

## **Factsheet 4: Housing Advice at Runnymede Borough Council-Are your parents threatening to evict you from the family home ? Are you 16/17 years old ?**

If you have approached the Council because your parents have or are threatening to evict you from the family home, we will want to know the reasons why and we will try to resolve these issues with you. If you are 16/17 years of age we will refer your case to the Youth Support Service (YSS) at Surrey County Council. If you have nowhere to stay that night, the YSS will source emergency accommodation for you.

If you are under 16 years of age we are not allowed to deal with your case by law and we will refer you immediately to Social Services

We will contact your parent(s)/guardian and discuss with them, the actions /issues that led to this situation. We will require you to provide us with contact details so we can do this. We will telephone your parent(s)/guardian while you are in the interview room with us so you are aware of the discussions and we will encourage you to talk to your parent(s)/guardian also, with a view to resolving issues so you can return home.

If you have approached the council for advice on this subject and are in priority need for accommodation, we will arrange a home visit and require the household to be present so we can discuss all the issues in the home environment.

Most importantly, you must not think that because you have had an argument at home and things are difficult that the answer is to leave home. It is not the glamorous option that it is made out to be and you may end up sleeping rough and putting yourself in great danger. You must also realise that wherever you live, there will be rules. If you want to live independently, this needs to be a planned option and you need to look at your money situation and your ability to live on your own. If you don't have any money you can't pay rent and bills, and you won't have a social life as you will have no money to go out with friends.

At 16/17 years of age, private landlords will not grant you a tenancy without a guarantor and the Council does not give tenancies to 16/17 year olds. You can join the Housing Register but you do have to be 18 years of age before we will allow you to hold a tenancy in your name.

The myth that the Council will give you a place to live if you can't do 'as you please' at home is not true. Parents need to understand this as much as the young person themselves and both parties need to work harder at compromising in the family home.

