

Housing Options advice sheet for care leavers

Advice

- Work with your Personal Advisor to ensure that your needs are understood and that you understand your rights and the duty the Local Authority has to you
- Work with the Citizens Advice Bureau for advice on maximising your income (maybe claiming benefits or managing debt). You may be exempt from some benefit caps.
- Get advice on your eligibility for the Housing Register
- If it is not possible to stay in your own home start looking for privately rented accommodation and ask Housing Options about the Rent Deposit Scheme
- Look for places where house shares are advertised, local newspapers and shop windows, social media
- Consider if supported accommodation would be beneficial for you. It may be that you don't feel ready to live independently just yet.
- Find out about what other support is available from local charities/ services
- Think about how you can improve your education, training or employment

Useful contacts

- **CAB:** Tel: 01799 618840 www.citizensadvice.org.uk
email: bureau@uttlesford.cabnet.org.uk
Saffron Walden CAB - Barnards Yard, CB11 4EB
Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9:30am to 3:30pm Wednesday is for Money and Debt advice by appointment only
Great Dunmow CAB - The Chestnuts, Suite 8, 4 Stortford Road CM6 1DA
Opening times: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am to 3:30pm
Stansted Mountfitchet – Appointment only - 01799 618840 -Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm
Sprangles Children's/ Youth Centre, Lower Street, Stanstead Mountfitchet, CM24 8LR
- **The Care Leavers Foundation** - www.thecareleaversfoundation.org
- **The Rees Foundation** - www.reesfoundation.org
- **Catch 22** - www.catch-22.org.uk/offers/looked-after-children-and-care-leavers/
- **Shelter** – provides housing advice www.shelter.org
- **Open Door Counselling** - service for young people aged up to 26 years.
Tel: 07803178794, email: opendoorsw@gmail.com. www.open-door.info