

You can get advice from:

Herefordshire Supported Housing Project for Young People (SHYPP)

6 Bridge Street
Hereford, HR4 9DF

Tel: 01432 842924

Email: info@herefordshireshypp.org

New Dawn

The Showroom, Cattle Market
Hereford, HR4 9HX

Tel: 01432 272772

Email: info@newdawnfloatingsupport.co.uk



Connexions Hereford

6 St Peter's Street, Hereford HR1 2LE

Tel: 01432 269404

Email: Hereford@connexions-hw.org.uk

Herefordshire Council

Housing Advice Team
Garrick House, Widemarsh Street
Hereford HR4 9EU

Tel: 01432 261600

Email: housing.enquiry@herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire Citizens Advice Bureaux

8 St Owen Street, Hereford HR1 2JB

Tel: 0844 826 9685

Email: info@herefordshirecab.org.uk

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language please call: 01432 261600 or email: housing.enquiry@herefordshire.gov.uk

Aged between 16 & 17?

Thinking about leaving home?
Problems with your parents or guardians?

Then this leaflet is for you!



Expectations of Leaving home!

Your Vision -

- My own place
- Independence
- Freedom
- Security

The reality

- Hard to secure accommodation until you are over 18 years old.
- You may have to share accommodation and there will be House Rules.
- You will have to pay rent, shop, cook for yourself, and pay bills.
- You will have a very limited income.

Leaving Home – before you leave:

- Think ahead and plan your move;
- Talk to your parents and get their advice; and
- Get independent support.



Thrown out or forced to leave?

If you are living at home with parents then you have an implied licence to stay there. You should not be required to leave without your parents giving you reasonable notice.

What should I do?

You should try and remain with your parents and contact the Housing Advice Team at Herefordshire Council. You will speak to an Options Officer who will arrange for you to attend an 'initial assessment meeting' with a Mediation Provider. Mediation is recommended for helping avoid homelessness.

If you cannot remain with your parents then you should also try and make arrangements to stay with other family members or friends.

The information meeting gives you the opportunity to decide if Mediation is right for you. It's not just about preventing homelessness it's all about helping you maintain your relationship with your family. This is very important as you will still need their support if you move out and live independently.

It may also be necessary for you to see a Social Worker who will undertake an assessment of your needs. They will contact the person responsible for your care and decide whether they feel it is best for you to return home, live with other family, or arrange a foster placement or other supported lodgings.

You may also be visited at home by a Homelessness Prevention Officer who will speak with you and your parent or guardian. The Prevention Officer will advise you of all your housing options and the processes available to you and your rights under the Homelessness Legislation.

Remember only someone over 18 can hold a tenancy in their own right.

Your check list

	What I can do myself	What I need help with
What can I do now?	<p>Speak to my parents and try and sort it out. Explain how I feel and listen to what they say, discuss how we could compromise. They have needs too. If I can't talk about it, I will try putting it in a letter. I will try talking to a relative or family friend; who may be able to help.</p> <p>A certain amount of arguing and conflict is to be expected as a normal part of growing up and you need to think carefully about how your own behaviour may be making things difficult for you at home.</p>	<p>If this fails contact the Homelessness and Housing Advice Team who will arrange for you and your parents/guardian to attend an 'initial assessment meeting'.</p> <p>You are entitled to advice and assistance to prevent you from becoming homeless, and to emergency help if you need it.</p>
What can I do soon?	<p>I will plan for my future and look at my training/employment/education options.</p> <p>Living independently should be a planned move and to get a step ahead you need to be financially independent and ideally have some savings behind you.</p>	<p>Contact Connexions/New Dawn or SHYPP or speak to your Teacher or careers advisor.</p> <p>It is easier for support agencies to support you whilst you are living at home.</p>
What can I do later?	<p>I will plan for independent living. I will need help with managing money, paying rent and living independently.</p> <p>I could apply for supported accommodation.</p> <p>Supported accommodation would help you gain the skills needed for independent living</p>	<p>Contact Connexions/New Dawn or SHYPP or speak to your Teacher or careers advisor.</p> <p>Independent living is very expensive and it's better to find out before you leave home exactly what you will need to pay for and how you can budget.</p>