

# Housing hardship: Council calls for struggling tenants and landlords to get in touch

Mendip District Council is urging tenants and landlords in financial hardship or at risk of homelessness to contact them, sooner rather than later.

The Council's Housing Options Team has professional, knowledgeable officers on hand to provide support and assistance, whatever the circumstances. And they are ready to help those who are struggling due to the coronavirus emergency and its impact on the economy.

Tenants and homeowners may be worried about how to pay the rent or mortgage. Some may fear they'll lose accommodation that's tied to their job. Others may be in an abusive relationship during lockdown, thinking they have nowhere to turn.

Please contact the Housing Options Team on 0300 303 8588 for one-to-one advice.

Landlord's with tenancy issues, or suffering financial hardship through non-payment of rent, can speak with Mendip's Housing Options Team who are experts at resolving tenancy matters, can engage tenants with appropriate assistance and support, and ensure the smooth running of tenancies for both tenant and landlord to avoid costly evictions and potential homelessness.

If you have accommodation that is empty and ready to let, the Council has a number of clients who are looking for homes now. These clients are assessed and affordability-checked to ensure sustainable tenancies are created to the benefit of all concerned. The Council even provides ongoing advice and assistance throughout the length of the tenancy, if required. Please contact the Housing Options Team if you have accommodation to let and can help with this need. Call 0300 303 8588.

Properties in need of repair and improvement may be eligible for council grants or loans so they can be safely lived in. Property owners should contact the Private Sector Housing Team in this instance, or visit [www.mendip.gov.uk/financialassistance](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/financialassistance) for further information.

Cllr Richard Pinnock, Portfolio Holder for Housing Services at Mendip District Council, said: "These are uncertain times. But to all those tenants and landlords across the district, the one message from Mendip is clear - don't struggle alone, contact your Council today."

## Where to get help:

- You can contact the Housing Options Team 0300 303 8588.
- Find advice for tenants and landlords relating to coronavirus here: [www.mendip.gov.uk/housing](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/housing)
- Have you got accommodation empty and ready to let? Call 0300 303 8588. Our residents need homes.
- Properties in need of repair and improvement may be eligible for council grants or loans: [www.mendip.gov.uk/financialassistance](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/financialassistance)
- Are you, or someone you know, at risk of homelessness? Local services and support are available. Call 0300 303 8588 or make a homeless application online [www.mendip.gov.uk/housing](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/housing)

- Perhaps you're rough sleeping, or concerned that someone is rough sleeping in Mendip? You can make a referral to StreetLink either online or by contacting the rough sleeper referral line on 0300 500 0914. [Visit www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk).
- For general advice on landlords and tenants rights and responsibilities during the COVID-19 browse here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-and-renting-guidance-for-landlords-tenants-and-local-authorities)