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A HOME FROM HOME IN 12 WEEKS

Research shows it takes 12 weeks to feel settled in a new city

When moving to a new town or city it takes almost twelve weeks, or 83 days, before you feel settled. This is according to research published today by the UK's leading classifieds website, Gumtree.com, which shows that Leeds is the UK city where it takes the least amount of time to feel 'at home.'

The statistics also point to the increasing willingness of Brits to pack their bags and move elsewhere in search of a new job, friends or love life with over a third saying they would actively welcome a move to a new town or city.

Gumtree.com commissioned the research to coincide with tens of thousands of students leaving home and going to University in September, and recent graduates moving to a new city for their first jobs. Key survey results include:

- On average it takes 83 days for people to feel at home when moving to a new town or city. Looking at major UK cities, the settling in period varies from 64 days in Leeds to 118 days in Edinburgh. London scored slightly better than the UK average with 82 days
- Edinburgh is the UK city where people are most likely to initiate contact with a new neighbour (58%). Perhaps unsurprisingly, Londoners are least likely to make first contact when they see

someone new moving in (33%). Across the whole of the UK, just over four in ten (42%) say they will make the effort to welcome a newcomer, double the number (21%) that say they would wait for their new neighbour to come and talk to them

- 37% of Brits say that they would love to move to a new area, more than the number (33%) that say they definitely want to stay put. Out of the major UK cities, people in Belfast are least likely to feel the need to pack their bags (22%)
- Practical considerations far outweigh social ones when it comes to feeling settled. Being able to navigate the local area without getting lost was the single most important sign of feeling at home for a third (33%) of respondents, followed by having decorated a house or flat (19%). By comparison, joining a club or finding a new boy / girlfriend was only mentioned by 3% as a key criteria.
- Similarly, the practical sides of moving are perceived as being the most stressful. The simple act of having to pack and unpack is the most stressful moving experience for 44%, but saying goodbye to family and friends was seen as the worst part of the move by only 6%

Commenting on the results, psychologist Anjula Mutanda says: "This research is really interesting because it shows that Brits today are becoming increasingly mobile and adaptable. In the scheme of things, twelve weeks is a comparatively short amount of time to feel settled and in some UK cities it's as little as two months.

"People no longer feel that they are restricted to one place – moving to a new town or city may be stressful in itself, but at least they know they can make friends and find new hobbies and events when they get there."

Gumtree.com spokesperson Sophy Silver adds: "The Internet is definitely playing a big part in this trend. The practical sides of moving are seen as

much more stressful than the social sides due to modern technology making it much easier to keep in touch with friends and family.

"Finding a new home where you can settle and a job in your new area is a doddle with Gumtree.com. Not only can you use it to find a job or accommodation once you've arrived in a new town or city, it can also allow you to tap into existing communities to help you feel more settle as quickly as possible. In fact, the community section of our site is one of the most popular, as it allows you to do everything from join a local sports team, meet new people or even swap a skill with someone in your new area."

No Place Like Home – Survey findings

How long did it take you to settle into your last new home?

Average (mean) score for UK – 83 days

By major UK city

- Leeds – 64 days
- Belfast – 65 days
- Glasgow – 73 days
- Newcastle – 77 days
- Birmingham – 79 days
- London – 80 days
- Cardiff – 82 days
- Bristol – 84 days
- Liverpool – 85 days
- Sheffield – 85 days
- Leeds – 89 days
- Manchester – 90 days
- Brighton – 112 days
- Edinburgh – 118 days

Do you agree that people treat newcomers with suspicion?

Agree – 40%

Neither agree or disagree – 34%

Disagree – 26%

By major UK city Agree / disagree (difference)

- Glasgow 26% / 31% (+5)
- Belfast 34% / 34% (0)
- Liverpool 35% / 29% (+6)
- Bristol 35% / 23% (+12)
- London 38% / 29% (+9)
- Cardiff 38% / 14% (+24)
- Leeds 40% / 27% (+13)
- Birmingham 42% / 19% (+23)
- Edinburgh 42% / 16% (+26)
- Manchester 45% / 34% (+11)
- Newcastle 47% / 20% (+27)
- Brighton 56% / 26% (+30)
- Sheffield 60% / 18% (+42)

I would love to move to a new area (agree / disagree)

Agree – 37%

Neither agree or disagree – 30%

Disagree – 33%

By major UK city

- Belfast 22% / 44% (-22)
- Edinburgh 36% / 49% (-13)
- Newcastle 33% / 36% (-3)
- Glasgow 37% / 40% (-3)
- Bristol 31% / 31% (0)
- London 35% / 32% (+3)

- Liverpool 37% / 32% (+5)
- Brighton 44% / 37% (+7)
- Leeds 42% / 33% (+9)
- Birmingham 39% / 29% (+10)
- Cardiff 39% / 29% (+10)
- Sheffield 42% / 30% (+12)
- Manchester 54% / 27% (+27)

- Deciding where to live 13%
- Furnishing the home 7%
- Saying goodbye to family and friends 6%
- Selling the old flat and getting rid of possessions 5%
- Having to find a new job 5%
- Searching for local services 3%

If I got a new neighbour, I would introduce myself first (agree / disagree)

Agree 42%

Neither agree or disagree 37%

Disagree 21%

By major UK city

- Edinburgh 58% / 13% (+45)
- Glasgow 51% / 16% (+35)
- Leeds 51% / 18% (+33)
- Cardiff 47% / 7% (+40)
- Liverpool 46% / 17% (+29)
- Bristol 45% / 26% (+19)
- Sheffield 45% / 21% (+24)
- Birmingham 45% / 20% (+25)
- Brighton 44% / 31% (+13)
- Manchester 43% / 26% (+17)
- Newcastle 40% / 16% (+24)
- Belfast 39% / 11% (+22)
- London 33% / 25% (+8)

What did you regard as the most important sign of being settled after moving in?

- Ability to navigate around the local area 33%
- Having decorated the property the way I wanted 19%
- Knowledge of local sites and amenities 18%
- Having at least three friends 12%
- Finding a local pub 5%
- Having a job 5%
- Joining a club 3%
- Finding a boy / girlfriend 3%

What was the most stressful part of the moving experience?

- Packing / unpacking 44%