



# Cold Weather Policy

This policy will start on 1<sup>st</sup> December, and run until March 31<sup>st</sup>. During this period of cold weather Tameside Housing Advice on behalf of Tameside MBC will assist those who would be sleeping rough because they have no other accommodation to occupy. The key trigger must be that the applicant has no accommodation for that night, has no prospects of securing short-term accommodation at friends' or relatives' and will therefore have no other option but to sleep rough.

These applicants are most likely to be single people and couples as they are those who would usually be deemed to be non-priority.

This assistance is with a temporary accommodation placement for a maximum of 2 weeks while the applicant secures alternative accommodation. The placement can be for longer if a provider offers greater security of tenure (eg a supported housing scheme offers an Assured Shorthold Tenancy) or if the provider agrees a separate financial arrangement with the applicant to stay on (eg a private B&B provider accepts Housing Benefit payments with top-up from the applicant).

Applicants will be assisted with temporary accommodation and advice and information on how to secure accommodation within Tameside. While Tameside Housing Advice will endeavour to find placements for all clients who meet these criteria, if a place cannot be found for an applicant because they have already been evicted by each provider, Tameside Housing Advice will offer advice and assistance on how to secure accommodation in the Borough and refer the applicant to support agencies who may be able to assist (eg Social Services, Substance Misuse Service).

Accommodation will be offered for a 2 week period **ONLY**. After 2 weeks, this assistance will end irrespective of the client's success in securing accommodation. This is intended to be an incentive to applicants to secure accommodation during this period, but can be extended in exceptional circumstances.