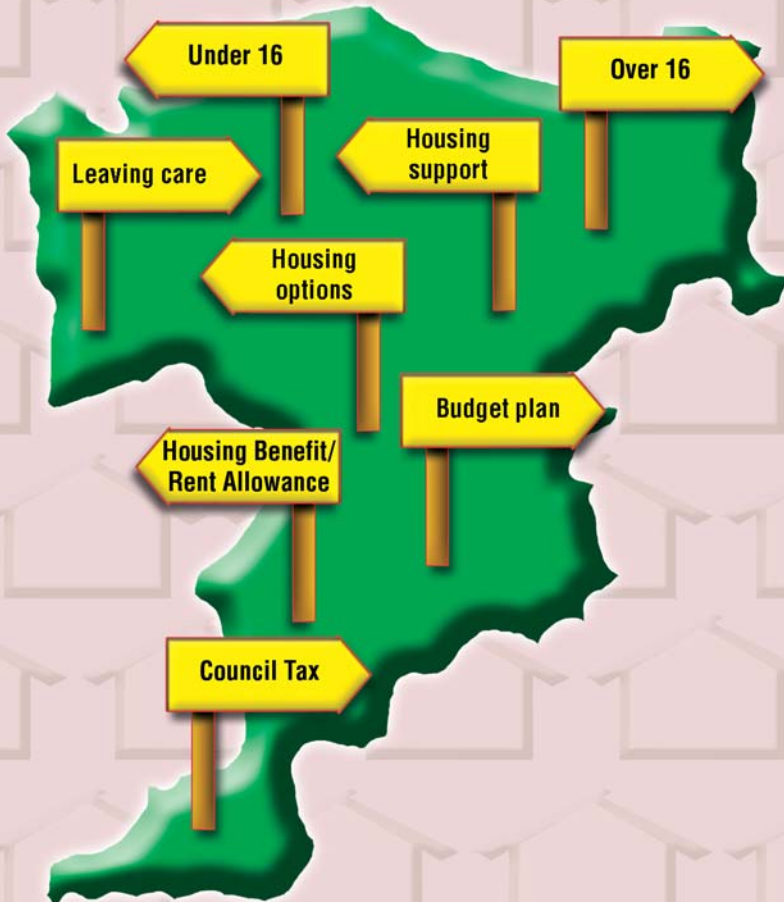


# Young people leaving home



# Guide for young people thinking of leaving home

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Young people leave home for a variety of reasons. It is a natural step and can be very exciting. It can be difficult to find somewhere in an area you want and it can be hard to keep that place going. Many young people who leave home end up in difficulty, or even homeless. You might be leaving to go to college, to a job, to get married or to move in with a partner. Living at home may have become crowded or tense, or you may just need your freedom. Whatever the reason, make sure you are ready to leave home. The first thing you need to know before leaving home is your options.

### **If you are under 16**

If you are under 16, you can't normally leave home unless there are serious problems within your home or family relationships, such as violence. If you feel that you need to leave home, social work have a responsibility to help you. They may be able to help you find alternative accommodation. Contact your local social work office for more information.

## **If you are over 16**

If you are over 16, you can leave home without your parent's permission.

## **Leaving care**

It is often difficult for young people who have been 'looked after' to find somewhere to live. If you have been 'looked after' by a local authority, you should speak to your social worker or the throughcare and aftercare worker about planning your future accommodation before you leave care. Contact social work or the Throughcare and Aftercare Team for more information.

## **The Moray 16 to 24 housing support service**

The Moray 16 to 24 housing support service provides accommodation and support for vulnerable young people aged between 16 and 24. Housing support workers provide support to tenants with the aim of achieving successful independent living in the community. Each support package is tailored to the needs of each individual young person. Contact the Young Persons Officer for more information.

## **Emergency options**

An option that may be possible is staying with your friends for one or two nights. This might be the best emergency option as it will allow you to get things sorted and it will be free. If you are homeless and have nowhere to sleep, contact the Housing Needs Section and ask to speak to a Homeless Officer. If it is after 5pm at night or the weekend, contact the Housing out-of-hours service or the Shelter emergency line.

## **Housing options**

If you are serious about moving out there are various options open to you. Think carefully about where you want to live – near family, friends or work? If you have a disability, what are your specific needs? Moving out is a big decision and it is really vital that you move somewhere that meets your needs. Take your time, plan it carefully and only move when you really feel ready.

**Moray Council** – we provide housing at affordable rents. Contact your local area housing office and ask for a housing application form. There is a waiting list. You will not have to pay a rent deposit but you will have to pay the bills.

**Housing associations** – they provide housing at affordable rents. You can apply either directly to the housing association or through us. There is normally a waiting list. You will not have to pay a rent deposit but you will have to pay the bills. There is a leaflet on registered social landlords which lists the housing associations in the area. You can pick this up at your local area housing office.

**Private rented** – you can rent from a private landlord. The rent is normally quite high and you will need to pay a deposit and bills. You may have to share the living space and bills with others living in the property. Your landlord also may be staying there. The following newspapers advertise vacant private rented accommodation every week.

- Banffshire Advertiser
- Forres Gazette
- Midweek Extra
- Northern Scot
- Press and Journal
- Scot-Ads

**Supported accommodation** – Housing Support Workers help you cope with living on your own if you are aged between 16 and 24. The rent is higher for this accommodation. Be aware that it can be hard to adjust to living alone when you move on. There is normally a waiting list. You should contact the Young Persons Officer for more details.

## **Money**

One big worry when you move out is how to afford it. There is a lot to pay so you have to learn to budget. This can be hard. You may get money from the following.

**Working** – your weekly or monthly wage will be taxed before you get it and this is called your net income. Make sure your net income is enough to live on.

**Studying** – to help you with your rent and living costs you can apply for grants and bursaries.

**Benefits** – if you are unemployed, unable to work or on a low income, you may get financial help from Jobcentre Plus. Contact Jobcentre Plus for more information.

**Training** - young people aged between 16 and 18 are entitled to support from Skillseekers. The only exception is students who are in further or higher education. In some cases, people up to the age of 25 can take part in the programme, especially if you are training for a job that needs higher skills through a Skillseekers Modern Apprenticeship. Contact Careers Scotland for more information.

## **Budget plan**

To have enough money to cover all your expenses, you need to know how much money you have coming in and how much money is going out. Before you think of leaving home, you should make a list of the things you will have to spend your money on (that is, rent, bills, food, catalogue payments, mobile phone and so on) and work out your outgoings over a week, two weeks or a month. Take this from your income and this is your budget plan.

## **Coping in your own place**

Once you have moved into a place, there are a lot of things that you will need to get used to doing by yourself,

for example, washing, cleaning, shopping and cooking. You may feel isolated and bored to start with while you get used to being by yourself. Contact the Young Persons Officer who can give you advice and arrange support to help you cope in your home.

## **Housing Benefit and Rent Allowance**

Housing Benefit and Rent Allowance help towards housing costs for people on a low income or those who receive Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance. It is a government scheme to help you pay your rent. Housing Benefit is paid to our tenants and Rent Allowance is paid to housing-association tenants or people staying in private rented accommodation.

If you are under 25 and rent from a private landlord, your Housing Benefit is limited to the equivalent of a single-room rent no matter what full rent is charged (for example, if the rent charged is £50 a week but we say that the single-room equivalent is £40, Housing Benefit will be worked out on £40). It is really very important to speak to the Housing Benefit Section before accepting any offer of rented accommodation.

If you are looking for accommodation and need to know the maximum amount of Housing Benefit or Rent Allowance you will be paid, you must get a pre-tenancy determination (PTD) from your local Revenues Office. This will help you decide whether you will be able to afford the rent before you sign the tenancy agreement. For more information or to get an application for Housing Benefit or Rent Allowance, contact your local Revenues Office.

## **Council Tax**

Council Tax is what you pay to us for public services. You also have to pay water charges separately. If you are a full-time student or under 18, you do not pay Council Tax or the water charge. If you are on a low income or receive Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance, you may be able to get help paying your Council Tax. You will still have to pay the water charge. Contact your local Revenues Office for more information.

## **Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

We run a Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme. Contact the Housing Needs Section for more information.

## Your local contacts

Buckie Area Housing Office .....	01542 837200
Buckie Revenues Office .....	01542 837207
Careers Scotland .....	0800 454488
Central Moray Social Work Team .....	01343 557248
Citizens Advice .....	01343 550088
East Moray Social Work Team .....	01542 837200
Elgin Area Housing Office .....	01343 563429
Elgin Revenues Office .....	01343 563456
Forres Area Housing Office .....	01309 694000
Forres Revenues Office .....	01309 694048
Housing Needs Section .....	01343 563597
Jobcentre Plus .....	01343 528000
Keith Area Housing Office .....	01542 885500
Keith Revenues Office .....	01542 885502
North Moray Social Work Team .....	01343 557240

Out-of-hours Housing and Social Work Services  
(Monday to Friday, 5pm to 8.45am, and  
all day Saturday and Sunday) .....08457 565656

Shelterline  
(24 hours a day, seven days a week) .....0808 800 4444

Throughcare and Aftercare Team .....01343 563568

West Moray Social Work Team .....01309 694000

Young Persons Officer .....01343 563438

We have prepared this leaflet after consulting people who  
previously used the Homeless Service.

You can get more copies of this leaflet by phoning our  
Housing Needs Section on 01343 563597.

Ako biste htjeli da vam se ovaj dokument prevede na vaš jezik ili vam treba u velikom tisku, Braille (tisku za slijepe) ili na kaseti, nazovite oblasni stambeni odjel na nize navedeni broj telefona:

إذا كنت بحاجة لترجمة هذه الوثيقة أو لطباعة بالحرف الكبير أو بطريقة برايل أو على شريط صوتي، اتصل بمكتبك المحلي للإسكان على الرقم أدناه:

আপনার ভাষায় এই ডকুমেন্ট (প্রমাণপত্র) যদি অনুবাদ করানোর প্রয়োজন হয়, অথবা বড়ো অক্ষরে, ব্রেইলে অথবা কেসেটে চান, তাহলে নিচের নম্বরে আপনার স্থানীয় এরিয়া হাউজিং অফিসে টেলিফোন করুন:

欲要求把本文件翻譯成中文，或以特大字體刊印、製成凸字或錄音帶版本撥以下電話，與你所住地區的地區房屋事務主任 (Area Housing Office) 聯絡：

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ, ਵੱਡੇ ਛਾਪੇ, ਬਰੇਲ ਜਾਂ ਕੈਸੇਟ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਸਥਾਨਕ ਏਰੀਆ ਹਾਊਸਿੰਗ ਆਫਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ:

یہ دستاویز اگر آپ کو اپنی زبان، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی، کسٹیمٹ یا بریل میں درکار ہو تو برائے مہربانی مندرجہ ذیل فون نمبر پر اپنے علاقے کے 'یریہاؤسنگ آفس' سے رابطہ کیجئے:

If you need this document translated into your language, in large print, in Braille or on cassette, phone your local area housing office on the number below.

#### **Buckie Area Housing Office**

13 Cluny Square

Buckie.

Phone: **01542 837200**

#### **Elgin Area Housing Office**

Council Office, High Street

Elgin.

Phone: **01343 563429**

#### **Forres Area Housing Office**

Auchernack, High Street

Forres.

Phone: **01309 694000**

#### **Keith Area Housing Office**

The Institute, Mid Street

Keith.

Phone: **01542 885500**