

## Moving House

When you move house it is a good idea to start preparing for the move in advance. There are a number of issues that would be useful to think about:-

### Money:-

- Draw up a budget for removal costs. If you are purchasing a property allow for fees such as stamp duty (if applicable) survey fees and solicitors and estate agents costs. If you are going to rent a property, remember to make provision for the payment of an initial security check to the letting agent, deposit and first month's rent.
- Make sure you have adequate insurance cover for your new property, and that the property you are vacating is covered up to and including the day of completion. [www.moneysavingexpert.co.uk](http://www.moneysavingexpert.co.uk) has information to help you with buying insurance.
- It is an ideal time to de-clutter before you go, so you'll have less to take with you. You could make some useful cash by selling unwanted items at a website like [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk) or a car boot sale. Any surplus goods could also be taken to a local charity shop or recycled with [uk.freecycle.org](http://uk.freecycle.org)
- Be aware that the cost of travelling to school may be higher. You may be able to get help with this and other school costs - see [Help with School Costs](http://citizensadvice.org.uk) on [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk).

### Housing:-

- If you are renting a property, be sure to read your tenancy agreement. More information on your rights as a tenant can be found in 'Renting a Property' at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing).
- Make sure your landlord protects your deposit correctly, as they are legally required to do so - see the Tenancy Deposits fact sheet on [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) for details.
- If you are buying a property consider getting new locks fitted, as you don't know to whom the previous owners gave copies of their keys.
- Check that there are smoke alarms in the new property and familiarise yourself with escape routes. [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homefiresafety](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/homefiresafety) have tips on fire safety - check the latter to see if you could get a free home fire safety check.

### Address Changes:-

- Contact your local council to change your Electoral Register details and inform them of your move in relation to council tax, and benefits such as council tax support and housing benefit.
- Update any relevant benefit agencies with details of your change of address and circumstances to avoid receiving an overpayment. Contact HMRC if you are receiving Tax Credits, and your Job Centre if you are receiving Job Seeker's or Employment Support Allowance - find the contact details for your Job Centre at [www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus](http://www.gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus)
- On the day of moving, make sure you arrange with your gas, electricity and water companies (if applicable) to have your meter read before you leave the property. Inform all of your service providers that you are moving e.g. phone and broadband. You could visit your local Citizens Advice for help finding the best deal for utilities for your new home.
- You may need to register with a local GP. Often you are required to live in a certain 'catchment' area allocated to a GP surgery and your new address might mean you have to move to a different surgery even if you are willing to travel. Enquire at your current GP surgery to find out.
- If your pet has a microchip, update the chip with your new address.
- You can arrange for your post to be forwarded automatically to your new address at [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk). Please note that there is a fee for this.

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### Other useful organisations and websites:-

Visit [www.moveme.com](http://www.moveme.com) to obtain a free move checklist.

Book an energy makeover with the Money Matters Team at your local Citizens Advice. It's a good time to review your current tariff and supplier and this could save you £100's. [www.energybestdeal.org.uk](http://www.energybestdeal.org.uk).

If you have difficulties with your new property or a landlord, or are at risk of becoming homeless, you can contact the housing charity Shelter for advice on 0808 800 4444, or visit [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk).

There are factsheets for housing issues available at [nhas.org.uk/factsheets](http://nhas.org.uk/factsheets). NHAS is a partnership between Shelter and Citizens Advice.

If you are moving into student accommodation, be aware that there are special rules. See [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk) '[Students in University Accommodation](#)' and/or '[Students in private rented accommodation](#)' for more info. Remember the rules are different if you are studying in Scotland or Wales.

Complete a benefit check on your new housing situation at [www.entitledto.co.uk](http://www.entitledto.co.uk)

Struggling to find affordable furniture? Try a second hand shop such as Second Chance Furniture in Atherstone or Nuneaton, telephone 01827 718322.

Children's Centres in North Warwickshire help look after the welfare of children between 0-5 and their families. You can contact them by phone:-

Atherstone - 01827 718723,  
 Coleshill - 01675 467979,  
 Kingsbury - 01827 870306,  
 Mancetter - 01827 718723,  
 Polesworth - 01827 894649.

North Warwickshire Borough Council - [www.nwbc.gov.uk](http://www.nwbc.gov.uk) or Tel. 01827 715341 for information on housing and council tax benefits and council tenancies. Also to notify a change of circumstances if currently in receipt of housing benefits and to change details on the electoral Register.

Warwickshire County Council - [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk) for information on childcare and childcare providers in your new area.

### For more information:

If you need further help with your financial situation, we can offer free and confidential advice to suit your personal needs and provide tailored solutions to suit your individual circumstances. We can give money management support e.g. budgeting and cost saving through fuel, housekeeping and insurance bills.

Please contact North Warwickshire Citizens Advice, The Parish Rooms, Welcome Street, Atherstone CV9 1DU on 01827 712852 or email [admin@nwcab.org.uk](mailto:admin@nwcab.org.uk) for further information. We also run a drop-in advice session from 9:30-2:00 on Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and an evening drop-in session from 3:30-6:30 on Wednesday - no appointment required.

For Freephone access to North Warwickshire Citizens Advice and other local organizations, please see details of Community hubs in North Warwickshire: - [www.nwcab.org.uk/Community-Hubs.htm](http://www.nwcab.org.uk/Community-Hubs.htm)