

# Housing



## It is important to ask for help and advice if you are in any of the following situations:

- Thinking of leaving home
- Struggling to pay your rent
- Living in unsuitable conditions
- Expecting a baby or have young children and are living in unsuitable accommodation
- Sleeping rough.

There are many local organisations that can advise and help you. Connexions and your Local Authority Housing Department are the best places to start.

## Leaving home

If you are under 16 you can't normally leave home unless there are serious problems such as abuse or violence. If this is the case contact Social Services or your Connexions Personal Adviser immediately.

If you're 16 or 17 you can move out if your parents or guardians agree. If they don't, and you leave anyway, you could be reported to the police as a missing person and be returned home if you're considered to be at risk.

## Leaving care

It is often especially difficult for young people who leave care to find somewhere to live. If you have been looked after by a Local Authority, then you should speak to your social worker

or Connexions Personal Adviser about finding accommodation and applying for financial help.

If you decide to move to another area your Personal Adviser can arrange for support for you in your new area. You are entitled to help and support until you are 21, wherever you live.

## Leaving home when you are 18 or over

Finding somewhere you can afford to live can be hard. Here are some things you'll need to consider.

- Where do you want to live?
- What sort of accommodation do you want?
- Do you want to live on your own or with other people?
- Do you need extra support due to a disability?
- How much rent/mortgage can you afford?
- How much would the Council Tax cost?
- How would you pay for gas/electricity/water/TV licence etc?

Advisers at Connexions will be able to help you think everything through and can put you in touch with the right people who can help.

**House Mate** – looks at some of the key questions about housing issues and homelessness. Includes an 'Are you ready to leave home?' checklist.  
[www.housemate.org.uk](http://www.housemate.org.uk)

## EMERGENCIES

If you've left home and have nowhere to stay it is essential that you talk to somebody. There are people that you can contact who will give you advice and support.

**Shelterline** is a free 24 hour phone helpline for people with any sort of housing related problems, including homelessness.  
T: 0808 800 444

**Nightstop** is a service that is suitable for young people who are homeless or likely to be made homeless and are aged between 16 and 25.  
[www.nightstop-uk.org](http://www.nightstop-uk.org)

## Housing advice in your area

**Bath and North East Somerset Housing Services**  
T: 01225 477 000

**Bristol Housing Department**  
Housing and homeless advice  
T: 0117 922 2000 (ask for the Customer Services Point for your area).

**North Somerset Housing Advice Team**  
T: 01934 426 249  
Emergencies out of office hours  
T: 01934 622 669

**South Gloucestershire Housing Department**  
Housing advice for 16 –17 year olds  
T: 01454 868 005  
Emergencies out of office hours  
T: 01454 615 165

## Housing advice in your area (continued)

### Foyers

Foyers enable young people at risk to escape the 'no home-no job-no home' cycle by offering a service that integrates accommodation with training, job search, personal support and motivation.

For information on Foyers in the Connexions West of England area, visit [www.foyer.net](http://www.foyer.net)

### Priority Youth Housing

Priority Youth Housing provides affordable accommodation with support to single homeless people aged 16-25 years old in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Their website has wider information too: [www.priorityyouth.co.uk](http://www.priorityyouth.co.uk)

## Connexions Centres in the West of England

### Bath and North East Somerset

28 Southgate, Bath BA1 1TP  
T: 01225 461 501

### Bristol

4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST  
T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514

### North Somerset

45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG  
T: 01934 644443

### South Gloucestershire

21-23 High Street, Kingswood,  
South Gloucestershire BS15 4AA  
T: 0117 961 2760

28-30 Gloucester Road North, Filton,  
South Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ  
T: 0117 969 8101

Connexions Centres are open Monday – Friday.  
Please contact for opening times.

[enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk)  
[www.connexionswest.org.uk](http://www.connexionswest.org.uk)

- **1Big Database** – [www.1bigdatabase.org.uk](http://www.1bigdatabase.org.uk)  
Online directory of services, organisations and groups for people in Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire.
- **MyPlan4Life** – [www.myplan4life.org](http://www.myplan4life.org)  
Provides young people with information they can use to make informed decisions about where they are now and where they want to go.

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WEST OF ENGLAND



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Leaving home, housing advice  
and housing emergencies