

Young, Single and Homeless In Denbighshire?

- What it means
- What can happen
- Who can help

Leaving home is a massive step to take.

There can be some real financial hardships – especially if you are under 18. But if you **have** to leave home it's best to get advice first – from your school or college, housing options officer or advice agency, such as Shelter Cymru, Citizens Advice or Child Line.

If you are 16 or 17 and homeless the Council has to help, but only within certain limits.

You will get a joint interview from housing and social services who will assess your needs and decide how to help you. The Council will always try and help you return to your family if it is safe to do so. We will also try mediation and have a “conflict resolution” service. But we won't force you to go back if you are at risk doing so.

If you are assessed as a homeless person **and** the law says the Council has to help you, you will be offered temporary accommodation and the Council will try its best to accommodate you near to your social networks but cannot guarantee it. You will have to provide us with information if we ask you - for example a birth certificate, proof of identity, your National Insurance Number and details of where you have been living.

Depending on your circumstances, you may be given accommodation in a hostel with support, or perhaps bed and breakfast for a short time. If you are under 18 it is very unlikely you will be given a flat of your own because you are legally too young to have a tenancy. If you are given hostel accommodation or B&B you will be required to stick to house rules.

If you want to leave home – ***think first about how you are going to manage.***

Take advice.

If you are under 25 and single and have to go to a private landlord you will only get housing benefit for one room, and for a certain fixed amount. If the rent is more **you** will have to pay the extra. You will also have to pay Council Tax, water rates, electricity, gas and pay for all your own food. You will have to look after your home, keep it tidy and do your own washing. Have you thought how much this will cost?

Put simply, you may not have enough money to live on. If you are evicted because you don't pay the rent or are a nuisance to your neighbours this could make you “intentionally homeless” and the Council might not have to help you again.

So get advice BEFORE you decide to leave home.

What if I have been in social services care?

Most care leavers are not eligible for state benefits - including housing benefit - until they are 18. If you are in full time education this will be until you finish it. Social services will have to find you accommodation until you are 18 even if you are homeless.

Research shows that young homeless people are more likely to offend, take drugs or drink to excess, be the victims of sexual exploitation (female and male), and have mental health problems. In other words:

You may be better of seeking help to sort out your problems at home than leaving it.

Where to get help: North Denbighshire:

Social Services and Housing Options are based at:
64 Brighton Road, Rhyl, LL18 3HP Tel: **01824 706000**
(Mon - Thurs 9.00-5.00; Fri 9.00 - 4.30)

West Rhyl Young Peoples Project and VIVA
17 Bedford Street, Rhyl **01745 351291**. Advice & support
Drop in - Mon 1 - 3, Tue & Thur 1 - 4, Fri 1 - 5

Rhyl Youth Action Group & Café 69 - 75 Wellington Road, Rhyl LL18 1BE
Mon - Thurs 6 - 9.30pm Tel: **01745 344 866**

Rhyl Night Shelter, Marine Villas, 1 Crescent Road Rhyl **01745 361 728**.
Night shelter for 18+ years, help with finding accommodation and access to bond scheme (16+). Access after 5.30pm

Y Dyfodol (Clwyd Alyn Housing Association) – 19 Crescent Road,
Rhyl **01745 338885** – supported accommodation for 16 - 25 year olds mainly in shared rooms with move on accommodation.

NACRO – 8a Bodfor Street, Rhyl, supported housing schemes in
Rhyl & Denbigh for single young offenders **01745 331586**

Tai Hafan Rhyl Vulnerable Women's Project, 17a Crescent Road, Rhyl
01745 360530. Accommodation for young single mothers.

Pop In Centre **01745 857722**
28 - 30 Meliden Road, Prestatyn (near ALDI)
Tues 7 - 9pm, Wed, Thur & Fri 12 - 9pm, Sat 10 - 8pm

Please do not travel to Citizens Advice or Shelter Cymru without first telephoning – always try to make an appointment

Shelter Cymru – Independent Advice and assistance

Unit 5, Station Buildings, Bodfor St, Rhyl **01745 361444** 9.30 – 4.30

Citizens Advice - Independent Advice 11 Water St., Rhyl **01745 334568**

Money Advice Unit: **01745 814 338**

Where to get help: South Denbighshire

Social Services and Housing Options are based at Council Offices, Wynnstay Road, Ruthin LL15 1YN; 01824 706000 (Mon - Thurs 9.00 - 5.00; Fri 9.00 – 4.30)

Shelter Cymru: PO Box 2293, Wrexham **01978 317911** 9.30 - 4.30

Citizens Advice;

Denbigh: 23 High Street, **01745 814336**

Ruthin: The Old Fire Station, Market St, **01824 703483**

Llangollen 37 Hall Street **01978 860983**

Money Advice Unit: **01745 814 338**

Other

Denbighshire Supported Lodgings for 16-21 year olds – supported lodgings in households offering family style placement.

Eirianfa Community Centre, Factory Place, Denbigh LL16 3TS

Tel: **0845 051 8282**

Childline: 0800 1111

NSPCC: **0808 800 5000**

Wales Domestic Abuse Help Line 0808 801 0800

Triangle Wales 0808 801 0306 Free confidential housing advice helpline for Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual people

For full information about the Council's Services and voluntary agencies in Denbighshire visit the Council's website on www.denbighshire.gov.uk