

Where can I live?

A simple guide for young people

You can stay at home

It is not unusual for young people to still live at home with their parents. The cost of housing often means that young people are staying at home longer than in years gone by.

Good things:

- People you know
- Help every day
- Usually cheaper

Think about:

- You may want more independence
- You might need extra support

You can rent a home

This means living in your own place or sharing.

You could:

- Live alone
- Share with other people
- Rent from a landlord or the council

Good things:

- More independence
- Your own space

Think about:

- You must pay rent and bills
- Renting privately can be expensive
- Sharing a home with people you don't know can create problems
- You may need help with money

Council housing (important to know)

You can ask the council for a home.

 But:

- There are long waiting lists
- You may stay on the housing register for a long time before you get given a home

Supported living

This helps you live more independently with support.

 You might:

- Have your own flat
- Or share with other people
- Get help from support staff

They can help you with:

- Cooking
- Cleaning

- Money
- Getting to work or college

Important (supported living)

To get support paid for:

 You need an assessment from adult social care.

- They check what help you need
- They decide if they can fund support

 Or you can:

- Pay yourself (self-fund)
- Use money like PIP (Personal Independence Payment)

Where to get help

Your local council

They can:

- Help with housing
- Add you to the housing list

[Finding accommodation on Connect to Support Hampshire](https://connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk) –

connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk (select 'Family Information and Services Hub', then 'Hampshire's Local Offer', 'Preparation for adulthood', 'Leaving home' and 'Finding accommodation').

[Hampshire Homechoice](https://hampshirehomechoice.org.uk) – **hampshirehomechoice.org.uk**.

Social care

They can:

- Do an assessment
- Help you find the right housing

- Help with supported living

[Initial needs self-assessment](https://needschecker.hants.gov.uk) (needschecker.hants.gov.uk)

Remember

- ✓ You have different choices
- ✓ You can ask for help
- ✓ You do not have to decide on your own

 The best home is one that:

- Feels safe
- Meets your needs
- Helps you be more independent

What is right for me?

Tick the boxes that feel right for you

About staying at home

- ☐ I like living with my family
- ☐ I feel safe at home
- ☐ I get enough help from people at home
- ☐ I am not ready to live on my own

About renting my own place

- ☐ I want my own space
- ☐ I want more independence
- ☐ I can manage money or get help with money
- ☐ I feel ready to pay rent and bills

☐ I would like to live with friends or housemates (or alone)

About supported living

☐ I want my own place but still need help

☐ I need support with things like:

☐ Cooking

☐ Cleaning

☐ Money

☐ Getting to places

☐ I would feel safer with support staff around

☐ I want to learn skills to live more independently

About support and assessments

☐ I may need help from adult social care

☐ I am happy to have an assessment to see what support I need

☐ I may need help paying for support

☐ I might use money like PIP to help pay

About council housing

☐ I want to apply for council housing

☐ I understand there may be a long wait

☐ I am okay being on the housing register for a long time

☐ I may need another plan while I wait

How I feel

- ☐ I feel ready to move out
- ☐ I feel nervous and need more support
- ☐ I want to talk to someone before deciding

My next step

- ☐ Talk to my family or carers
- ☐ Speak to social care
- ☐ Contact the council housing team
- ☐ Ask a professional (school, college, support worker)
- ☐ Look at supported living options

Remember

- ✓ You can take your time
 - ✓ You can ask for help
 - ✓ You can change your mind
-  The right choice is what feels safe, comfortable and right for you.

How to apply and bid for homes

(Hampshire Home Choice guide)

Step 1: Apply for housing

To use Home Choice, you must first join the housing register.

☒ You need to:

- Be 16 or over

- Be allowed to live in the UK
- Usually have a local connection to the area

How to apply

- Apply online at Hampshire Home Choice website
- Or ask your council for a form

You must give:

- ID (passport or birth certificate)
- Proof of your address
- Any other information they ask for

If you are accepted

You will get:

- A reference number
- Your priority band (how urgent your need is)
- A priority date
- The number of bedrooms you can apply for

 You must tell the council if your situation changes.

Step 2: Look for homes

Homes are advertised every week.

When:

- From Wednesday to Sunday

Where:

- On the Hampshire Home Choice website
- In the weekly housing newsletter

Adverts tell you:

- Number of bedrooms
- Rent and features (garden, lift, parking)
- Rules (like age limits or pets)
- If the home is adapted

 Always read the advert carefully.

Step 3: Bid for homes

 “Bidding” means telling the council: “I am interested in this home.”

How to bid:

- Online
- By phone

How many:

- You can bid on up to three homes each week

Important

- You can only bid if you are eligible
- You must meet the advert rules (for example bedroom size, age)

While bidding

You can see:

- Your queue position (where you are on the list)
- This can change as other people bid

Step 4: What happens next

After bidding closes:

The council makes a list:

People are ranked by:

- Meeting the advert rules
- Their band (priority level)
- Their priority date

 The person at the top is offered the home.

Step 5: If you are offered a home

If you accept:

- The home is yours
- You cannot keep bidding

If you are not offered it:

- It goes to the next person on the list

You may not be offered it if:

- You do not meet the rules
- You have rent arrears or legal issues

Important things to know

 Lots of people apply, so:

- There is high demand
- You may need to bid many times
- It can take a long time to be offered a home

 You should:

- Bid regularly
- Only bid on homes you really want

Simple summary

- Apply and join the register
- Look at homes each week
- Bid for up to three homes
- Wait to see your position
- If you are top, you may get the home