

**Should I stay
or
should I go?**

**Leaving
Home?**



Thinking of leaving home? At the end of your tether? Nowhere else to turn? Just can't take it anymore? This leaflet will explain to you the advantages and disadvantages to living alone at a young age. It is important to plan any decision carefully.

This leaflet is designed to advise and not tell you whether you should stay or go.

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Issues to consider

Advantages

You'll be more independent.

You can do almost anything you want. (Within the law)

You'll make new friends and meet new people.

You'll learn new skills

You'll have more freedom.

Disadvantages

You'll have to pay the rent, bills and buy your own food.

You'll have to spend a lot of your money on furniture.

You'll have less money to spend on going out and doing fun things.

You'll have to do your own shopping.

You'll have to clean up and do all the house work.

You may sometimes get lonely and scared.

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Housing Where will you live?

Renting-What is rent?

Rent = paying a landlord in exchange for living in their property.

When you rent a property a tenancy agreement should be signed by you and your landlord. The agreement tells you all you can and can't do in your new home, how much rent to pay and when. Rents tend to be cheaper with a Council or a Housing Association.

It is also possible to rent a room in a supported housing scheme (sometimes called a hostel), you may have to share some of the facilities but the advantage is you will get help and support.

Things to take into consideration.

The house or flat that you rent will have to be looked after. It is up to you to keep it clean, tidy and not damage it and make sure your friends and family behave when they visit or stay.

Buying.

Buying is very expensive you will need a permanent well paid job to be able to get a mortgage to buy. You will also need around £10,000 as a deposit.

You have to be 18 years of age to get a mortgage or have a tenancy.

Housing Where will you live?

Staying with friends or family.

If you are not ready to live alone, or need a short term option try friends and family.

But REMEMBER.

If you stay with friends or family they are doing this to help you. You need to respect their rules and help out around the house.

Under 18's

If you are aged 16 or 17, you are normally entitled to housing and support from social services, in most cases, rather than the housing department of the district council.

If you do not have a job or you do not earn very much you can get help from the Council towards your rent. Contact North West Leicestershire District Council's Housing Benefit's department for more information. Contact North West Leicestershire District Council's Housing Advice Team for help finding somewhere to live.

All contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

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Jobs

The world runs on money and to get by living on your own you are going to need it. How do you get money? You get a job.

It may sound simple but it's not as easy as it sounds. Hundreds of young people run away each year and they often find themselves on the street because they do not have money or a job.

If you are looking for a job a good place to start would be with friends and family. Ask them if they know of any jobs going at their place of work.

If you are 13 to 19 your best place for careers advice and help looking for a job is Connexions or if you are over 18 you can go to your Local Job Centre Plus. Both organisations will try and help you get a job that's suited to you. A lot of jobs need people with experience but you need to keep persevering. It is a good idea to get some work experience in a job you like or do some voluntary work, this can often lead to a permanent job. Volunteering will help built up your experience and improve your chances of getting a job.

All contact details are on the back of this leaflet.



Money

Money worries are a big issue for home leavers. You will find that out that when you leave home. Money will seem to be flying away because you have to think about rent, bills and food. How will you get to and from work/college? By the time you have paid for a month living alone you will have hardly any money left for going out or spending on treats. Is it really worth it after all?

You will also need to furnish your place this will include costs for the following.

Bed
Bedding and towels.
Sofa and chairs

Appliances such as
cooker and a fridge
Cooking utensils
Wardrobe and Drawers



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Money

This table shows the estimated weekly cost of living in your own place.

This does not include all your likely expenses.

Essential Items	Estimated Weekly Cost
Rent	75.00
Food/Household items	40.00
Council Tax	17.00
Gas	7.00
Electricity	7.00
Water	5.00
Clothing	10.00
TV Licence	3.00
Insurance	1.50
Total	165.50
Extras	
Entertainment	15.00
Telephone	10.00
Travel/Fares	5.00
Total	30.00
GRAND TOTAL	195.00



Your Future

If the reason you want to leave home is because you are having troubles at home, it is important to think things through before just leaving, or you may find yourself out on the street.

If you are having family troubles North West Leicestershire District Council's Housing Advice Team can offer mediation to young people and their family members. With the help of a trained mediator every family member gets a chance to have their say. Then the mediator will work through everyone's differences and try and come up with solutions that work for everyone.

Before you make any hasty decisions get advice.

What now?

So you've left home because you felt you didn't have a choice. Your lucky you have found a new home, you've just settled in you sit on your sofa and it hits you. You start thinking about your past, may-be about your family or even your friends.



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Your Future

When you first live on your own you may feel lonely or find it difficult to manage. If this happens you should try this advice.

- Go to local events socialise, get to know more people and make new friends.
- Help out volunteering for local community groups, its good experience and you will meet new people.
- Join a leisure club or an evening class, improve your health and learn new skills.
- Talk to people in a similar position to you this will help you to deal with the emotional side of leaving home.
- Talk to your neighbours and get to know them.
- Try some of the advice agencies on the back of this leaflet.

Don't suffer alone there are people and organisations who can help if you have difficulties managing on your own just go and speak to someone.

All contact details are on the back of this leaflet

This leaflet has been designed on behalf of North West Leicestershire District Council by students of Ashby School, Ashby de-la Zouch, Leicestershire.



Contacts and Information

Contacts and Information

North West Leicestershire District Council - Housing Advice (9am-5pm mon-fri)
01530 454 811 01530 454 789 (Emergency out of hours service)
housing.advice@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Provide free advice and assistance on all housing matters to anybody in the District who needs it.

North West Leicestershire District Council - Benefits Advice (9am-5pm mon-fri)
01530 454 545 benefits@nwleicestershire.gov.uk

Provide information about benefits that can help pay your rent if you are eligible.

North West Leicestershire Homelessness Project (Open 9am-12:30pm mon-fri)
Marlene Reid Centre, 85, Belvoir Road, Coalville LE67 3PH.
01530 510515 lbwistle@googlemail.com

A charity which assists people in the district who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Connexions Coalville
5 Hotel Street Coalville Leicestershire
01530 812 231 www.connexions-leics.org

Provide advice on education, careers, housing, money, and life. They provide advice for people with a learning disability or a physical disability up to the age of 25.

Jobcentre Plus. Coalville
01530 503800 www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk

Childline (free 24 hour)
0800 11 11 www.childline.org.uk
Free and confidential helpline for children & young adults in the UK

Shelter's free housing advice line (8am - 8pm weekdays & 8am-5pm weekends)
0808 800 4444 www.shelter.org.uk
Free and confidential housing advice line, can advise on emergency accommodation.

Samaritans (free, 24-hour)
08457 90 90 90 www.samaritans.org
Free confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing distress or despair.