**Specified Authorities in England**

There are varied and sometimes complex reasons behind homelessness, and a person will often come into contact with a wide range of public services before reaching a Homelessness crisis or approaching a Local Housing Authority for assistance. The duty to refer will ensure that where a specified public authority becomes aware that someone may be homeless or at risk of homelessness, is given the opportunity to be referred for help.

The specified public authorities in England subject to the duty to refer are include

* prisons
* young offender institutions
* secure training centres
* secure colleges
* youth offending teams
* probation services (including community rehabilitation companies)
* Job Centres in England
* social service authorities (both adult and children’s)
* emergency departments
* urgent treatment centres
* hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care
* Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the regular armed forces