

Stay at home or move out? Am I ready to move out?

Video Transcript

creating a better life
for children and young
people in care

When I was 18, I decided to move out on my own - even though my carers were happy for me to stay - because I wanted to live closer to where I was studying and cut down on travel time.

There are lots of other reasons young people move out of care, stuff like:

- Wanting to live with a partner or a friend,
- Because they're unhappy at home;
- Because they desperately want some independence;
- Or because they were asked to leave.

Sometimes you have a choice about where you can live and whether you can stay with your carers, and sometimes you don't.

If you're thinking about moving out, don't make rash decisions. There is stuff I wished I thought about before I made my decision.

- **Consider whether you have enough money to support yourself.**
The cost of moving out and living independently might surprise you, especially if you're used to your carers or family providing things for you. The last thing you want to do when you move out is to go into debt!
- **Question whether you'll have enough time to do all the things you want to do.**
It takes time each day to cook, clean, shop and do all the other day-to-day stuff that needs to be done - probably more time than you expect!
- **Ask yourself whether you're ready for the responsibility.**
Do you want to be responsible for managing all your money, preparing your own meals, and doing your laundry? And are you ready for the responsibility of looking after a private rental?
- **And identify who you want around you.**
Being around carers, family, and friends can make you feel connected and strong. Will you have someone nearby that you can count on when you need them if you move out?

If I thought about some of this stuff a bit more before I moved out and lived alone, I might have waited a little longer. If you're thinking about moving out, take the time to think it through.

You can talk to your case manager about where you want to live and what steps you can take to achieve this.

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