



Housing Advice for 16/17 year olds

If you are 16/17 years old and facing homelessness or having issues at home, then there are specific services that are there to help and advise you.

If you are having issues at home, then **unless it's not safe for you to live there**, leaving home in a hurry is hardly ever the most effective solution, even if you aren't getting on with your parents or other family members. Living alone can be harder and more costly than you would think.

You can't legally hold a tenancy until you are 18, so the **only** option you'll have available to you at this age is to live in a hostel environment. You would have to share facilities (such as bathroom and kitchen) with other young people who are homeless.

If you are not at risk, but are thinking of leaving home, then you need to think about all the issues you may face. **Herts Young Homeless (hyh)** is a local charity that helps young people facing homelessness or having issues at home. Why not read their **Frequently Asked Questions**, which will give you an idea of the options available for homeless young people.



If you are having problems with your relationship with your parents/family members then moving out isn't necessarily going to solve these problems.

In many cases, **mediation** can help work out what the problems are and look at ways to solve them.

If you are not feeling safe at home for any reason, the most important thing to do is to seek help. If you are in immediate danger, you should always call **999**.

You should not remain in an environment where you are at risk of harm, whether physical or emotional. If you feel you are then you should get help immediately.

If you need help leaving home out of hours, you need to get in touch and get emergency assistance. You can contact the Council on **01442 228000** during the day or **0800 018 6050** out of normal working hours.

You can contact social services on **0300 123 4043**.

You can contact HYH on **08000 355 775**.

Whichever service you contact to start with, you should be provided with the help you need then redirected to the right service to handle your case.