

STOP PRESS!
APPLY NOW TO THE MOD REFERRAL SCHEME
FOR SHELTERED HOUSING IN SHROPSHIRE

A new connection with the **Shropshire Association for Sheltered Housing (SASH)**, means that applicants on the MOD Referral Scheme can apply for **sheltered supported housing** in SASH's properties in Shropshire. SASH is a registered Charity, offering properties for multiple occupancy with a 'floating' support service for Service Leavers suffering with or recovering from mental health problems. They seek to help address psychological illnesses, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, by dedicating support hours to the individual as part of the housing placement. Due to the cost of this service, the prospective tenant would need to be in receipt of or eligible for Housing Benefit, although they may self-fund.

The properties are completely refurbished, and the rooms are en-suite. The kitchen, dining room, lounge and laundry are shared with the other tenants, and the properties have large gardens with off-road parking. Because for many it is the distinct change from the community environment of Single Living Accommodation that can be the most difficult challenge, such sheltered accommodation as that provided by SASH can benefit the individual in this transitional period.

If you, or someone you know, would greatly benefit from sheltered supported accommodation, placement in these properties is available through the MOD Referral Scheme. Please get in contact to discuss your requirements and to get registered on the Scheme (telephone the MOD Referral Scheme Coordinator on 01722 436572).

FULL ARTICLE
Sheltered supported housing through the MOD Referral Scheme
Rebecca Mills

In January 2009, the Sunday Mirror launched a campaign to demand "decent shelter as a basic human right for every homeless veteran".



Demographics for the London area alone by the homelessness charity Broadway's Combined Homeless and Information Network (CHAIN), show that a constant proportion of **rough sleepers** are Ex-Servicemen and women. While 6-8% may seem low, this equates to 210-280 homeless veterans on the streets of London per year, over 103 of whom (on average) have support needs. Nationwide statistics from Communities and Local Government report a minimum of 483 rough sleepers per local authority in the UK, an unidentified percentage of whom are veterans, but 85% of the total require support for either drug, alcohol or mental health problems.

Single Service Leavers who cannot find accommodation and are forced to sleep on a friend's floor or sofa at best, risk becoming a part of these homeless statistics. Even worse, are those who need support for anything from psychotherapy and rehabilitation to reintegration into civilian life.

In addition to the Charities, advice offices and external agencies available to single Service Leavers struggling with this transition, the **MOD Referral Scheme** hopes to help.

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Like SASH, **Home Base Community Housing and Therapy (CHT)** provides sheltered accommodation with integrated support, primarily psychotherapy. Service Leavers who would benefit from psychological treatment, or those who are struggling with life outside the Forces, are encouraged to apply, as are those who need rehabilitative assistance, for example, finding employment or getting training.

The therapy provided by Home Base CHT is delivered in a similar social environment to that of SASH, although the nature of the support is far more heavily integrated than the floating support offered by SASH.

The Sunday Mirror campaign called for "a nationwide network of halfway house resettlement centres [...] plus specialist job-seeking advice and training in new skills" and these projects and services are intended to reduce the likelihood of Ex-Service personnel becoming part of the rough sleeper demographic. **If you, or someone you know, would greatly benefit from sheltered supported accommodation, placement in these properties is available through the MOD Referral Scheme. Please get in contact to discuss your requirements and to get registered on the Scheme.**



The Single Person Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services (**SPACES**) also offers assistance to Service Leavers and provides supported housing at The Galleries in Richmond, North Yorkshire, and Mike Jackson House in Aldershot, Hampshire. In a different way to SASH and CHT, the type of support offered by SPACES is transitional; information on benefits, employment and education, financial advice and even such skills as cookery. For more information on how SPACES can help, telephone the project office on 01748 833797.

Statistics calculated from Communities and Local Government data (www.communities.gov.uk, 2009) and information in the Broadway and NatCen full report; *Profiling London's rough sleepers: A longitudinal analysis of CHAIN data* (June 2009).