Understanding housing and local communities

Housing questions, clear answers

Conversations about housing, migration and local communities can sometimes raise questions. When they do, it is important that we respond with respect and with facts.

This leaflet shares clear information about housing and how the system works. It is here to help people feel better informed, challenge misunderstandings and support fair, respectful conversations.

At Worthing Homes, we want everyone to feel included, heard and treated with respect.

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This factsheet is designed to provide clear information about migration and its implications for housing, so you can feel more confident if the topic comes up in conversation.

Migration definitions in housing.

Migration
A broad term used for people moving from one place to another (within the UK or internationally). On it's own it doesn't tell you someone's legal status or what support they can access.

Migrant
A broad term used for someone who has moved from one place to another (within the UK or internationally). On its own it doesn't tell you someone's legal status or what support they can access.

Immigration Status
The person's legal permission to live in the UK (e.g. time-limited leave, settlement, protection status). This is the thing that usually determines entitlements.

Protection and Asylum Terms

Asylum Seeker
An asylum seeker is someone who has asked for protection in the UK and is waiting for a decision on their application.

Refugee (Refugee Status)
A refugee is someone whose application for protection has been accepted because they cannot safely return to their home country.

**Throughout this document, we use migrant when referring generally to people who have moved from one country to another, while recognising that people's individual circumstances and legal status may be different.*

Why are people talking about migration and housing?

Migration is often discussed alongside housing because people want to understand how social housing is allocated and who can access it.

It is important to remember that social housing is allocated according to housing law and local authority rules. Homes are not allocated based on opinion, assumption or personal background.

Are migrants automatically entitled to social housing?

No.

Whether someone can apply for social housing depends on their immigration status and whether they are eligible under housing law.

Many people who come to the UK on temporary visas cannot access social housing. People who do not have permission to remain in the UK are generally not eligible either.

Some people who have been granted refugee status may be eligible for social housing, but they must still apply through the same housing systems and meet the same local requirements as other applicants.

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Are migrants the reason there is a shortage of social housing?

No.

The shortage of social housing is a long-term national issue. For many years, not enough affordable and social homes have been built to meet demand.

Housing demand is influenced by a range of factors, including population growth, rising housing costs, and a lack of affordable housing.

What does this mean for Worthing Homes?

Worthing Homes allocates homes through legal and fair processes.

We do not make decisions based on assumptions about a person's nationality, background or circumstances.

Housing applications are assessed using the relevant laws, local authority rules and eligibility criteria.

We are committed to treating everyone with fairness, respect and dignity.



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