

HELP

Homeless Education Liaison Project

"At 16 I started experimenting with drugs, which led me into dealing. My parents disowned me and I began a 5-month prison sentence. When released I became homeless." Lee (22)

"I was on the streets for a year because I was being abused by my dad. I was put into a children's home by Social Services as there is no emergency accommodation for under-16's" Jenny (16)

"I didn't get on with my mum's boyfriend, so I left and stayed at my mate's house, and outstayed my welcome." Dave (23)

HELP is a peer education project run by Step by Step.

Our peer educators are a group of young people who bring their personal experience of homelessness into schools and youth groups to educate other young people about the realities of life without a home.

They know what it's like to be homeless and want to share their unique experiences. They do so in a way that engages, surprises and stimulates their audience to think about what homelessness really means.

Step by Step is an organisation based in Aldershot dedicated to empowering homeless people – particularly young people – and others facing adversity. This is achieved through a structured accommodation and skills development programme that aims to encourage clients towards independent living through comprehensive support and mentoring.

HELP is supported by Rushmoor Borough Council.

For more details about HELP or the work of Step by Step, please visit our website or contact us.



www.stepbystep.org.uk

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HOMELISSNESS

Why it happens...

Where it can lead...

How to cope...

HELP

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Step by Step

empowering homeless people and those facing adversity

HOMELESSNESS WORKS IN A CYCLE

Homeless young people can be tempted to use drugs or drink too much to escape temporarily from the difficulties of being homeless.

This can lead to the young person turning to crime to feed their habits.

And crime inevitably leads a young person to prison.

After prison the young person may find themselves homeless again...

...and so the cycle continues.

Are you faced with becoming homeless?

If so, you may find yourself sleeping on the streets or in a squat. It will be lonely, cold, uncomfortable, unhygienic and dangerous.

Or you may become one of the 'hidden homeless'; sleeping on a friend's floor, or staying in temporary accommodation, with little or no income and no support from family or friends.

If you find yourself facing the prospect of becoming homeless, or if you are homeless, you'll find yourself having to make a lot of decisions – decisions which will shape your future.

It's your life and your future, so be responsible, take care of yourself and keep safe.

To make the right, informed choices, good information and advice is vital. So if you decide you really have to leave home...

...take advice before you go!

Here's a list of places where you can get the information and help you need....

USEFUL NUMBERS

Accommodation

Step by Step	.01252 329825
Rushmoor Borough Council (Homelessness Officer)	.01252 398398
The Crescent, Woking	.01483 767005
Pound House, Woking	.01483 720872
Vaughan House, Guildford	.01483 504704
Guildford Night Shelter	.01483 303646

Additional Support

Hampshire Youth Bureau	.01252 324499
NSPCC Helpline (24hrs)	.0808 8005000
Aldershot Social Services	.01252 314221
Farnham Social Services	.01252 733843
Hampshire Police (24hrs)	.0845 0454545
Aldershot Probation Service	.01252 324288
Citizens Advice Bureau	.01252 322097
Samaritans (24hrs)	.0845 7909090
Fleet Information Point	.01252 812308
Lions Community Store	.01252 616998
Job Centre Plus Aldershot	.01252 356500
Wessex Youth Offending Team	.01256 464034
National Lesbian & Gay Switchboard	.020 78377324
The Source Café	.01252 333330

For more information on HELP or Step by Step, contact:

HELP at Step by Step
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