

Kitting out your home- Bridgend:

A young person's guide

Resource 11 of 12

You may also like to read these resources:

- Benefits and entitlements
- Money-putting some aside
- Money- I need some!
- Budgeting

Getting Ready Project



FUNDING FOR ITEMS

Financial help from Next Step Team

As a Carmarthenshire 'care leaver' you may be able to get some help towards the costs of essential items when you are setting up home.

What you get will be based on need and your financial situation but may include:

- Linen
- Furniture
- Carpets
- Kitchen equipment
- White goods (fridge, washing machine etc)

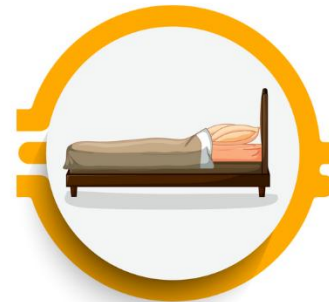
Speak to your personal advisor to find out more.



You should be able to get some money to help you buy some of those home essentials. Here we will discuss what options there are.

Leaving Care Grant

- Ask your personal advisor about this grant and how to apply for it.
- Currently you can receive up to £2000 towards the cost of items for your home



Discretionary Allowance Fund

- For instances where you are really struggling for money, you can apply to this fund.
- It is designed for emergencies for example your benefits may have stopped or be delayed, or an essential piece of furniture has broken.
- Ask your personal advisor or go to the site below for more information.

<https://gov.wales/discretionary-assistance-fund-daf>

There may be other grants you can apply to. To search, go to:
<https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

Housing Association Support

If you are renting a house/flat from a housing association they may:

- have a fund you can apply to for essential items
- have links with local organisations offering discount items

Junior ISA

- If you have been in care for over 12 months the Government will have set up a Junior ISA for you.
- You can access this when you turn 18
- For more information speak to your social worker or personal advisor.

Capston Care Leavers Trust

- This trust have some money for essential items such as a sofa or washing machine
- However the trust covers England and Wales so money is limited and on a first come first served basis
- You MUST have also tried all the other options before applying to the trust
- <https://www.capstonecareleaverstrust.org/>



Useful sites

Here are some sites that explain your rights:

- <https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights>
- <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/consumer-rights-refunds-exchange/>
- <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/somethings-gone-wrong-with-a-purchase/claim-using-a-warranty-or-guarantee/>

**NEW
ITEMS**



Next we will look at the option of buying new items

Faulty products

- To get a refund you have 30 days to return a faulty product to the shop where you bought it
- If you return it after 30 days, you need to give them a chance to repair or replace the item
- If they can't repair or replace you can then get a refund

Shopping Around

- If you are thinking of buying new items, make sure you shop around and get the best price.
- There are lots of shops that sell furniture, including some of the discount retailers
- Many more shops sell home items such as cooking equipment, bedding etc
- The below sites might be useful to compare prices:
<https://pricespy.co.uk/>
<https://www.kelkoo.co.uk/>



Similar Consumer Rights apply to digital items you have bought.

They should be:

- Satisfactory Quality
- Fit for purpose
- As described by the seller

All items you buy MUST be:

- Satisfactory Quality
- As described
- Fit for purpose
- Last a reasonable amount of time

Reuse organisations

There has been an increase in the number of reuse organisations and charity shops selling new items.

They typically sell new:

- Beds
- Mattresses

They may also sell new:

- white goods- fridges, washing machines etc
- furniture- often flat pack furniture you have to build yourself

Product Guarantees

- Some new products may come with a manufacturer's guarantee (FREE)
- This guarantees they will replace/repair an item if it has a fault for a set amount of time usually 12 months after you buy it
- Usually they ask you to register the product

Useful websites

Customer rights

- <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/consumer-rights-refunds-exchange/#second>

Find local reuse organisations/charity shops:

- <https://www.charityretail.org.uk/find-a-charity-shop/>
- <https://reuse-network.org.uk/find-items/#/>

FREE things

- <https://www.freecycle.org/>

Local listings

- Facebook buy and sell group
- Shpock app
- <https://www.gumtree.com/>
- eBay
- <https://www.freeads.co.uk/carmarthenshire/>
- Olio app

SECOND
HAND
ITEMS



You can also get some great furniture from your local reuse/charity shop. Here are some tips if buying second hand.



Your local shops

Your local reuse/charity shops selling furniture can be found in:

- Bridgend: Sue Ryder
- Bridgend: British Heart Foundation
- Bridgend: YMCA
- Bridgend: British Heart Foundation
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Your local reuse organisation may:

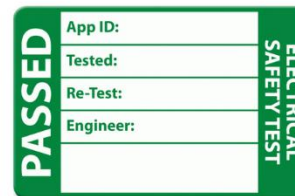
- offer a discount to individuals on a particular benefit
- may have a link with your local housing association to provide some items for less or FREE

Ask in the store to see if this applies.

Electrical Safety

If buying a second hand electrical product you must check:

- It has been PAT tested. This means it has been checked for its electrical safety. It will have a sticker similar to the one on the left.
- It has been 'function' tested. This means the organisation has checked it does what it is meant to for example a fridge gets to and stays at the correct temperature.
- Most shops will offer a warranty of some sort with their electrical product



Other options

You will find individuals trying to sell their items or get rid of them for free through a number of apps or websites:

- Freecycle- there will be a local group to you where individuals offer all sorts of items big and small for nothing
- Facebook buy and sell group- individuals trying to sell items. You may even be able to negotiate the price down further
- Shpock- an app where people can list all sorts of items in their area
- Gumtree- a website where people can list items they have for sale

Returns

Although the item is second hand, there are still some basic customer rights:

- The item has to be as described
- It has to be in working condition
- It has to last a 'reasonable' amount of time