

## Other sources of support

**Fair Frome** Food Bank and Furniture Project for people experiencing financial crisis. Accessed via local referral agencies e.g. CAB, Mendip YMCA, schools  
01373 488578

**Citizens Advice Bureau** Advice and support on housing, benefits and other issues.  
5 King Street, Frome BA11 1BH  
03444 889623  
Mon, Weds and Fri 10am - 2pm

**The Bridge Café** Community café providing low-cost meals and benefits advice.  
43 Selwood Road, Frome BA11 3BS  
01373 469944  
Weds - Fri, 11am - 4pm

**The Good Heart** Pay it forward café offering free vegetarian meals and cups of tea. Children welcome  
7 Palmer Street, Frome BA11 1DS  
07986 726147  
Mon - Sat, 11 - 3pm

**Community Fridge, Community Larder and Coat Rail** Free food and coats: just help yourself.  
Justice Lane, Frome BA11 1BE  
Open every day 8am-8pm

**SDAS (Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service)**  
Confidential advice and support for anyone whose life is being adversely affected by drug and/or alcohol use.  
Ring 24/7 for an appointment with an outreach worker  
0300 303 8788

**Elim Connect Centre** Free postal address service for anyone who is of 'no fixed abode,' with weekly delivery to Frome.  
01749 677097

## Fair Housing for Frome (FHfF)

A local non-profit set up in 2018. Our objective is to support the provision of decent, secure, affordable and accessible accommodation in Frome for local people on low incomes who are being squeezed out by rising prices, stagnating wages and profit-led developments and practices.



### Website

[www.fairhousingforfrome.org.uk](http://www.fairhousingforfrome.org.uk)

### Email

[info@fairhousingforfrome.org.uk](mailto:info@fairhousingforfrome.org.uk)

### Facebook

Fair Housing for Frome

*Services and opening times often change, so please check details whenever possible, and let us know anything that needs to be added or changed in future editions of this leaflet.*

2nd Edition, April 2020

# FAIR HOUSING FOR FROME



## Information about Homelessness



## Introduction

Homelessness isn't just about sleeping bags and shop doorways: it's also about the many people who are sofa-surfing with family and friends or who are living in insecure or unsafe accommodation.

A BBC report published in February 2020 estimates that at least 320,000 people are homeless in Britain today. For the latest information we recommend visiting the websites of the two national charities, Shelter and Crisis.

Fair Housing for Frome's long-term goal is for no local person to be homeless in Frome, and for no visitor to be forced to sleep outdoors except through personal choice. We hope you find this leaflet helpful.

## How to find help

As soon as you find yourself homeless or at risk of homelessness, you should:

- Register online at [www.mendip.gov.uk/housing](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/housing)

OR

- Ring the Housing Options team on 0300 303 8588

If you want to speak to someone face to face, you can visit the MDC information point in Frome Library, which is open Mondays - Fridays from 9.30 - 1pm and 2 - 4.30pm

## Mendip District Council: What's on offer?

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 gives Mendip District Council (MDC) a statutory duty to help eligible local people find accommodation.

If you are assessed to be in **priority need** (eg have dependent children, are pregnant, or aged 16-17) then you will be offered an interim accommodation placement, usually in a hostel, refuge or B&B.

If you are not in priority need but **currently homeless** and eligible for assistance, MDC has a duty for 56 days to help you find accommodation. This is called Relief Duty and usually consists of a private rented tenancy.

If you are **threatened with homelessness within 56 days**, MDC will probably owe you Prevention Duty. You will be allocated a Housing Officer who will assess your needs and create a Personalised Housing Plan with you.

To be eligible for help from the MDC Housing Options team, you generally need to have a local connection plus a legal right to live and work in the UK with recourse to public funds. For more detailed information see [www.mendip.gov.uk/housing](http://www.mendip.gov.uk/housing).

You can also register online at [www.homefindersomerset.co.uk](http://www.homefindersomerset.co.uk) to join the waiting list for social housing (Housing Association) properties. Once the registration process is complete you can bid on up to three properties each week.

## Support for Rough Sleepers

### Streetlink

[www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) (0300 500 0914) is the best way for members of the public to connect people sleeping rough with the local services that can support them to get off the streets

**Elim Connect Centre** provides a drop-in housing advice session for single homeless people on Tuesdays 11am - 1pm at the Fair Frome offices behind Frome Town Hall.

**Emergency night shelters** are set up when the temperature drops below zero for three or more nights in a row. Over the winter of 2018-9 a Zero Nights shelter was run by Fair Housing for Frome volunteers.

## Services outside of Frome

**Elim Connect, Wells:** Showers; laundry; access to accommodation.

01749 677097

Daily drop-in 12 - 4pm

**Cornerstone, Warminster:** Drop-in for anyone experiencing poverty and distress.

01985 220657

**Crosspoint, Westbury:** Drop-in, food bank and debt counseling.

01373 824330

**Julian House, Bath:** Night shelter for people with a local connection to Bath and NE Somerset.

01225 311991

**Barnabas House, Yeovil:** Night shelter for people with a local connection to South Somerset.

0300 131 7967