

What to do if you want to live nearer to your family and friends



It can be lonely living far away from your family and friends.



You might think about moving home to be nearer to them.



If you decide you want to move you might not be able to:



- find a new home



- pay for a new home.



You may end up being homeless.



You might have to pay for your old home and your new home.



There are things you can do instead of moving that may make you feel better.



You could ask your friends and family to:

- visit you more



- phone you more.



You can also ask your support worker or social worker if there are any activities near you where you can make new friends.



If you still want to move nearer to your family and friends...

There are things you should do before you move.



1. Talk to someone you trust

Moving home is a big decision.

Talk to someone you trust about wanting to move nearer to your family and friends.



You can ask them to help you find somewhere to live and go to any meetings with you.



2. Talk to your council

Your council might be able to tell you how you can move nearer to your family and friends.



3. Check your tenancy agreement

If you do not own your home you should have a [tenancy agreement](#).

Your tenancy agreement tells you the things you must do if you want to leave.



You can call the Learning Disability Helpline on **0808 808 111** if you:



- do not understand your tenancy agreement



- do not have a tenancy agreement



- have another problem about housing.



4. Tell your landlord you want to leave before you move

Your landlord is the person who owns your home, who you pay rent to.



Before you tell your landlord you are going to move out, you must make sure you have somewhere new to go to.



Most people have to tell their landlord when they want to leave by writing to them.

This is called giving them notice.



You might need to tell your landlord 1 month before you leave that you are going to move.

But you might have to stay longer.

Ask for help to check your agreement if you do not know when you can leave.

How to find somewhere new to live near family and friends



If you live in a home owned by the council or a housing association:

Do not just leave your current home.

It can be very hard to get another council or housing association home.



Ask your council or housing association if they have a **house swap** service.

A **house swap** is when they allow you to find someone who:

- lives in the area you want to move to
- wants to move to the area you live in

You then swap homes with them so they live in your old home and you live in their old home.



You must not swap your home with someone else on your own.

The council or housing association have to say it is OK for you both to swap first.



If they say no to a house swap you can ask them why.



You can find the contact details of the council or housing association in your tenancy agreement.



Moving into a home owned by a private landlord:

You might need to rent from a private landlord if you cannot find somewhere else to live.



You usually have to pay more rent to live in a home owned by a private landlord.



A private landlord might say you can only live there for a few months.



A private landlord might ask you to leave after a while.

If this happens [contact the Learning Disability Helpline](#) as soon as you can.



It can be hard to get a private landlord to make changes to your home if you need things because of a disability.



If you live in a home owned by a council or housing association, talk to your support worker or social services if you want to move to a home owned by a private landlord.



Other ways to find a new home:

Lots of private landlords use letting agents to find people to rent their homes.

Letting agents are companies with people who can tell you about homes you can rent.



If you meet with a letting agent take someone you trust with you.

The letting agent might try to make you move into somewhere you are not sure about.



You also can ask the housing team at your council for help.



You can find the contact details for your council on [the government website](#).

