

Local connection to the Homefinder area

The Homefinder area is the geographical area within the political administrative boundaries of both Ashfield District Council and Mansfield District Council.

For the purposes of determining local connection, living in the Homefinder area means living in permanent accommodation and will not include:

- Occupation of a mobile home, caravan or motor caravan which is not placed on a residential site; or
- Occupation of a holiday letting which includes a permanent building, hotel or bed and breakfast accommodation for the purposes of a holiday.

An applicant will be classed as having a local connection to the Homefinder area if they meet one or more of the following categories:

	Residence - Employment criteria
a)	Applicants who have lived in the Homefinder area for a period of TWO or more years
b)	Applicants who have previously lived in the Homefinder area for a duration of FIVE or more years.
c)	Applicants who have a close family connection with someone who has lived in the Homefinder area for a period of TWO years or more. A family connection is defined as being with a parent, child, or legal guardian.
d)	Applicants who has been employed within the Homefinder area for a period of twelve (12) months or more.

	Other exceptional circumstance(s).
	This connection may include, but is no limited to the following:
e)	Applicants have been placed in accommodation within the Homefinder area by a specialist housing provider (for example, Women's Refuge, or the National Asylum Support Scheme).
f)	Applicants need to access specialist medical treatment that is delivered within the Homefinder area.
g)	Applicants need to return to the Homefinder area after being placed in accommodation outside of the area on a temporary basis, (for example, care leavers or homeless applicants placed in temporary accommodation).
h)	Applicants receive significant support from a carer, who has an established local connection to the Homefinder area
i)	Applicants provide significant care to a resident who has an established local connection to the Homefinder area.

Local connection via service with HM Armed Forces	
	For applicants currently in HM Armed Forces, the length of time they have spent in HM Armed Forces accommodation will be disregarded for the purpose of establishing a local connection to the Homefinder area. Applicants serving in HM Armed Forces establish a local connection through residence or employment in the same way as a civilian person Homefinder will award a local connection to the following applicants:
a)	Members of the Armed Forces and former service personnel, where the application is made within five years of discharge
b)	Bereaved spouses and civil partners of members of the Armed Forces leaving services family accommodation following the death of their spouse or partner
c)	Serving or former members of the Reserve Forces who need to move because of a serious injury, medical condition or disability sustained as a result of their service

Applicants NOT required to establish a local connection	
a)	Applicants with an urgent housing need due to an imminent risk of violence, where it is not safe for them to remain in their current area / district.
b)	Applicants who are part of a Witness Protection Scheme, or similar arrangement.
c)	Social housing tenants from outside the Homefinder area seeking to “downsize” into smaller accommodation. [To be eligible, tenants must have held their tenancy for a period of TWO years or more and must not have been under-occupying their home when their tenancy commenced].
d)	Applicants from outside the Homefinder area who need to move in order to take up an offer of full-time employment, or a full-time apprenticeship.
e)	Applicants seeking to be rehoused in a flat or studio flat designated for persons aged 60 year of age, or older.

You may be required to provide proof that you meet the local connection criteria.

If you have any further queries about whether you have a local connection, please contact Homefinder:

Tel: 01623 463402

E-mail: Homefinder@mansfield.gov.uk

Address: Mansfield District Council
Civic Centre
Chesterfield Road South
Mansfield
Notts
NG19 7BH

Homefinder's 'local connection' criteria is effective from 1st April 2015