to start the tenancy.

- **SINGLE HOMELESSNESS**

- 1- Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme

LOCAL CONNECTION to Colchester is now a requirement in order to be accepted on the scheme. This is due to the high demand for bed-sits with a limited number of properties available in Colchester.


If you are found to be homeless and not in priority need then you maybe offered either the rent guarantee scheme or the rent deposit scheme or both. The Council runs both schemes, but remember that they will only give you access to certain landlords.

- The Rent Guarantee Scheme

You must be on and be in receipt of benefits to qualify and be eligible for housing benefit. The Council then guarantees your rent to the landlord.

- The Rent Deposit Scheme

The Council gives the landlord a bond, which they can claim against, for damage to property by the tenant. No money changes hands unless a claim is made. The bond is initially for 3months and is extended to 6 months if no claim is made. If you have enough money to pay for the deposit yourself then you may not be offered the Scheme.

If you have been accepted on the Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme, the Council will forward your details to the April Centre who will then allocate a property to you. It may take several weeks before a property is available.  There is now a deposit of £30- £50 that will be required upfront.

- 2- Referrals to supported Housing Schemes

A housing adviser can also make referrals to supported housing schemes including Bernard Brett House, NACRO and the YMCA Foyer.

• HOMELESSNESS

You will be given an appointment to see a homelessness adviser who will take all the information they need to assess your application.

To be housed by the Council, you will need to satisfy 4 requirements:

1) You must be homeless

This means you cannot have rights to remain in a property anywhere in the world, the exception being where it is not safe for you to remain.

2) You must be in priority need

Examples include being over 60, being pregnant, at risk of physical or mental abuse in your home or being 'vulnerable' either because of a mental or physical illness or disability.

3) You must not be intentionally homeless

This means that you cannot have been made homeless through any fault of your own, exceptions include when you are deemed responsible for your own actions i.e. being mentally ill

4) You must have a local connection to Colchester Borough Council

This means living in the Borough for 6 months in the last 12 months, or 3 years in the past 5 years, you have permanent employment in the Borough, you have a brother, sister, mother, father son or daughter who have lived in the Borough for 5 years and over, you have no local connection anywhere else or you need to live in Colchester for a special reason.

It will take generally a month for Colchester Borough Council to decide whether or not you satisfy the 4 requirements. Once they have made a decision, a letter will be issued to you stating whether or not you have been accepted. If you disagree with the outcome, you have **1 month** to appeal or ask for a review. If you are unable to appeal the decision in the month following the decision, you could still ask for your case to be reviewed, but you will have to show the Council that you could not, for specific reasons, ask for a review during that time.

If you feel that you might need help with your appeal or with any other housing problem, you can contact Shelter on **0808 800 4444**.



PROBATION

If you are a probation client, they may be able to assist you in finding accommodation. They have referral rights to both Bernard Brett House and NACRO



OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Some local authorities offer a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme. However, it is for you to find the property. Please check with the individual local authority.

All councils have a homelessness department and if it is believed that you could be accepted by a local authority, you will need to make a homelessness application at the council that you have a local connection with.



THE BRITISH LEGION

If you have been in the Army in the past, the British Legion might be able to help you to get private accommodation. They can pay the deposit for a property but it will be your responsibility to find the flat.