

Living away from home



LOOK OUT FOR

Think about:

- What you would like to live in, a bedsit, flat or house share or lodgings.
- Who you would like to live with.
- How you are going to do your own washing, cleaning and cooking.
- Where you would like to live.
- How much money will you have each week, so what could you afford? In addition to your rent, most landlords ask for a deposit.
- What would you need to buy to live by yourself: for example, kettles, plates, pans, sheets, duvets, towels, furniture etc.



WHAT NEXT

- Plan ahead and find out as much as you can.
- Work out your budget. How much money will you have each week and how much will you need to spend on essentials such as rent, electricity, gas, council tax, and food?
- Check any contracts and tenancy agreements carefully.
- Check out prices of anything you need to buy to set up your home. Look at second hand, charity and any local furniture projects if you are on a tight budget.
- If you feel you have to leave home because of family problems, get help and advice first.



CONTACTS

- Connexions Direct
080 800 13 2 19
www.connexions-direct.com
- www.thesite.org.uk
- www.childline.org.uk 0800 11 11
- www.whataboutmoney.info
- http://england.shelter.org.uk
free helpline 0808 800 4444
- Herts Young Homeless Group 0844 833 0933
www.hyhg.org
- www.channelmogo.org go to 'Need some advice'

"Leaving home was a real shock. I was not used to doing everything - cooking, cleaning, washing, ironing, even buying toothpaste!"

Nearly everyone leaves home at some point and it can be exciting as well as scary. Maybe you're leaving your area to start college or university somewhere else. Or perhaps you're moving in with your friends, boyfriend or girlfriend.

You might not be so lucky, though, and may feel that moving out is your only option because you're not getting on with your family.

Leaving home is a big step, and it's best to find out as much as you can about what it'll be like before it happens. Finding suitable accommodation may be difficult and could take time. There could be a lot of costs involved.

You can get help and advice from one of the contacts listed.

