# Migrant family in Stockport camps outside social housing office amid declining local accommodation offers



A migrant family camping in the heart of Stockport has recently rejected offers of accommodation, citing concerns about being relocated to an unfamiliar area. Mohammed, a 50-year-old father from Iraq, has been living on the streets with his wife and 18-year-old son for ten days, having arrived in the UK last year. They have pitched their tents outside the offices of Stockport Homes, a local social housing provider, in a visible plea for assistance. The family insists they feel vulnerable and unsafe in their current situation. “We need help; it's not safe here. I've been here for ten days, my wife is sick, we can't stay like this,” Mohammed expressed, capturing the desperation faced by many in similar circumstances.

The pivotal reason for their refusal of housing offered by Stockport Homes is the location, which lies outside Stockport, a borough in the Greater Manchester area. This decision underscores a significant issue in the housing crisis affecting the region: while accommodation options exist, they often fail to meet the specific needs of individuals and families who have established roots in certain areas. More than just a roof over their heads, the family's reluctance reflects a desire for stability and familiarity amidst the upheaval they have already experienced.

The reported services provided by Stockport Homes included not just accommodation, but also various support options such as house shares and appointments for further discussions. However, the broader context of a failing housing strategy complicates the situation. Stockport has faced a dramatic rise in homelessness, with over 8,000 individuals currently waiting for social housing—many of whom are experiencing severe overcrowding, with families reportedly waiting up to twelve years for a new council home. This housing shortage is further exacerbated by a dwindling supply of new social housing, which, according to local reports, has dropped by more than a quarter in the past decade.

Recent analyses by local and national media reveal the systemic failures within the housing sector. The UK is currently not meeting its housing supply targets, with only 250,000 new homes built last year, significantly shy of the 300,000 target for England. A complex planning system and reliance on speculative private development have contributed to this shortfall. As noted by Stockport MP Navendu Mishra, urgent action is needed to confront the housing deficit and ensure better living conditions for those like Mohammed and his family. The combination of bureaucratic hurdles, political resistance to development in greenbelt areas, and the inadequacies of current strategies only serve to alienate vulnerable populations further.

This troubling scenario not only signifies the immediate plight of a family in desperation but also highlights a broader national issue concerning housing accessibility, affordability, and the urgent need for comprehensive reforms. The challenges faced by Stockport resonate in many communities across the UK, where the dream of a secure home remains just that—a dream, perpetually out of reach for too many.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061829/desperate-migrant-family-camping-town)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061829/desperate-migrant-family-camping-town), [[5]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgv87z4e1yo)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://stockport.nub.news/news/local-news/boroughs-housing-wait-hits-12-years-with-families-left-in-dire-overcrowded-conditions-242702), [[6]](https://www.navendumishra.co.uk/news/new-stats-reveal-the-scale-of-stockports-housing-shortage), [[7]](https://www.manchesterworld.uk/your-manchester/stockport/number-of-new-social-housing-lets-in-stockport-fell-by-more-than-a-quarter-over-last-decade-4512256)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2061829/desperate-migrant-family-camping-town> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/eab49c98-91f3-4af0-be37-9b5f4fa4a865> - An article from the Financial Times discusses Stockport's housing strategy, focusing on developing brownfield sites in town centres over greenbelt areas. Despite adding 8,000 housing units to town centres, this plan meets only 85% of the town's housing needs. The piece highlights the broader challenges faced by metro mayors like Andy Burnham in balancing housing requirements with preserving greenbelt lands. It also touches upon the political resistance to greenbelt development and the difficulties in reaching agreements on housing locations, even in pragmatic regions like Greater Manchester.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/6171255c-96b2-4b52-a56f-751ad3c9d7c6> - The UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has initiated an investigation into eight major housebuilders, including Barratt and Persimmon, over suspicions of sharing commercially sensitive information. This follows a study highlighting a shortage of new homes, attributed to a complex planning system and reliance on speculative private development. The UK built only 250,000 homes last year, short of the 300,000 target for England alone. The CMA has suggested planning system reforms and heightened consumer protections, with potential substantial fines and litigation for the companies involved.
4. <https://stockport.nub.news/news/local-news/boroughs-housing-wait-hits-12-years-with-families-left-in-dire-overcrowded-conditions-242702> - A report from Stockport Homes reveals that over 8,000 people are on the borough's housing waiting list, with families facing waits of up to 12 years. Approximately 5,000 individuals are in 'urgent' need of a council property, often due to overcrowding or medical needs. The report highlights the dire overcrowded conditions many families are enduring, with some living in overcrowded blocks. The situation underscores the severe housing shortage in Stockport and the pressing need for more affordable housing options.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgv87z4e1yo> - BBC News reports that thousands of Stockport residents face waits of up to 12 years for a new council home. A recent report by Stockport Homes indicates that 8,000 people are on the borough's housing register, with about 5,000 in 'urgent' need due to overcrowding or medical needs. The article highlights the growing housing crisis in Stockport and the challenges faced by residents seeking affordable housing.
6. <https://www.navendumishra.co.uk/news/new-stats-reveal-the-scale-of-stockports-housing-shortage> - Stockport MP Navendu Mishra highlights the severity of Stockport's housing crisis, citing data from Stockport Homes that shows 5,995 households on the waiting list for social housing as of January 2024, with only 419 empty properties available. The article discusses the implications of this shortage, including increased homelessness and reliance on temporary accommodations like hotels. Mishra calls for urgent action to address the housing deficit and improve conditions for those affected.
7. <https://www.manchesterworld.uk/your-manchester/stockport/number-of-new-social-housing-lets-in-stockport-fell-by-more-than-a-quarter-over-last-decade-4512256> - ManchesterWorld reports that the number of new social housing lets in Stockport has fallen by more than a quarter over the last decade. In 2022-23, 962 new social housing lets were offered, down from 1,314 in 2012-13. The article highlights the challenges posed by this decline, including increased homelessness and overcrowded conditions, and underscores the need for more affordable housing in the area.