What help does the council have to give me?

This diagram shows the inquiries the council has to make if you ask for help because you are homeless or likely to become homeless within two months.

The rules that govern homelessness legislation changed at the end of 2012. The major change was the ending of the priority need test, this means that if you are assessed as unintentionally homeless you have the right to a home.

Are you homeless?
Yes
You don't have to be sleeping on the streets to be considered homeless.

No
The council must offer you accommodation while it looks into your situation. You do not have to accept it if you would prefer to stay somewhere else.

Are you likely to become homeless within the next two months?
Yes
The council must give you advice and try to help you keep your home. If you become homeless, go back to ‘Are you homeless?’

No
Are you eligible for assistance?
Yes
Asylum seekers and some people who have lived abroad are not eligible.

No
The council should still give you advice to help you find somewhere to live, or to stay where you are.

Are you intentionally homeless?
Yes
The council must give you advice and assistance and somewhere to stay until you have found a new home.

No
Do you have a local connection?
Yes
The council must provide you with settled accommodation. You might have to wait a while in temporary accommodation until a suitable home is available.

No
Do you have a connection with another area?
Yes
The council can refer you to the council for that area, but it doesn't have to.

No
Settled accommodation can be either:
Permanent accommodation – can be a Scottish secure tenancy, a short Scottish secure tenancy or an assured tenancy.

Non-permanent accommodation – can be a short assured tenancy of at least 12 months (only with the consent of the applicant), or where a housing support services assessment has identified that a applicant requires housing support services and it is not appropriate to provide this support within permanent accommodation.

Don't agree with the council’s decision?
Call Shelter’s free housing advice helpline on 0808 800 4444 or visit a local advice centre. The council may be wrong.