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### *Housing options for disabled people in the Doncaster area*

Appropriate housing is vital for the independence and quality of life of disabled people. Unfortunately appropriate housing can often be difficult to find. This factsheet gives details of some of the places for you to start if you are seeking housing.

### **Social Rented Housing**

Social housing is rented housing provided by your local council, housing association or local housing agency. So the first place to start if you require rented housing but do not want to go straight to a private landlord, is your local council housing department.

### **Council Housing**

Doncaster HomeChoice is the way of allocating council houses in Doncaster. It is a 'choice based' lettings scheme, which means you can choose which home, in which area you would like to live in. You must be registered with Doncaster HomeChoice. Contact the Doncaster Home Choice Team on 01302 862628, for an application pack. You are able to bid on up to three properties each week, either, through the Doncaster HomeChoice website [www.doncasterhomechoice.co.uk](http://www.doncasterhomechoice.co.uk) or through the automated telephone system on 0800 027 6235. To take into account your housing needs there are six bands - Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Transfer List and General. The general band is for applicants who have the financial capacity to resolve their own housing need. You will be banded according to your priority under the new allocations policy. All of the properties will be advertised and open to all bands. The same system of giving priority to a specific band is still in place. This means that whatever band you are placed in -whether bronze, silver, gold, platinum, transfer list or general-you can express an interest in up to three properties you are eligible for each week. If there are no successful bids from the band highlighted on the property, all other bids will be considered in priority order starting with the platinum band. Properties will be advertised from a Thursday morning at 00.01am and will close on Monday night at 11.59pm. Shortlists will then be produced and the successful applicant will be contacted by the following Wednesday or Thursday following closure of the advertisement. Sometimes there is a need to Direct Match a property to an applicant because of their individual circumstances. These cases are assessed by the Housing Assessment Panel and may include, adapted properties allocated through the accessible housing register, multi-agency public protection agreements or where an emergency has been put into place.

To join the housing register you:

- Must have a local connection with the borough and have done for the past three years. This could mean living or working in Doncaster or have direct family linked to the area. (proof must be provided)
- Must not own a property or have the right to live in one after passing the properties

- ownership to someone else
- Must have a good record as a tenant
- Produce all supporting documents for your application. This must be done within 28 days.

### Accessible Housing Register

When registering your housing application, or if your circumstances change and your current home is no longer suitable for your needs, through either physical or mental illness, you will be asked to complete a Medical Self Assessment. You will be assessed on the information you have provided on the form. Where necessary, you may be further assessed via a home visit from a Medical Support Officer from St Leger Homes or an Occupational Therapist from Doncaster Council. If your current property is not suitable to meet your needs, your application will be added to the Accessible Housing Register.

### Mutual Exchange Scheme

The Mutual Exchange Scheme enables existing tenants within the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council Area to exchange tenancies. Each tenant must move into their exchange partners property. Older and disabled council tenants wishing to move to another area under the scheme should initially contact the Homes Officer. You can search online for a mutual exchange using the property search at [www.doncasterhomechoice.co.uk](http://www.doncasterhomechoice.co.uk) and selecting 'Mutual Exchange'.

### Disabled Facilities Grant

This is a means tested grant which is mandatory in some situations. It is available for adaptations to allow a disabled person to live more independently in their own home. Owner occupiers, private tenants, landlords and council or housing association tenants can all apply. The grant is available for a wide variety of adaptations, including alterations to the entrance of the property, adaptations to the bathrooms, kitchen or living room, stair-lifts and adaptations to electrical controls and heating.

The adaptations will depend on the individual needs of a disabled person and an assessment from an Occupational Therapist. The maximum amount for a mandatory grant is £30,000. However the income and assets of the disabled person and their spouse will be taken into account and they may have to make a contribution.

### Home Alarm & Telecare Service (DMBC)

This service is for elderly and vulnerable adults living in Doncaster regardless of whether their accommodation is private, rented or owner occupied. When activated, by the touch of a button, the alarm raises a call to the monitoring centre where trained advisers can deal with emergencies quickly and efficiently. This service is chargeable, however, if you are aged 65 and over and in receipt of Housing or Council Tax benefit the service is free. Telecare builds upon the basic alarm service to offer added safety and security at home.

## Useful Contacts

### Housing Options and Advice Service

Civic Office

Waterdale

Doncaster

DN1 3BU

**Tel:** 01302 736000

**Email:** [housingoptionsteam@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptionsteam@doncaster.gov.uk)

Advice and assistance with housing related issues including mortgage/rent arrears, eviction, homelessness, disputes etc.

### St Leger Homes of Doncaster Ltd

Head Office

St. Leger Court

White Rose Way

Doncaster

DN4 5ND

**Tel:** 01302 862862

**Minicom:** 01302 862719

**Website:** [www.stlegerhomes.co.uk](http://www.stlegerhomes.co.uk)

**Email:** [info@stlegerhomes.co.uk](mailto:info@stlegerhomes.co.uk)

Established to manage and carry out improvements to the properties on behalf of DMBC. We provide a range of services to our customers which include Lettings (Doncaster HomeChoice) , Rent Advice and Arrears, Recovery, Repairs and Improvements, Estate Management and Tenant Involvement and participation.

### Doncaster Mind Supported Housing Project

28 Morley Road

Doncaster

DN1 2TN

**Tel:** 01302 342525

**Email:** [housing@doncastermind.org.uk](mailto:housing@doncastermind.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.doncastermind.org.uk](http://www.doncastermind.org.uk)

Provides supported housing service for people who have or have experienced a mental health illness. Tenancies are offered on a single person basis only. The project offers short hold assured tenancies (maximum stay 2 years).

### Doncaster Housing for Young People

Doncaster Foyer

Chequer Road

Doncaster

DN1 2AA

**Tel:** 01302 738198

**Email:** [admin@dhyp.org.uk](mailto:admin@dhyp.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.dhyp.org.uk](http://www.dhyp.org.uk)

Caters for: Young men and women aged between 16 to 25 years. Provides a 'stepping stone' towards independent living in a family type environment.

Services include:

- Supported Lodging Scheme
- Street Safe Project
- Assertive Outreach
- Hot Spot Cafés
- The Floating Support Service

### M25 Housing and Support Group

2-6 Sunny Bar

Doncaster

DN1 1LY

**Tel:** 01302 361777

**Email:** [hid@m25group.org.uk](mailto:hid@m25group.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.m25group.org.uk](http://www.m25group.org.uk)

Services include:

- Emergency Accommodation (Access Hub)
- Community Support Accommodation - This is the access point if you are homeless and want to live in our shared, supported accommodation.

### Doncaster YMCA Housing Association

31 Wood Street

Doncaster

DN1 3LH

**Tel:** 01302 342148

**Website:** [www.doncasterymca.org.uk](http://www.doncasterymca.org.uk)

The association provides supported accommodation in Doncaster Town Centre for young people aged 16-30.