**Housing and related support**

**For the Armed Forces Community**

There are a number of housing options to consider if looking for accommodation. Here you can find out about options on finding a home as well as what to do if you're homeless.

Social rented housing

Social housing is very scarce and most councils having long waiting lists – the Armed Forces Covenant means that you will not be disadvantaged by not having a local connection, however, it will NOT mean that you get to the top of the list.

Even if you get to the top of the waiting list, it could still be many months / years, before you get a house. It is worth remembering that, if you leave SFA and are homeless, the council will have a duty of care to put a roof over your head. However, this may be a hostel or B&B which isn’t ideal for a family.

Residents of Southampton can apply for council and housing association housing by [joining the housing register](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/housing/find-a-home/apply-for-housing.aspx).

Serving and former members of the Armed Forces will qualify if they fall within one or more of the statutory reasonable preference categories. More information can be found in the [council's allocations policy](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/images/allocations-policy-october-2016-final_tcm63-388730.pdf):

The following housing associations also offer housing options specifically for people who have served in the Armed Forces:

* [Haig Housing](http://www.haighousing.org.uk/)
* [Stoll](https://www.stoll.org.uk/)
* [Agamemnon](https://agamemnonha.org/)

Private rented housing

Renting from a private landlord is another option for finding somewhere to live. Everything you need to know about renting a home from a private landlord, including what questions to ask and ****your rights and responsibilities, can be found in the government's [How to rent](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent) checklist.

Affordable home ownership

Affordable home ownership is homes for sale and rent below market levels for eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. The government runs the following home ownership schemes:

* [Help to Buy](https://www.helptobuy.gov.uk/)
* [Forces Help to Buy](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/forces-help-to-buy)

Homelessness

If you're homeless or threatened with homelessness, the Council may be able to help. For more information read our page on [Homelessness](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/housing/housing-help/homelessness-advice/homelessness.aspx).

[SPACES](https://www.riverside.org.uk/care-and-support/veterans/spaces/) is a national service offering accommodation placement advice to single personnel discharged from the Armed Forces - 017 4883 3797.

Further help

[Joint Service Housing Advice Office](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/joint-service-housing-advice-office-jshao) (JSHAO) provides housing information and advice to service personnel and their families to assist them in the transition to civilian life – 012 5278 7574.

[Veterans Gateway](https://www.veteransgateway.org.uk):080 8802 1212

**Forces Families Federations**

* [Naval Families Federation](https://nff.org.uk/)
* [Army Families Federation](https://aff.org.uk/)
* [RAF Families Federation](https://www.raf-ff.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Welfare Services**These services can provide signposting to relevant departments and assist with any personal concerns via their casework teams:

**Naval Service Family and People Support**

Tel: 080 0145 6088

Email: navynps-peoplesptnsfpsptl@mod.gov.uk
Web: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Community-and-support](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Community-and-support)

**Army Welfare Service**

Tel: 01904 882053

Web: <https://www.army.mod.uk/personnel-and-welfare/hives/>

**SSAFA (for RAF personnel)**

Tel: 030 0011 1723

Email: psswsRAF@ssafa.org.uk

Web: <https://www.raf.mod.uk/serving-families/>

[SSAFA](https://www.ssafa.org.uk/) provides practical and emotional support to serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families on a wide range of areas including housing – 023 8077 0640.

[RBL](https://www.rbli.co.uk/) supports the Armed Forces Community and those affected by disability, health conditions or social welfare needs. Help includes the provision of welfare, healthcare, housing, employment and development opportunities – 016 2279 5900.

[Veterans UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk) runs a helpline that provides assistance on many issues including benefits, housing and welfare – 080 8191 4218.

[Veterans Aid](https://veterans-aid.net/) helps veterans who are in crisis with accommodation, addictions, mental health problems, access to training and education and Foreign and Commonwealth issues – 080 0012 6867.

[Shelter](https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/homelessness/your_situation/ex-services) offer free, expert housing advice to anyone – 080 8800 4444.

[Citizens Advice Bureau](https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/finding-a-place-to-live/housing-options-for-people-leaving-the-armed-forces-veterans-and-their-families/) offer online and telephone advice – 034 4411 1444.

[Blind Veterans UK](https://www.blindveterans.org.uk/) helps vision impaired Armed Forces and National Service veterans to relearn vital life skills and provides them with the tools they need to be independent in their own homes. They offer new learning, training and recreation opportunities and provide long-term nursing, residential and respite care - 080 0389 7979.

**Furnishings**

Assistance with furnishings may be sought through military charities, such as SSAFA and The Royal British Legion.

**Solent Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Drop In Centres**

There are drop in centres across the region offering advice and information to armed forces veterans and their families. They provide social support and access to a range of welfare and mental health services. They are open to former members of the British Armed Forces and Reserves and their direct family members, including the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Merchant Navy.

**Southampton**

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons from: 2pm – 9pm

At the Southampton Veterans Drop-In-Centre, Woodley Road, Woolston, Southampton, SO19 9DW

Contact: 023 8044 6032

**Gosport**

The last Friday of every month from: 10am – 2pm

At The Discovery Centre, High Street, Gosport, PO12 1BT

Contact: 023 9258 3099

**Isle of Wight**

The third Wednesday every month from: 12pm – 4pm

At the Riverside Centre, the Quay, Newport, Isle of Wight,

PO30 2QR

Contact: 023 9273 1767

**Portsmouth**

The first Wednesday every month from: 2pm – 6pm

At the Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3HS

Contact: 023 9273 1767****