

from 10.30am -3.30pm at The Hub, Roughmoor Enterprise Centre. For an appointment contact the telephone number below.

Tel: 01823 321212

NOVAS Floating Support

NOVAS is a housing organisation that provides floating support for single people aged 16 - 65 in West Somerset. The support workers can help with a range of issues. You can be referred to them by another agency, eg Shelter, or they hold an 'open door' session on Fridays 10.00am – 3.00pm in Minehead at the Minehead Customer Centre, 1-3 Summerland Road, Minehead. Alternate Tuesdays 11.00am – 2.00pm at The Hope Centre, Park Lane, Minehead and in Watchet on the last Thursday of each month from 11.00am – 2.30pm at The Link, Anchor Street

Tel: 01458 253068

Shelter

Somerset Housing Aid Centre
Apsley House
Tower Street
Taunton
TA1 4BH

Tel: 0800 169 0317

CONTACT THE COUNCIL



Phone us on 01643 703704
Monday to Friday between 8.30am
and 5pm

Emergency:
Careline 0800 0831404
(5pm - 8.30am)



Write to us at: West Somerset
Council, West Somerset House,
Killick Way, Williton, Taunton,
Somerset, TA4 4QA



In Person at the Minehead
Customer Centre, 1-3 Summerland
Road, between 9am and 5pm
Monday to Friday, or the Council
Offices at Williton between
8.30am and 5pm Monday to
Thursday, and 8.30am to 4.30 pm
on Friday



Email us at
customerservices@westsomerset.gov.uk



Download forms, leaflets and
information from our website at
www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk



Housing Options for Young People

This document can be made available in
large print, Braille, tape format or in other
languages upon request

Leaving home is one of the biggest steps you take in your life and it can present a lot of problems if it isn't planned properly.

This information sets out the main options for young people considering living independently.

Staying in your present home

If you are over 18 you can leave your home without anyone's permission. If you are 16 or 17 you need a parent's or guardian's consent.

You cannot legally hold a tenancy until you are 18 and landlords are not always willing to let to very young people. You could face major problems finding somewhere to live. If it is possible you should stay at home until you can complete a 'planned leave'. That means arranging alternative accommodation to move straight into when you leave home.

If you are unhappy at home and feel no-one is listening to you, there are people you can talk to who can help. We have a Mediation Service to work with you and your family to help solve problems. This can really help if you try to talk, but always end up arguing.

Staying with friends

Some young people move out of home and stay with friends. This often happens after an argument and you can end up moving from place to place or 'sofa surfing'. This can provide space for you to sort out your problems at home. However, without a settled address you may have problems with benefits, employment and education.

Private renting

If your first home is rented from a private landlord, you will almost always need to pay a deposit and rent in advance before you move in. Most tenancies are for 6 or 12 months initially, but can be extended. If you are under 18 you are likely to have problems finding somewhere, as you cannot legally hold a tenancy.

If you are under 25 and on a low income, the amount of Housing Benefit you can claim is limited to a room in a shared house level. It is unlikely that you will be able to afford your own self-contained property at this stage.

If you are homeless or threatened with homelessness and need help with a deposit or rent in advance you should speak to a Housing Officer to see what help is available to you for this.

Lodgings

This is where a landlord lets out a room in their home. You will have fewer tenancy rights if you live with your landlord, but this option can be cheaper. It can also give a friendly supportive environment to prepare you for living completely independently.

Meals and other services may be provided, but you will need to check out how much you will have to pay for these 'extras' as most of them will not be eligible for Housing Benefit. Be sure you understand and agree to any 'house rules' before you move in.

Supported Accommodation

There is currently one resource of supported housing in West Somerset. It is for young people aged 16 - 25 years. There are 9 places in the resource and you must be referred for a place by another agency, eg West Somerset Council, Connexions. You must have support needs to get a place there. Each tenant has their own bedroom with en-suite bathroom and shared use of a kitchen let to them under an assured shorthold tenancy. After 2 years in the resource tenants must move on to alternative accommodation and they get support to help them do this.

Single and Homeless

If you are aged 18 or over, we may not have a duty to you under current Homelessness Legislation, but we may be able to help you in other ways. A Housing Officer will go through the options available to you.

Support and Advice

Connexions

Connexions is a service provided specifically for young people aged 13-19. The Staff are able to advise on a range of issues such as careers, housing, health and money.

There are connexions workers based at West Somerset Community College and the service can also be accessed in Minehead on Fridays from 9.30am – 4.40pm at Somerset Care, Unit C, 41 Alcombe Road and in Williton on Tuesdays