



This is a very big step and that is why 'Project First Step' has been set up. Here you will find help and advice which is produced specifically for your needs and you can also download or print information tailored to suit you.

When you are planning to leave home there is plenty you will need to think about first:

- Do you have enough money to pay the monthly rent?
- How do you apply for a property?
- Do you need to pay a deposit?
- What about insurance?
- Will the property come with furniture?
- What about extra costs such as going out, or even food?

There is a lot of support out there, both from the council and other organisations set up to deal with such enquiries. Once you have your home you will be responsible to retain its tenancy (the agreement between you and the owner of the property), if you do not they are able to end it - leaving you homeless again.

We want to provide you with sufficient information to help stop this from happening:

What help can I get?

- Help for first time or vulnerable tenants
- Family and friends

Housing options

- I am not getting on with my family and want to move out.
- Is it the right time for me to be moving?
- What are my housing options?
- What is private renting?
- Can I apply for a Dudley Council home?

- [How do I apply for a council or housing association home](#)

Financial considerations

- [Can I afford to move home and get my own place?](#)
- [How do I apply for benefits?](#)
- [Changes to housing benefit from 2013?](#)

Other considerations

- [I have a disability or a long term illness and want somewhere to live](#)
- [I'm from an ethnic minority](#)
- [I'm lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered](#)
- [I'm leaving care](#)
- [I'm a young parent](#)

For more information go to the ['Got my own place but need some help'](#) section

You might be planning to leave home several years from now, in a few months, or even in an emergency. But it pays to have the right information, who to ask for help, where to go, what to expect. On this site you can make your [own leaving home plan](#).

If you apply for housing some landlords will ask to see your plan so that they know that you are ready to cope with having your own home.