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| **Information for Practitioners** | **H:\share\Logo's\new_smbc_logo.jpg** |

Sandwell’s Floating Support Service offers help and support to:

* Those at risk of homelessness
* Those at risk of being admitted to hospital
* Those at risk where there may be safeguarding issues
* Those whose needs would escalate without support, resulting in future demands on more expensive intensive services
* Patients considered medically fit for discharge from hospital, but need practical support in order to be discharged home

The support we offer is designed to help people develop the skills they need to run a home, stay safe, be healthy, and as well as participating in work, volunteering or social activities that make them feel part of their local community. The Service also provides housing-related support to vulnerable people to either remain in their homes and maintain their independence or resettle back into the community and become independent.

The support we provide will be different for each person as it is designed to specifically meet that person’s individual need. The service is available to individuals who are aged 18 and over who are vulnerable and have support needs. There is no direct cost to the individual for this service.

In order to support individuals, the team may take any of the following steps (this list is not exhaustive):

* Assess support and housing needs to prevent individuals going on to need higher level intervention
* Assess and plan to manage risk
* Create support plans
* Work collaboratively with a range of departments and agencies such as Housing, Children’s Services, Adult Social Care, private sector landlords and various third sector organisations, including local voluntary and community groups. Liaise with the individual’s GP, Mental Health Teams, Learning Disability Teams, Occupational Therapists, Hospital Discharge Liaison Teams and others as necessary
* Liaise with private landlords, housing associations and the Council
* Support parents in households where children are at risk;
* Maintain confidential records

We will work with individuals to aim to achieve the following:

* take responsibility for their homes
* improve their physical and or mental health
* improve their wellbeing and independence
* combat isolation
* integrate back into the community through social activities
* develop skills for employment and training
* resettle people following a period of homelessness, hospitalisation or institutionalisation
* being safe
* improve economic wellbeing
* address drug and alcohol dependency

If you are aware of an individual who would benefit from help from the Floating Support Service you can request a referral form by contacting [floating\_support@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:floating_support@sandwell.gov.uk) or you can [click here](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/4373/referral_form_for_floating_support_service) to download the referral form from the Council’s website or you can call on 0121 569 2266.