

Available Options

Housing - This could be in a foster or children's home or in some form of supported living. We would try to make sure you are near to your friends and family and can continue with your studies or work. We cannot promise that we will be able to find you somewhere locally but we would help you keep in touch with people who matter to you.

Money - You will not be entitled to claim benefits but you will receive an allowance from us.

Support - You will have a social care worker who will visit you at least fortnightly in the first three months. There will be a 16+ worker after that who will support you when you are ready for independence.

Planning - There will always be a plan about all your needs which will be reviewed regularly at meetings that you can attend and, if you like, you can chair!

Alternatives - We will be very happy to help you return home, even if we do look after you for a while, providing this is safe. If you decide you cannot go back home and do not want to be looked after by the local authority, and if you believe you can manage on your own, you can apply to the Housing Authority to see if they will find you somewhere to live. They will want to see our assessment and will want to know more about why you cannot live at home and why you have decided not to be looked after by us.

Even if you are given somewhere to live by Housing, we will still want to see if there is anything we can do to help you. This might include putting you in touch with another agency.

Questions or Comments

If you have any worries, questions or comments, do talk to the person who does your assessment.

We want to help you as much as we can.

You will be given a copy of our leaflet "Children's Comments and Complaints".

This is another opportunity to make your views known and, if necessary, to make a complaint.

Homeless 16 & 17 Year Olds in Cambridgeshire

Information for young adults
in Cambridgeshire





Most people believe it is OK to leave home at 16 and live independently but did you know that the average age for people leaving home is 24?

We know that lots of teenagers fall out with their parents but it is nearly always better to stay at home at least until you are 18.

Parents remain legally responsible for their teenage children at least until their 18th birthday

Lots of different services are available in Cambridgeshire that try to help you and your family stay together and to sort out any difficulties you have.

They include:

- ◆ Connexions Workers
- ◆ Children's Social Care
- ◆ Voluntary Agencies such as Centre 33
- ◆ Housing, and many more.

Sometimes there are risks to you at home and you really do feel you need to move out for your own safety. If so, we will do an assessment to see if Social Care should be helping you find somewhere else to live.

You can get in touch with us yourself by ringing our Contact Centre on:

0345 045 5203

Or someone else can ring for you

Once we have talked to you we will need to contact your parents to find out more about what is happening at home, what the problem is and whether there is anything we can do to help.

We will not do anything that will put you at risk and we will listen carefully to what you have to say.

Sometimes it's possible to stay with a relative and we will talk to you about this too.

What happens if you can't go home?

If you really can't go home and there is no one in your family who can help, we will talk to you about being looked after by the local authority.

This is also called being accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

You can request this yourself. It does not take away your parents' responsibilities for you but it **does** mean that we would help make sure that you are safe and that your needs are being met.

We would help you with where you live but also with your **education, training or employment.**



We would want to make sure that you are fit, healthy and enjoying life.