

Other useful numbers:

Children's Services: 01905 845613

Axis Youth HUB: 01562 743 336

Central Youth HUB providing support to young people such as, help with housing applications, financial and wellbeing advice to arranging short term accommodation with family hosts.

St Basils: 01562 746304

Provide supported shared housing and Foyer accommodation for young people aged 16-24.

Turn2us: 0808 802 2000

Provide advice to care leavers on benefits they may be entitled to.

Shelter: 0808 800 400

A national charity providing tailored and specific advice for young people leaving care.



For further information please contact:

Housing Needs Team
Wyre Forest District Council
The Hub
Vicar Street
Kidderminster

Tel: 01562 732928
Out of Hours: 01562 850053
Email: housingservices@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Help and Housing for Care Leavers

**Are you a care leaver and homeless
or threatened with homelessness?**

We can help you...

Key Advice

Get help now by:

- Contacting the Housing Needs Team if you think you might be homeless or potentially homeless .
- Speaking to your Personal Advisor to ensure they have considered housing in your pathway plan and any suggestions they have made.

If you are a young person leaving care, we will work with you to help you remain in your home or to secure alternative housing.

The Housing Needs Team will assess your specific housing and support needs and provide you with tailored advice in terms of your options as a care leaver.

To help support your case, you will need to provide the housing team with evidence that you are deemed a care leaver, proof of your identity and your pathway plan.

The earlier you contact the Housing Needs Team, the greater the chance the team will have of securing your current housing or increase the chances of you finding somewhere else to live. You can contact us 56 days before the date you need to leave your care placement or longer if you are aware that you need to leave.

If you are at immediate risk of homelessness?

Children's Services will have a responsibility for you if you are under 18 but if you are approaching 18 or your care placement immediately breaks down and you have nowhere to go, you will need to contact the Housing Needs Team. The team may have a duty to provide you with emergency accommodation and may provide you with a crisis room whilst assessing your longer term housing and support needs. They may also refer you to the Councils Young Person's Pathway Worker who can offer you support throughout this process.

If you need help to remain living in your current home?

The Housing Needs Team can work closely with you and your personal advisor to discuss the option of a staying put arrangement.

The Team can speak to your family members where you are staying to help you remain in your home.

The Team may offer you financial support if you have your own place but are struggling to afford it.

If you need to move in the longer term?

If you are able to stay where you are but over for a short period, the Housing Needs Team can discuss longer term options with you.

The type of accommodation available to you as a care leaver will vary according to your readiness to live independently.

Most Councils and Housing Providers will not provide you with social rented or private rented properties without you first demonstrating that this is both suitable and sustainable . Instead they are likely to consider other options such as shared houses or foyers.

If you have demonstrated this, The Housing Team may then work with you to create a pathway into self contained housing, this could be in the social or private rented sector.

If you have no/low income?

If you are 16 or 17 and a care leaver, you are not eligible for benefits but Children's Services may help you with subsistence allowance to cover your living costs.

If you are 18 or above then you will be eligible to apply for benefits such as Universal Credit, Job seekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowances.

Support from your personal advisor

You will have a personal advisor whose job it is to make sure you claim everything you are entitled to. They can help you with application forms for housing, benefits, education and training courses, they can also help with life skills such as budgeting. Personal advisors should stay in contact with you and provide ongoing help and support until your turn 21 or until 25 if you are studying full time.