



# Housing Advice

## Care Leavers

If you are over 18 years of age and are assessed as a care leaver you will be entitled to receive support from your Children's Services Leaving Care Personal Advisor.

If you are aged over 18, your Leaving Care Personal Advisor will help you to find suitable accommodation. This might involve:

- Working with the Council's Housing Options Services to come up with suitable housing options for you.
- Help to obtain supported accommodation if you are not ready or don't want to have your own tenancy.
- If this is what you and your foster carers want, we can support you to remain with your foster carers under what's called a 'Staying Put' arrangement. This can last until you are 21
- Support to access social housing (this is accommodation managed by a housing association) by applying through **Property Pool Plus** with One Vision Housing. If you are not registered, you can do so online via [www.propertypoolplus.org.uk](http://www.propertypoolplus.org.uk)
- All care leavers to age 25yrs will be given band B priority status upon registering for social housing, although that does not guarantee that you will be offered housing or how long that may take.
- Advice about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent or Council Tax arrears, paying bills and budgeting.
- Helping you to claim housing benefit/universal credit/council tax exemption.
- Practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home.
- Supporting you if you have a housing crisis, including helping if you are threatened with losing, or lose, a tenancy.

With regard to your housing the Leaving Care Personal Advisor should contact the Council's Housing Options Service to try and secure the best housing outcome for you.

If you are actually homeless or will be homeless within the next 56 days then you need to contact the Council's Housing Options Service on 0151 934 3541 so an assessment can be carried out. If possible, your Personal Advisor should accompany you to the assessment alternatively the Housing Options Service will contact your Personal Advisor for clarification of your status and any other advice they can give.

## Self-Refer

You are also able to self-refer to Sefton Housing Option Team by completing the registration form



by following the link to Sefton's Jigsaw Registration form

General Advice about the Council's Local Offer for Care Leavers can be found at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/children-and-young-people/children-looked-after/children-in-care-and-care-leavers/sefton-local-offer-for-care-leavers/>

## Where to go to get help and Advice

For further information, or if you need help because you might become homeless, contact us on 0151 934-3541 and ask to speak to a housing options advisor.

You can come into see our Housing Options Service which is based at Magdalene House, Trinity Road, Bootle, L20 3NJ, between the hours of:

- Monday 10am - 4pm
- Tuesday 10am - 4pm
- Wednesday 10am - 4pm
- Thursday 10am - 4pm
- Friday 10am – 3pm

If you are in need of Out of Hours advice, please click here for details on how to do this.

Alternatively, if you live in the Southport area you may make your initial enquiry to the Southport Housing Centre, 68 Eastbank Street, Southport, PR8 1ES or on 01704 501256. Drop in for advice: Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm, or, Friday 10am to 3pm.

If you are in need of Out of Hours appointment, please click here for details on how to do this.

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