

The Homeless Bill of Rights

Article 1

The right to exit homelessness

The most important right a homeless person has is to exit homelessness. Services supporting access to appropriate housing solutions must be accessible to all homeless people. In partnership with other competent public authorities, the Council shall work to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of housing solutions to meet need.

Article 2

Access to decent emergency accommodation

Where housing cannot be immediately provided, access to decent emergency accommodation must be accessible to all people who are homeless. The

Council is committed to working with the competent public authorities to ensure that there is sufficient emergency accommodation available to all, so that no one is forced to sleep rough for want of a bed

Article 3

The right to use public space and to move freely within it

People who are homeless should have the same right to use public space and to move freely within it, with no greater restrictions than applies to others. This includes, but is not limited to, access to pavements, public parks, public transport and public buildings on the same terms as any other resident of the Council area. The same rules that apply to resting in public space should apply to everyone, with no additional restriction upon people who are homeless.

Article 4

The right to equal treatment

The Council is committed to ensuring that their staff and services uphold the right to equal treatment for all, without discriminating against those who do not have a home.

Article 5

The right to a postal address

People who are homeless often experience additional denial of rights in the labour market and provision of public services because they cannot provide a postal address. The Council is committed to providing an effective postal address of last resort to people who are homeless and require this assistance.

Article 6

The right to basic sanitary facilities

Where the Council is unable to provide appropriate services linked to the emergency accommodation, we commit to providing for the right to access basic sanitary facilities – running water (drinking fountains), showers where the Council is unable to provide appropriate services linked to the and toilets sufficient to allow for the level of hygiene appropriate to maintaining human dignity.



Article 7

The right to hygiene services

The right to emergency services – social services, health services, the police and the fire service – on equal terms with any other resident of the Council area, without being discriminated against because of their housing situation or their physical appearance.

Article 8

The right to vote

The right to vote, to be included on the electoral register and to be given the necessary documents to prove their identity when voting in elections, without being discriminated against because of their housing situation.

Article 9

The right to data protection

The right to data protection, with their data only shared by public and other services with their consent and only for the purposes of providing services and solutions to them. Homeless people have the same right as other citizens to exercise control over their personal details, particularly their health information, their criminal record if they have one, their housing trajectory and their private life and family history.

Article 10

The right to privacy

The right to privacy must be respected and protected to the fullest extent possible in all types of accommodation, including communal accommodation structures and informal accommodation lived in by homeless people. The Council is committed to working to ensure that all emergency accommodation provided can deliver on this right.

Article 11

The right to carry out practices necessary to survival within the law

While the Council strives for a city in which such practices are not necessary, we recognize that where people have no other option they will seek support from other people through begging or forage for discarded food to survive. Such survival practices should not be criminalized in their own right, banned or arbitrarily confined to specific areas.