

Housing Worker (Temporary Accommodation)

Role Profile			
Job Title	Temporary Housing Worker	Grade (Office Use)	Lead Worker
Area	Plymouth	Team	Resettlement
Reports to (Job Title)	Resettlement Manager	Hours	37
Location	Harwell Centre	Working hours	Mostly office hours
CRB check required	Y – enhanced		

Temporary Accommodation

Path's Temporary Accommodation Scheme exists to provide additional, flexible accommodation to single homeless people. It is an option for people not yet ready to move into their own accommodation and who have low levels of support needs. This role is part of the housing management team running the Scheme.

This Scheme provides temporary accommodation:

- For people presenting as single homeless in Plymouth
- As an alternative to the hostels
- With some houses run totally by Path and some with Restart
- Using support provided by other (often the referring) service/s
- With visits to each property at least twice each week

Duties may include

1. Moving into resettlement / other temp accommodation

- Receiving, processing, prioritising and responding to referrals, including building links with relevant services, being clear about the role of the scheme to ensure appropriate referrals at all times
- Assessing potential clients, maintaining a waiting list (as appropriate) and communicating with clients and referrers
- Helping residents move and settle in to properties, carrying out induction for new residents, being clear of rules and expectations, including this being temporary accom
- Setting up Housing Benefit claims and ensuring residents understand rent and top-up

2. Monitoring and managing houses

- Conducting at least weekly visits to each property, including checks of communal areas, in particular
- Following up re any issues such as damage, wear and tear, repairs etc to ensure that every property is safe and well-maintained
- Collecting and processing rent top-ups from residents and checking and ensuring Housing Benefit payments, with all relevant record-keeping (spreadsheets, database) and follow-up, inc producing rent

statements

- Conducting periodic checks and follow up work re property conditions in line with procedures

3. Individual support

This is not a support service. Residents should receive support from relevant commissioned services, in some cases being the services that referred them. The focus of this role is therefore different but complementary.

4. Move on

Residents may lead on their own 'move on' (leaving for other accommodation) or may have support workers helping them with it. This role may link with or refer residents for support but will also 'process' people leaving, in terms of:

- Inspecting the residents' room and any communal space to ensure everything has been left in good order and addressing any issues
- Readyng the room / property for future residents

5. General / other

- Utilising, developing and maintaining recording and monitoring systems, inc: maintaining records on Path database; submitting regular info / reports
- Building relationships, and ongoing liaison, with relevant agencies, including developing and maintaining referral procedures (taking and making referrals).
- Participation in Path's other accommodation work, including covering for other workers.
- Participation in staff and other meetings, as required
- Other duties as required by line manager or Director
- Compliance with Path Worker Conditions

Targets

This role manages houses and rooms, some with Reestart as the landlord and some with Path. For all, the aim is to:

- Ensure properties are suitable and safe
- Maximise occupancy and minimize voids
- Manage properties within budget
- Have residents stay an average of 3 to 12 months, people generally staying less than a year so as to best utilise this limited resource.

Temporary Housing Worker: Person Specification

Path is looking for someone with a good understanding of housing and homelessness issues, experience of and skills in managing accommodation, plus a positive attitude toward working with people vulnerable to homelessness.

Essential	Desirable
<p><u>Personal Qualities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approachable • Non-Judgmental • Motivational communicator • Demonstrable ability to engage, refer and collaborate effectively • Problem-solving, realistic approach <p><u>Housing and homelessness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to manage properties, especially in terms of safety and standards and including ability to carry out property checks • Good understanding of supported housing sector • Ability to set up licenses, inducting residents into houses, including understanding relevant procedures • Knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation/guidance • Understanding of welfare benefits, inc proposed reforms (Universal Credit etc.) <p><u>Client work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of providing information and support to individual clients • Ability to identify housing options; problem-solve; prevent homelessness • Ability to identify and manage risk • Positive attitude towards, and understanding of, relevant client groups • Understanding of and commitment to equal opportunities and diversity <p><u>Office and communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of liaising / communicating with other staff on professional basis, including planning and running meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in the homeless and / or housing sector(s) • Emergency First Aid for Appointed Persons • More developed IT skills, such as design and creation of literature • Knowledge of local services, referral systems, and local procedures • Experience of writing / contributing to formal reports • Experience of negotiating with private landlords • Experience of supporting clients to use savings scheme

- Good written and verbal communication skills
- IT skills: ability to use databases + Microsoft Office (adept with word processing, e-mail, spreadsheets) as minimum
- Ability to receive and appropriately process cash and to produce rent statements
- Experience of being line managed and / or demonstrable ability to work under formal supervision

General

- Have a valid drivers' licence & use of a car
- Ability to efficiently respond to need, handle a large caseload and work to tight deadlines
- Ability to manage your own time using flexible working
- Ability to travel, in some cases outside of the local authority area.
- 5 GCSEs level C and above; including Maths & English; or equivalent
- Ability to represent oneself and Path to the public
- Enthusiasm for this post and this area of work