## What happens next?

Once we have had a referral we will phone and book an appointment with you to look at the following:

- · Assess your housing needs
- What help we can offer
- Identify any support needs
- Identify any benevolent funds you may be eligible for
- Discuss affordable rents

### What you will need to provide at the assessment;

- Most recent 2 months bank statements for all accounts
- Current benefit award letters, Universal Credit statement or wage slips
- Up to date ID (Passport, Birth or Marriage Certificate, full drivers
   license or a letter from probation/solicitor/doctor confirming identity
- Information about any debts
- Any references you may have

#### **Comments/Complaints**

We welcome feedback. Any comments or concerns about the service should be addressed and sent to the Private Rented Access Service Manager.

P.A.T.H. (Plymouth Access to Housing) Limited is a limited company registered in England and Wales.

Registered Office: Harwell Centre, 28-42 Harwell Court, Western Approach, Plymouth PL1 1PY.

Registered Company No. 4478819. Registered Charity No. 1097772





# **Private Rented Access Service**

A service to help people at risk of homelessness to access



#### **Private Rented Access Service**

The Harwell Centre 28-42 Harwell Court Western Approach Plymouth PL1 1PY

Telephone: 01752 293730 info@pathdevon.org

## How can we help?

- Offer a Deposit Guarantee for those who can't raise enough money to pay for a deposit
- Support people to save for their own deposit within 12 months
- Help identifying suitable properties
- Advice around budgeting and affordable rents
- Referrals into other support services
- Help completing Housing Benefit forms and claiming Universal Credit Housing Element

## Are you eligible for this service?

If you can answer YES to all of the following, this service may be for you

- Homeless or facing homelessness?
- ☑ On a low income or in receipt of benefits?
- ✓ Local to the Plymouth area?
- ☑ A good tenant, with no unresolved history of rent arrears, nuisance or of damaging property?
- ☐ Happy to explore renting from a private landlord?
- ✓ Have no other way of finding a deposit?

## How to apply

We are a referral based service. You can be referred to us by;

- Plymouth City Council Community Connections Team based at First Stop, 71 New George Street (01752 305496)
- HISS (PATH) Advice Line 01752 255889 (option 1)
- Your support worker if you are in temporary accommodation or supported accommodation
- A support worker from another service

#### What is a Deposit Guarantee?

It is a written agreement instead of a cash deposit. A Deposit Guarantee lasts for a maximum of 12 months, giving you a year to save your own deposit. The Deposit Guarantee would usually cover an amount equal to a month's rent in the event there was any damage or rent arrears.

#### **Suitable Accommodation**

We need to check the property is suitable for you.

Do not move in or sign anything until we have agreed to the tenancy. We cannot offer support if you move into the property before we have agreed that we can help you.



## **Local Housing Allowance Rates (LHA)**

Below are the LHA rates that you could be entitled to in the private rented sector. The Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) applies to anyone sharing a property. This is the maximum you could claim if you are aged under 35.

LHA Rates for 2021/2022 (Universal Credit)

Room requirement	Weekly	Calendar monthly
Shared accommodation rate	£73.50	£319.38
1 bedroom	£103.56	£449.99
2 bedroom	£134.63	£585.00
3 bedroom	£159.95	£695.02
4 bedroom	£195.62	£850.02

#### **Deposit Saving Scheme**

Part of this service supports people to save for their own deposit. We will expect clients to join a savings scheme and we will monitor and prompt regular savings. The deposit savings service is run in partnership with the City of Plymouth Credit Union.