

SFJ GF8

Work with the individual and others to address accommodation needs and requirements



Overview

This standard is about enabling individuals at risk of offending/reoffending, to access appropriate housing and accommodation. This involves working with colleagues in your organisation and other organisations, to link individuals with accommodation which meets their needs.

There are three elements

- 1 Work with individuals to determine their accommodation requirements
- 2 Assist providers of accommodation services in supporting individuals
- 3 Provide support to individuals moving into accommodation

Target group

This standard is applicable to those whose responsibilities include working with individuals who are likely to offend, and/or who have offended, to find and move into appropriate housing and accommodation.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Work with individuals to determine their accommodation requirements

- P1 gather and assess relevant information about the individual's personal details, including:
 - P1.1 current accommodation situation
 - P1.2 future requirements
 - P1.3 any sentencing requirements affecting their accommodation needs
- P2 obtain and review information according to a schedule which allows sufficient time for accommodation needs to be addressed and to meet the requirements of the individual
- P3 explain accurately to the individual, your role and organisation, and the services and support available
- P4 explore and agree with individuals their needs for accommodation and associated support, providing relevant and up to date advice
- P5 determine the individual's vulnerability to harm from their self and others, and address this according to organisational and regulatory requirements
- P6 identify accommodation options which are suitable and realistic in addressing the agreed needs of the individual, and review these with the individual, together with their advantages and disadvantages
- P7 identify any obstacles for the individual in accessing accommodation and associated services, and explore with the individual how these might be addressed
- P8 identify where the individual's requirements include developing independent skills, and make the necessary arrangements
- P9 challenge any attitudes or behaviours that may adversely impact on the individual accessing appropriate accommodation and associated services
- P10 provide the individual with relevant information to allow an informed choice about the preferred option(s), and check that the option(s) are relevant and feasible for the individual
- P11 assist the individual to prepare and agree a plan for accessing accommodation services, which identifies:
 - P11.1 realistic goals
 - P11.2 actions
 - P11.3 the support required and how this will be accessed
 - P11.4 timescales for progressing the preferred option
- P12 communicate at a pace appropriate to the individual that is free from discrimination and oppression, and encourage questions and check for understanding
- P13 maintain complete and accurate records of your findings and discussions

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Assist providers of accommodation services in supporting individuals

You must be able to:

- P14 discuss with relevant agencies and providers of accommodation services the relevant circumstances and needs of individuals
- P15 review the preferred options for accommodation and associated support as identified with the individual
- P16 set out the reasons for preferred options together with relevant aspects of the plan developed with the individual
- P17 discuss with relevant providers any aspects of the individual's behaviour and causal factors which might present a challenge in their working with the individual
- P18 identify the benefits likely to arise from providing the appropriate accommodation and associated services, and how their support contributes to the overall welfare of the individual
- P19 challenge discrimination, if it occurs
- P20 provide accurate and complete answers to questions
- P21 check that providers of services understand your role and responsibilities with regard to the individual
- P22 identify and address any concerns held by providers
- P23 maintain contact with providers to enable any issues to be identified, and take the appropriate action within required timescales where issues occur
- P24 facilitate providers to provide feedback on the progress of the individual against their goals, relevant to the services provided and the effectiveness of these services
- P25 communicate with providers, and recognise their role as partners in the process
- P26 maintain accurate and complete records, and keep relevant parties informed of progress and outcomes, and ensure that confidentiality is maintained in line with statutory and organisational requirements

Provide support to individuals moving into accommodation

You must be able to:

- P27 monitor, where relevant, the individual's progress within the accommodation, and obtain feedback from relevant colleagues and providers of accommodation services
- P28 provide appropriate support to the individual moving into their accommodation, in line with the agreed plan, your responsibilities and those of your organisation
- P29 identify issues arising with the accommodation, and address these in line with required timescales
- P30 provide individuals with accurate information about whom to contact for support and assistance
- P31 assist individuals to be self reliant

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legislation and guidelines of good practice relevant to your role in providing access to accommodation and associated services for individuals at risk of offending/reoffending
- K2 the role of your organisation and its services, and how they relate to those of other organisations and services in the justice and in the housing sector
- K3 the principles of effective equality, diversity and anti-discriminatory practice
- K4 your organisation's policy and procedures regarding confidentiality of information and the disclosure of information to third parties, and the specific circumstances under which disclosure may be made
- K5 the nature of the housing sector and the roles and functions of the principal organisations within it, including referral routes into and between different parts of the sector
- K6 local housing plans and strategies and how these can be influenced in the interest of individuals seeking assistance with housing and accommodation
- K7 the relationship between homelessness and crime, and efforts to reduce crime
- K8 the practical and emotional skills that individuals need to develop for them to be able to live independently
- K9 the providers of accommodation and associated services that can help to address the needs of individuals and how to access such services, including:
 - K9.1 local authority housing departments
 - K9.2 housing associations
 - K9.3 social services
 - K9.4 voluntary organisations
 - K9.5 youth justice services
- K10 the different types of accommodation that are available and the forms of support they offer to individuals, including:
 - K10.1 foster care
 - K10.2 supported lodgings
 - K10.3 residential bail support
 - K10.4 hostels
 - K10.5 foyers
 - K10.6 supported flats
 - K10.7 floating support
- K11 the benefits and drawbacks of the different types of accommodation for individuals of different ages, and with different needs and issues

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- K12 how and why individuals may lose housing and accommodation if they reoffend and receive a sentence in a secure environment
- K13 the factors that need to be taken into account when arranging housing and accommodation for individuals, including children and young people, and the rights which individuals have in relation to where they may be housed and accommodated
- K14 the duties of local authorities to house and support different groups of individuals
- K15 the benefits which are available to certain groups of individuals to assist them with housing and accommodation, including funding initiatives relevant to providing accommodation support, and how to access these
- K16 the assistance and interventions available to assist individuals to maintain a home and to minimise the risk of eviction/termination of tenancy
- K17 the importance of evaluating housing and accommodation that is provided for individuals and your role in this process
- K18 key factors affecting the behaviour of individuals, including their physical, social, psychological and emotional development
- K19 the effect of parenting and families on individuals in relation to their ability to form other relationships
- K20 the mediation services available towards resolving issues relating to living in the family home
- K21 the impact of the broader social environment on individuals, including areas of material deprivation, crime and the fear of crime, poor housing and poverty
- K22 the potential effect which being in care/custody might have on individuals
- K23 your role and responsibilities, and from whom assistance and advice should be sought where necessary

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