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# Advice on parental eviction

This leaflet provides advice and information for young people who are thinking of leaving or have been asked to leave their family home. It is intended to help you make good choices and find out what's available in your area.

#### Are you Homeless?

You could be classed as homeless if:

- You have been asked to leave by your parents
- It is not safe for you to stay at home because of violence or threats of violence

If you think you are homeless or could become homeless then you should contact Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council via customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk, call 02476 376406 or drop into the Town Hall, Coton Road, Nuneaton between 9am and 5pm to arrange an appointment.

The <u>Council's website</u> can give you further information on what to do if you are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

You can also contact organisations such as the local <u>Citizens Advice</u> or <u>Shelter</u> which provide free independent advice on all housing problems.

You can contact Shelter on 0808 800 4444 or the local Citizens Advice on 02476 494393. What to do if

#### you feel unsafe at home

If you have absolutely no choice and feel that you must leave home immediately, for example because someone is being violent or abusive towards you, you must seek help right away.

As well as the Council, there are several agencies who can assist you, including perhaps finding you a safe place to go. Some of these are listed below:

- ChildLine: 0800 1111 free 24-hour support helpline for children and young people
- Women's Aid: 0808 2000 free 24-hour helpline for victims of domestic violence
- <u>Shelter</u>: 0808 800 4444 free 24-hour helpline giving information on housing
- <u>National Domestic Violence Helpline</u> on 0808 2000 247

#### Leaving home as a young person (aged 16-25)

Leaving your parental home at a very young age, especially if you have nowhere to go, should be the very last option that you should consider. You could easily end up homeless. You will not necessarily be entitled to a Council house, and you may have to find a deposit and rent in advance for a home in the private sector.

For your <u>rights on housing</u> if you are under 18.

Some 18- to 21-year-olds claiming Universal Credit will also not be entitled to help with housing costs in Universal Credit full service areas, which includes Nuneaton and Bedworth.

The <u>Government</u> website provides more information about which 18-21 year olds can still get help with their housing costs.

Nuneaton and Bedworth have a local charity called <u>Doorway</u> (02476 345583) that helps young people aged 16-25 in the Borough who are faced with homelessness. They provide advice, support and development which aim to tackle all aspects of social disadvantage including poor housing, low levels of household incomes and low educational attainment.

Also, <u>St Basils</u> is a charity and housing association that works with young people aged 16-24 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, to enable them to find and keep a home, grow their confidence, develop their skills, increase opportunities and prevent homelessness.

## If you are under 16

If you are under 16 and having serious problems at home, there are several agencies that can help you.

<u>Children's Services</u> at Warwickshire County Council **(01926 410410)** will try and help you sort things out so you can stay at home. If living at home is too dangerous or impossible, they can:

- arrange for you to live with another family member or adult
- find you emergency accommodation
- look at other options including living with a foster family

## If you are 16 or 17

If you are 16 or 17 and homeless or if you are staying somewhere where you do not feel safe, then you should approach Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council or Warwickshire County Council. In an emergency they can help you find somewhere safe for you to stay the night and will assess you to see if you are a 'child in need'. If they agree you are, they can help you:

- Find a place to live (and they pay for it)
- Get into training and education
- Tackle personal issues like drugs or alcohol
- Be given an allowance
- Be given support

## If you need further help

There are lots of agencies which support young people with a range of issues including housing, jobs and career advice, finances, drug and alcohol issues, personal health and safety and much more.

Some of these are listed below:

- Talk to frank for advice and information on drugs and their effects 0300 123 6600
- <u>Victim Support</u> offer advice and support to victims of crime **0808 16 89 111**
- Shelter offer advice and support relating to housing and homelessness 0808 800 4444
- Gov.uk National Careers Service helpline 0800 100 900
- Support for young people who are not in education, employment or training

If you require any further advice or assistance, please call 02476 376406 or email <u>customer.services@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk</u>