

4.4 Local Connection

Applicants will have a local connection to the area of operation of Gateway to Homechoice if they meet one or all of the criteria below:

- Their only or principal home is within the boundaries of the district or borough covered by the scheme.
- They were placed in specialised housing which is not available in the area of the scheme but had a local connection previously through residence.
- They (not a member of their household) are in permanent paid work in one of the partner districts or boroughs.
- They have a son, daughter, brother, sister, mother or father, who is aged 18 or over and lives in the area of the scheme and has done so for at least five years.
- A family member may live within different Gateway local authority areas as long as they have continuously lived within the Gateway area of operation for 5 years and this will give their close family member a local connection subject to any individual property restrictions, e.g. s106 or local lettings plan. The local connection will be where the family member currently lives and the corresponding local authority will host the application.
- Homeless care leavers aged 18 – 20 who have been looked after by either Essex County Council or Suffolk County Council will have a local connection with every housing authority within the county that looked after them.

4.5 The following people will also be deemed to have a local connection to the Gateway area of operation if:

- The main or joint applicant is serving in the [regular forces](#) or who has served in the [regular armed forces](#) within five years of the date of their application.
- The main or joint applicant has recently ceased or will cease to be entitled to reside in accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence following the death of that person's spouse or civil partner. where the spouse or civil partner has served in the [regular forces](#) and their death was attributable (wholly or partly) to that service.
- The main or joint applicant is serving or has served in the [reserve forces](#) and is suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is attributable whether wholly or partly to that service.
- Spouses and civil partners who are required to leave accommodation provided by the Ministry of Defence following a breakdown in their relationship with their Service spouse or partner.