



# Pan Thames Paediatric LTV Programme



**North Thames Paediatric Network**  
Connecting paediatric services



**South Thames Paediatric Network**  
Transforming Healthcare for Children and Young People



## HOUSING AND HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

### EARLY PLANNING

#### Early identification of housing needs

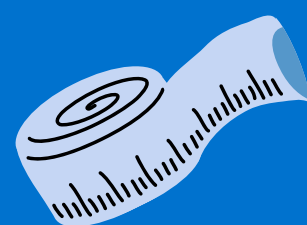
If there is a possibility that a medical procedure may impact the child's housing situation, their housing needs should be identified and discussed in order for an early intervention. These should also be identified ahead of elective procedures as part of pre-admission planning.



### HOME ASSESSMENT

#### Reviewing suitability

If the case is expected to be complex, a home assessment should be carried out, ideally by the local Social Services Occupational Therapist (SSOT) and community nursing team. The SSOT can assess whether the home environment can be made suitable with adaptations and adjustments, or used as an interim discharge destination.



To make decisions around the suitability of housing, the OT (hospital, SSOT or both), nursing team and any other relevant professionals should come together to discuss the home visit and clinical reasoning around decision making regarding the suitability of the home. Following this, a lead professional should then discuss the outcome with the family.



### SUITABLE

#### Planning for discharge

If the home is suitable and safe for the child to be discharged home from hospital to (or can be adapted to become suitable), discharge planning should proceed with the intention to discharge to the existing home.



This includes if the home is considered suitable short-term or for an interim period of time. Concurrent planning for long-term accommodation can start, but if there is an environment which the child can safely be discharged home to, the aim should be to discharge the child to this environment.



### UNSUITABLE

#### Statutory Duty to Refer\*

If the property is unsuitable for the child to be discharged from hospital to home (e.g., studio accommodation, house of multiple occupation, inaccessible) then the hospital have a Duty to Refer the family to a council to assist them under Homelessness legislation.



The local authority assess the household and provide advice. If eligible for further support they will establish a Personal Housing Plan. This may include support into temporary accommodation or long-term accommodation. The accommodation may be in the private rental sector, or may be an offer of social housing.



\*Statutory Duty to Refer: Hospitals have a Duty to Refer patients who may be homeless or at risk of homeless to a Local Authority, for instance, if they do not have suitable accommodation available for their discharge from hospital.

# ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

There are a range of advice and support services that are available to support both families/carers and the healthcare professionals supporting them, with navigating rehousing issues.

## LOCAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES/CARERS



Using the [AdviceLocal tool](#), you can identify local services to support with housing enquiries. This will include the contact details for the relevant Local Authority and their Housing and Homelessness teams and services, in addition to identifying local advice charities who can provide assistance with housing matters and enquiries.

## NATIONAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES/CARERS



Shelter is a charity that specialises in advice around Housing and Homelessness. They have lots of useful information on [their website](#), including template letters.

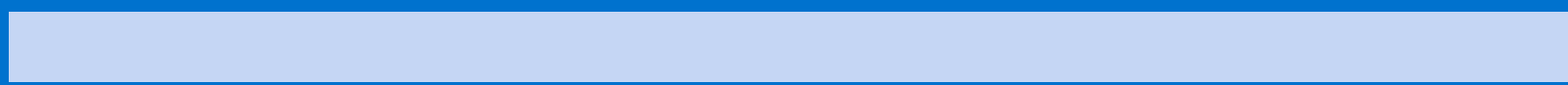
Shelter can be contacted for advice, although this will depend on what part of the country the patient's family live in:

- [England](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Citizens Advice are a network of independent charities who offer advice across a range of welfare rights topics, including Housing.

As well as a [website](#) with lots of useful information, the local charities who make up the Citizens Advice network can offer direct advice too.

n.b., there is no advice available online from Citizens Advice for residents of Northern Ireland, however they can contact their [local advice agencies](#).



## FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS



London's public health system partners have developed a Damp and Mould Checklist toolkit to assist health and social care professionals who visit residential properties. The toolkit offers guidance, resources, and template letters for local authorities and landlords, benefiting vulnerable households. While tailored for London, the resources and Government guidance are applicable to patients throughout England. The toolkit, Government guidance for England, and resources for patients and families from across the UK can be accessed [here](#).

Shelter offers a range of services to professionals who are working with clients who are facing homelessness. This includes **NHS professionals in the scope of their role in the Duty to Refer** patients who are homeless or facing homelessness.

Services include:

- [Helpline and webchat facility](#)
- [Educational webinars, elearning and pre-recorded sessions](#)



Last review: March 2024

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