

Living with family or friends and been asked to leave?

Living with Family and Friends - Eviction

You have been given this information because the friends/family you currently live with have asked you to leave.

Living with family or friends is the cheapest form of accommodation and it can give you the opportunity to save money as well as to engage in education and training.

If you are moving out of your family home the first time it is especially important that you are well prepared. We will work with you to try to prevent you from becoming homeless and help you move on in a planned way.

Why you may have been asked to leave

This could be because:

- you aren't paying enough towards household costs
- there are lots of arguments in the home
- your friends/family are unhappy about your behaviour
- you aren't keeping to the conditions of your stay
- overcrowding is causing tension in the home

There may be things you can do which could allow you to stay living with family and friends for longer or until you resolve your housing situation. For example:

- changing your behaviour - if this has become an issue
- paying more towards household costs - if the people you live with claim benefits they will have money deducted because you live there (this is called a 'non-dependent deduction')
- claiming Universal Credit to help towards your housing costs - if you are living with friends and you have your own room you may be able to make a claim for Universal Credit to help with the cost of the rent

How we can help

We will arrange to hold a meeting with your family/friends, confirm your situation and try to agree a plan to try to prevent you from becoming homeless. Your plan could include:

- working with you and your friends/family to discuss and agree changes in how you live together so you can remain living with them - this is called an acceptable behaviour contract (ABC)
- referring you to a floating support service - Floating Support is support provided to you in the community to help you to sustain your current or future accommodation.

We will contact you and your friends/family regularly to make sure that the steps agreed with you both are working.

Helping you moving on in a planned way

If staying with friends or family is not a long-term option we will offer advice and help you to create a personalised housing plan which includes appropriate and realistic options for moving on.

This may include:

- offering advice and support to help you find private rented accommodation - see our factsheet "*Finding Private Rented Accommodation*" and the "*The Rent Deposit Scheme*" for more information on the support we can offer
- referring you to supported accommodation – this depends on your needs and whether you have lived on your own before. Supported Accommodation is where housing and support are provided as an integrated package. Services are designed to help people develop the emotional and practical skills needed to move on into independent housing
- helping you to apply to the Housing Needs Register - see our factsheet "*Housing Needs Register*". In some situations, people living with friends and family are entitled to the same priority banding as homeless applicants who are living in temporary accommodation. By doing this we hope give the opportunity of being housed before a point of crisis is reached without the need to make a homeless application.

Contact Housing Service to arrange a Housing Options appointment if you are worried about becoming homeless in the future. We are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm.

Telephone: 01372 732000 (office hours) or email: housing@epsom-ewell.gov.uk