

October 2012

Supported into work and housing scheme



➤ **Factsheet 22.**

What is the supported into work and housing scheme?

The scheme offers people accommodation for up to 12 months at a rent well below the current average in Kensington and Chelsea. This gives them a period of time to save and plan for their next move into affordable and longer-term accommodation. People are also offered support and advice to help them prepare for this move.

The scheme has been developed by the Royal Borough's Housing Department in partnership with London & Quadrant (L&Q) and St Mungo's housing associations.

Who qualifies for the scheme?

To qualify, you must:

- be 18 years old or over
 - be in employment, vocational training or education (or a combination, for example part-time work and training)
 - be either living or working in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
 - be living on a low income
 - be homeless or in housing need
 - not currently be in a position to secure your own accommodation but be capable of living independently with a low level of support
 - not have any significant rent arrears in your current accommodation, or able to make a repayment agreement to resolve any arrears
 - agree to an individual support package aimed at helping you to prepare for moving on from the scheme after 12 months.
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How do I apply?

Contact the Council's Social Inclusion Team (SIT), details are on page 7.

We will talk to you and find out more about your circumstances. If we think you qualify, you will be offered an assessment to see if the scheme is suitable for you. The assessment will also identify any areas where you could benefit from extra advice and support.

If you are offered a placement on the scheme, you will take part in a joint planning meeting with SIT and St Mungo's housing association. At this meeting, we will agree a support plan to help you get the most out of the scheme and achieve your next move.

We will tell you what we think your chance is of being offered accommodation. This will depend on how many people are interested in the scheme and the availability of accommodation.



Where is the accommodation?

There are two locations:

Westgate Terrace SW10

10 bedrooms with shared kitchens and bathrooms

Whitchurch Road W11

Six bedrooms with own kitchen and shared bathrooms

The buildings are owned by L&Q, which will act as the landlord and manage the housing part of the scheme.

If you are accepted onto the scheme, L&Q will give you a licence agreement for a maximum of 12 months. The licence agreement will set out the terms and conditions of occupation, rights and responsibilities.

In addition, you must agree to the package of support and advice that is offered to you by SIT and St Mungo's. If you break the terms of the agreement or the support package, L&Q will end the licence and you will need to move out.



What is the support package?

The support package is designed to help you develop the knowledge, skills and finances to enable you to move into other housing when your placement ends. This is usually in the private rented sector.

St Mungo's will provide the support, but your progress will also be monitored by the SIT.

You will have individual meetings with a support worker to set goals and targets, and check you are making progress towards achieving them. You will receive advice on budgeting and savings options, including access to a new credit union for the Kensington and Chelsea area which is currently in development.

St Mungo's will offer a range of extra support via its Wellbeing Centre in Earl's Court. The centre offers a range of skills training, advice and services such as complementary therapies. The centre has extended its opening hours to provide flexible evening appointment times to residents who are working during the day.

A Supported Placement and Move-on Co-ordinator from SIT will liaise with L&Q regarding any tenancy or housing issues, provide housing options advice and negotiate move-on plans.

You will need to provide SIT with regular proof of savings to monitor your progress towards move-on from the scheme.



What happens if I lose my job?

If you are working and you lose your job, you must tell the SIT at the earliest opportunity. Where possible, we will offer you advice and support to find another job and the placement may be continued while this happens.



How do I find out more?

If you are interested in the scheme, please contact the Social Inclusion Team to find out more about how the scheme works and whether you can apply.

By phone

020 7341 5184

By email

SIT@rbkc.gov.uk

Website

www.rbkc.gov.uk

Information from this document can be made available in alternative formats and in different languages. Please contact Housingline on **020 7361 3008** or email **housing@rbkc.gov.uk**





www.rbkc.gov.uk