

About Independent Living

Independent Living Schemes are housing schemes designed for council tenants over 60, or those aged 55-59 in receipt of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

The scheme allows residents to maintain their independence in their home, with additional assistance provided if there is an emergency.

Can you bring pets with you?

This may be possible but depends on what kind of pets and the scheme you are moving. If the property is on ground level with a garden, in an open scheme or a bungalow, this could also be a consideration.

Depending on which pet you have, you will have to sign a 'responsible owner' agreement consent form.

What size of property can you register for?

We automatically register singles and couples for one-bedroom accommodation. We do have a few bed-sitters at some schemes which we may offer to single applicants if you have expressed an interest in this type of accommodation. We also have a few two-bedroom properties which are offered to people needing separate bedrooms for medical reasons, proof of which will have to be submitted with your application.

Is there an alarm service?

All properties have emergency alarms installed and connected to a 24-hour Central Control.

How do we let our sheltered homes?

Following the completion of a Housing Needs and Risk assessment, we will advise if you are eligible for an Independent Living property.

When a property becomes available for letting, we will advertise it on Kent Homechoice. You will need to express an interest in a property by placing a bid on the Kent Homechoice listing.

If you do not have access to a computer and at your request, our allocations team are able to place bids for properties on your behalf. A Scheme Officer will contact the successful applicant to arrange a viewing and tenancy sign up of the property.

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How can you increase chances of being re-housed?

You can increase your chances by bidding for multiple schemes. Our schemes can be in high demand, but other schemes have only a limited number of applicants which will increase your chance of being re-housed and reduce the length of time you will have to wait.

Can we re-house you if you are homeless?

If you are at risk of becoming homeless or are currently homeless now, then you should contact us. We can then discuss your application with you.

Do we exclude or suspend applicants from our list?

Examples where we may exclude or suspend applicants from our list include:

- People subject to immigration control
- Applicants living abroad with no date of return, will not have a tenancy offered. They may register to establish a date priority for the future
- Applicants who have been guilty of unacceptable behaviour
- Applicants who have a poor rent repayment history and/or current rent arrears
- Transfer applicants who have damaged their existing property
- Applicants who have the financial means to purchase a shelter housing dwelling

What happens if you refuse an offer?

We will make you an offer of housing based on your housing need, your identified supported housing needs, what you have asked for, and assume that you have a real interest in moving to those areas. If you refuse an offer, we will discuss this further with you.

What happens if you accept an offer?

We expect you to be able to accept a tenancy at noticeably short notice. We will arrange for a viewing of the property within a few days of the end of bidding. At the viewing, you will be able to sign for your new tenancy. You will receive keys and fobs for entry. Your tenancy will begin on the Monday following you signing your tenancy agreement.

Help with moving?

If you are an existing tenant and moving from a larger to a smaller property, we will assist you with the payment and arrangements for your move. You may also be to a 'Tenants Incentive Payment'