

## Factsheet 8

# I live in my friend or family's home and they've asked me to leave

If you are currently living with friends or family and have been asked to leave or are just looking to move-on, taking proactive steps may prevent you from being homeless.

### Can you stay?

There are many reasons why it could be you have been asked to leave. Are your hosts struggling with their finances, are you making any contributions to rent/bills? Is the property overcrowded and your hosts don't know what steps you are taking to move on? Has there been a relationship breakdown which is making it uncomfortable? Knowing why you have been asked to leave is the first step to addressing any potential causes.

### Kent Family Mediation Service

Provides a professional and impartial family mediation service on matters such as access to children, child maintenance, the family home, property and finances after a family break-up, divorce or separation.

They can be contacted by email: [contact@kentfms.co.uk](mailto:contact@kentfms.co.uk) or by telephone 01795 410457



### Help to budget

FHDC have an inhouse Money Advice Service which any resident can access for free advice regarding their benefits and household income and budget. You can self-refer into this by emailing [revenues.benefits@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:revenues.benefits@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

### Income Maximizing

If you are on a low income you can assess your entitlement to benefits and complete a budget planner to help to maximize your income at [folkestoneandhythehomelessness.entitledto.co.uk](http://folkestoneandhythehomelessness.entitledto.co.uk)

### Looking for affordable private rented accommodation

This is likely to be your fastest solution to securing somewhere to live in the local area. Finances are often the biggest barrier so make sure you have followed the advice above and if you are still struggling you might need to look in more affordable areas of the country.

## **Applying to the Council's Housing List**

If you are not already registered on your local Council's Housing List you should apply as soon as possible. If your local Council is in Kent you can apply online through the Kent Homechoice website at [www.kenthomechoice.org.uk](http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk). You generally have to have a local connection to the area you are applying to for social housing and you will be asked to provide evidence in connection with your application, which will include proof of identification and local connection to the area at the very least. If you are not on the housing list you cannot be considered for council housing or housing association properties.

For more information on looking for private rented or social housing please refer to our factsheet 'Housing Advice in the Folkestone and Hythe District'.

## **Affordable Home Ownership**

You may be able to get financial help from the Government to buy a home. The Help to Buy scheme was created by Government to help working people get on the Housing ladder. To find out more visit [www.helptobuy.gov.uk](http://www.helptobuy.gov.uk).

## **If you have been asked to leave in the next 56 days**

Contact your Council if you are homeless or required to leave within the next 56 days. Locally you can do this by accessing the Councils website to complete an online self-assessment, which will give you some basic advice and information.

If you are assessed as needing more help you will be asked to complete a more detailed assessment. Once the second assessment is complete you will be contacted to arrange/complete a telephone assessment and you will be required to provide contact details for the person that you are staying with for us to be able to speak with them and confirm when you have to leave.

The officer will always look to first prevent any homelessness and this will include looking at what can be done to secure your current accommodation and if not possible, somewhere else to live.

You will be given advice and support about other housing options and how to access them, including the private rented sector, you may also be able to access assistance with rent in advance and or a deposit guarantee payment, however it should be noted that financial assistance is at the discretion of the local authority.