

The centre is open 8.30 am-4.00pm (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday), 9.30am-4.30pm (Tuesday) and 9.30am-4.00pm (Friday).

## Nowhere to sleep tonight?

If you have nowhere to sleep tonight you should:

- Ask your friends or family if you can stay with them.
- Nightstop might be able to find you a bed for the night. They are based at 21b Middle Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3AY, telephone them on **0161 474 0520**. They're open between 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday.
- Contact Shelterline (a free 24 hour helpline for people who are homeless or have housing problems) on **0808 800 4444**.

## Useful weblinks for housing

[www.housemate.org.uk](http://www.housemate.org.uk)

[www.centrepoin.org.uk](http://www.centrepoin.org.uk)

[www.crisis.org.uk](http://www.crisis.org.uk)

[www.stockport.gov.uk/Council/commserv/hadvice.asp](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/Council/commserv/hadvice.asp)

[www.foyer.net](http://www.foyer.net)

If you would like help contacting any of the agencies mentioned in this leaflet speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

## Get Involved!

We want young people's views and opinions about how the Connexions Service should be run. So if you want to contribute to making Connexions a better service then contact us through our website. Alternatively speak to your Connexions Personal Adviser about it.

## Need to speak to someone when we are closed?

Talk to Connexions Direct

Call us

**080 800 13 2 19**

Text us

**077664 13 2 19**

Webchat or Email

**connexions-direct.com**

connexions

STOCKPORT

Connexions Centre  
64 Chestergate  
Stockport SK1 1NP  
Tel: **0161 475 7700**  
Fax: **0161 476 6760**

Email: [enquiries@connexions-stockport.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@connexions-stockport.co.uk)  
Web: [www.connexions-stockport.org.uk](http://www.connexions-stockport.org.uk)

The Connexions Stockport contract is managed by Stockport Council's Education Services.

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March 2005

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housing



If you don't have much money, are leaving home for the first time or have left home in a hurry because of family problems, it can be difficult finding somewhere to stay and you may end up homeless.

connexions

STOCKPORT

## Leaving home

Leaving home can give you freedom, independence and control.

### BUT

Leaving home can also leave you feeling lonely, in debt and overwhelmed.

Think about why you want to leave home. If it is because of an argument with your family, can you sort something out that makes living together easier? See your Connexions Personal Adviser for advice.

## Leaving care

If you are in care, social services have to help you plan for when you leave – this includes helping you find somewhere to live. Speak to your social worker about finding housing and applying for financial help.

## Leaving prison

If you have just left custody and are homeless, the Probation Service or Youth Offending Service will give you advice about housing.

## Your housing options

There are different types of rented accommodation available:

- Shared housing – living with others.
- Lodgings – where you rent a room in the landlord's/landlady's house.
- Self contained flats and houses – the most expensive option.
- Bedsits – which are usually one room.

You can rent accommodation from different types of landlords/landladies:

- Councils
- Housing associations
- Private landlords.

Councils and housing associations have waiting lists and offer housing to people who are in the greatest need. They may have housing where help and support are offered if you have just left home.

## What to look for when you view a property

When you go to look at a house, it is a good idea to get someone to go with you. Make sure you find out:

- How much is the rent? Does it include bills?
- Will furniture and kitchen equipment be provided?
- What heating is there? Check that the gas safety certificate is up-to-date.
- Does the property seem well looked after?
- Is the house secure? Would you feel safe living there?
- Who is responsible for paying for repairs?
- Who else lives there? Do you think you'll get on with them?
- Are there any rules?
- Are there any shops nearby?
- What is the local transport like? Is the property close to a bus/train/tram route?

Don't make a decision immediately. Think about the cost and if you'll be happy living there before you get back to the landlord/landlady.

## Once you've found accommodation

You will have to sign a tenancy agreement or a licence agreement which sets out your and the landlord's/landlady's rights and responsibilities.

Make sure you read it carefully and understand it all before you sign it. You will have to pay the rent regularly. If you don't, you may be asked to leave or be evicted from the accommodation.

## What if you are homeless?

The Housing Advice Team at Stockport MBC can provide advice if you are homeless. They can be found at the Housing Information Centre, 1 St Peters Square, Stockport. Their telephone number is: **0161 474 4237** or you can email them at: [housing.advice@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:housing.advice@stockport.gov.uk).