Do you want to make a Fresh Start?

Fresh Start can help you move quickly to a home of your choice

www.enfield.gov.uk
Who is Fresh Start for?
- Enfield Council tenants
- Housing association tenants living in Enfield
- Tenants living in temporary accommodation provided by Enfield Council who qualified for council housing prior to 9 November 2012.

What are the benefits of Fresh Start?
You can choose a private rented home that suits you

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Area</th>
<th>The Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inside Enfield</td>
<td>Near your child’s school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Enfield</td>
<td>Near friends and family</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why should I consider Fresh Start?
More people want housing from Enfield Council and housing associations than we have homes available.
- Over 2,500 applicants are on Enfield’s Housing Register at any time
- Less than 700 social rented homes become available each year. Only a small percentage of homes that become available are larger homes.

If you are living in temporary accommodation then you may have to wait many years before you are offered a suitable home. Currently over 2,700 households are in temporary accommodation. Most people are waiting:
- 5-6 years for a two bedroom social rented home
- 10-12 years for a three bedroom social rented home.

If you are waiting for a transfer to a larger social rented home or in temporary accommodation, renting privately means you may only have to wait a few weeks for a home of your choice.
How do I qualify for Fresh Start?
Applicants will be considered for Fresh Start if they have:
  • Qualified for council housing prior to 9 November 2012.
  • A clear rent account
  • You may be considered for Fresh Start if you have rent arrears provided you have kept to a repayment agreement for at least 12 months. If you have rent arrears you may still apply but you will not be allowed to move until your rent account is clear.
  • No history of anti-social behaviour and a good tenancy history.

Agents and landlords are entitled to ask for references. Only tenants with good tenancy references will qualify for the scheme.

How will you help me move into a Fresh Start home?
Once your application has been approved a dedicated team will:

  • **Support you to find a new home**
    • You will need to look for your own home
    • Talk to property agents and landlords on your behalf
    • Help you to claim Local Housing Allowance to help pay the rent
    • Help you to set up your tenancy.

We will also:
  • Pay your landlord or agent one months rent as a deposit.

Your agent or landlord must put that deposit into a government approved Tenancy Deposit Scheme.
Move anywhere

You choose the type of home you want and where you want it with Fresh Start
Keeping your tenancy going
When you sign your tenancy agreement you become a tenant of the private landlord who owns the property. You should contact the property agent or landlord if you have any queries about your tenancy.

Provided you pay your rent on time and do not damage the property your tenancy should run smoothly.

If you need help to keep your tenancy going you should get advice straight away from your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Enfield Council’s Housing Advice Team.

What happens if my private tenancy comes to an end?
If you have been a good tenant and your tenancy comes to an end you can claim back your deposit to pay for another private rented home.

You can apply through Enfield’s Online Housing Advisor for advice if your tenancy is coming to an end.
If I choose Fresh Start what will happen to my application for social rented housing through Enfield’s Housing Register?

- Your details will be removed from Enfield’s Housing Register if you move into a Fresh Start private rented home.
- Your details will remain on the Register if your application is not approved.
- Your details will remain on the Register if your application is approved and you later decide not to move through Fresh Start.

How do I apply for a Fresh Start?
Fill in the online enquiry form at:
http://www.enfield.gov.uk/freshstart

How do I get more information?
If you would like to speak to someone about the scheme, you can phone the council on 020 8379 1000 (office hours 9am-5pm).

You can email us at:
Fresh_Start@enfield.gov.uk

You can write to us at:
Fresh Start
Accommodation Services
Enfield Council
PO Box 59
Civic Centre
Enfield
EN1 3XL