

# **Housing Support for Care Leavers**

An easy read leaflet

# Introduction

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## **What is this about?**

This guide explains how Bedford Borough Council and other services help young people who have been in care to find and keep a safe place to live when they leave care.



## **What is the aim?**

To make sure care leavers:

- Get the right housing and support.
- Are not homeless.
- Can live independently and safely.
- Are treated fairly and supported like any other young person would be by a parent.

# Who is involved & can get help?

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## Who is involved?

- Children's Services
- Housing Teams
- Supporting Futures Team
- Youth Justice Service
- Foster carers
- Other support services



## Who can get help?

You can get help if:

- You were in care with Bedford Borough Council.
- You are over 17½ years old.
- You are ready to live independently.
- You have a connection to Bedford.
- You've applied for housing online.
- You've worked with your social worker or personal adviser on your Pathway Plan.

# Housing

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## Housing Options

You might live:

- With your foster carer (Staying Put).
- With family or friends.
- In supported accommodation.
- In supported lodgings.
- In social housing (like a council flat).
- In housing for young parents or people with disabilities.



## How to Apply for Housing

1. Apply online at <http://www.myhomeoptions.org.uk/>
2. Your social worker or adviser helps you with the form.
3. They send your documents to the Housing Team.
4. Your application goes live when you turn 18.



## **Getting a Place to Live**

- You can bid for homes online.
- If you don't get a place after 5 tries, the Council may offer you one directly.
- You'll get help to understand your tenancy and benefits.
- Your adviser will visit you within 10 days of moving in.



## **If You Refuse a Home**

- You can ask for a review if you think the home isn't suitable.
- If the review agrees with you, you'll get another offer.
- If not, you may not get another offer - so it's important to accept and ask for a review.

# Support

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## Support After You Move In

- You'll have a personal adviser until you're at least 21 (or up to 25).
- They'll check in with you regularly.
- You'll get help with budgeting, benefits, and settling in.

## If You're at Risk of Homelessness

- Your adviser will act quickly to help you.
- You may get emergency housing.
- You'll be supported to find a new place to live.



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## Reviews and Monitoring

- Your Pathway Plan is reviewed every 6 months.
- The Council checks how the housing support is working and makes improvements.



