

# Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 Year Olds who are Homeless or Threatened with Homelessness in North Yorkshire – Joint Working Protocol V7

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## SCOPE OF THIS CHAPTER

This is a joint working protocol between the Seven District and Borough Councils and NYCC Children's and Young People's Services Directorate regarding responding to 16/17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The protocol will be framed around the Young Peoples Pathway key functions of homeless prevention, Children and Families assessment and emergency accommodation.

The protocol will set out the requisite action to be taken where a young person approaches the Housing Hubs for assistance and where a young person approaches Children and Families Services for assistance.

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## 1. Introduction

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The Young Peoples Pathway was jointly commissioned in 2011 by NYCC Children and Young Peoples Service, Health & Adult Social care and the seven district/borough Housing Authorities to respond to enquiries from 16 – 25 year olds in housing need in North Yorkshire. The aims of the service are to:

- **Reduce 16 & 17 year olds homelessness**
- **Increase Prevention work from fully integrated teams**
- **Work in partnership with a coordinated and consistent approach**

The Young People's Pathway model underpins the delivery of the service ensuring that there is a sharper focus on prevention from becoming homeless to enable young people to engage in education, employment and training and prepare for independence:

Pathway 1 (Housing Solutions @ The Hub) – Homelessness Prevention Workers based in Hubs working in partnership with Housing Options and other partners to deliver homelessness prevention initiatives including early intervention in schools for Y10/11, information and advice, return to family or kinship through mediation to reconnect families where safe and sustainable, preventing tenancy breakdown, advocacy and provision of Nightstop emergency accommodation where needed, directed by Hub Coordinators

Pathway 2 – Supported accommodation delivered in a range of Supported Lodgings, 24/7 staffed units and resettlement/move on accommodation, with a greater focus on the transition to adulthood supporting access to education, employment and training and preparation for independence

This protocol is primarily concerned with 16 and 17 year olds who approach services for housing assistance in Pathway 1, but also includes reference to planning for closure to Children's Social Care in Pathway 2.

Unless there is evidence to the contrary, the starting point should be that children and young people's needs are best met in their immediate families. Every effort should be made to reconnect young people and their families to negotiate a return home where it has been agreed by Children & Families Service that it is safe to do so. This may require support to explore wider family members and community options.

## 2. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

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The protocol is concerned with the legal duties set out in the 1989 Children Act relating to children in need who require accommodation and Part VII of the 1996 Housing Act, as amended, relating to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness who approach either authority requesting housing assistance and reflects the judgement made by the House of Lords in (G) v Southwark and the statutory guidance updated April 2018 issued by the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, '**Prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation**'.

Legislation and statutory guidance are clear that:

- the primary responsibility for a child in need who requires accommodation, including a 16 and 17 year old who is homeless lies with the relevant children's services authority. The duty under Section 20 of the 1989 Children Act takes precedence over duties in the 1996 Act in providing for children in need who require accommodation
- Section 20 of the 1989 Children Act takes precedence over the general duty owed under Section 17 of the same Act to children in need and their families where a young person needs to be accommodated.
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- Local authority duties for accommodating young people under this s20 are not simply a matter for local policy. The duty is engaged whenever a child in need in the local authority's area requires accommodation as a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1)(a) to (d) or in section 20(3) and 20(4):
- Section 20(1) requires that:
  - a. every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who appears to them to require accommodation as a result of:
    - b. there being no person who has parental responsibility for them;
    - c. their being lost or having been abandoned; or
    - d. the person who has been caring for them is prevented (whether or not permanently, and for whatever reason) from providing them with suitable accommodation or care.
- In addition, even if the criteria in section 20(1) do not apply, section 20(3) requires that:
 

Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who has reached the age of sixteen and whose welfare the authority consider is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide them with accommodation.
- In addition, section 20 (4), provides that:
  - a. A local authority may provide accommodation for any child within their area (even though a person who has parental responsibility for them is able to provide them with accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote the child's welfare.
- If a young person in need requires accommodation as a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1) (a) to (d) or section 20(3) and 20(4) then that young person must be provided with accommodation.
- As a result of being accommodated by children's services for a continuous period of more than 24 hours the young person will become looked after if they consent.
- Whilst accommodated under section 20 the young person is not eligible for welfare benefits, including housing benefits or housing costs under universal credit
- Provision of 'accommodation' means that which is provided by Children's Social Care or the Housing Authority or a jointly commissioned supported accommodation offer (Pathway 2).

The lead agency is Children's Social Care however housing services also have duties towards young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Duties owed by both services will depend on a range of factors requiring them to work together to plan and provide a service centred on young people and their families.

### 3. Homeless Prevention

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NYCC and the Housing Authorities believes that, in most circumstances, the interests of young people are best served by living with their parents and that they should move to independent living in a planned way. The initial priority for both NYCC and the Housing Authorities will be to identify whether a young person, who approaches the authority for assistance because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness, can safely return to their parental home.

The Homelessness Prevention Workers (HPW) role is to support a young person to reconcile the differences with their parents/guardians so that they can return home on an indefinite basis or return to their parental home for a period sufficient to enable them to make a planned move into Pathway 2 or independent accommodation. Background checks will be made in every case and where safeguarding concerns are identified or disclosed the HPW will obtain consent to refer to Children & Families Service for screening to the appropriate service, Children's Social Care or Early Help.

The Homelessness Prevention Workers will, at the earliest opportunity work with the young person to understand their network. A network meeting will be convened to explore how the young person can be supported.

There may be instances where it is determined that a referral to the Children and Families Service is required to support the young person and their family further.

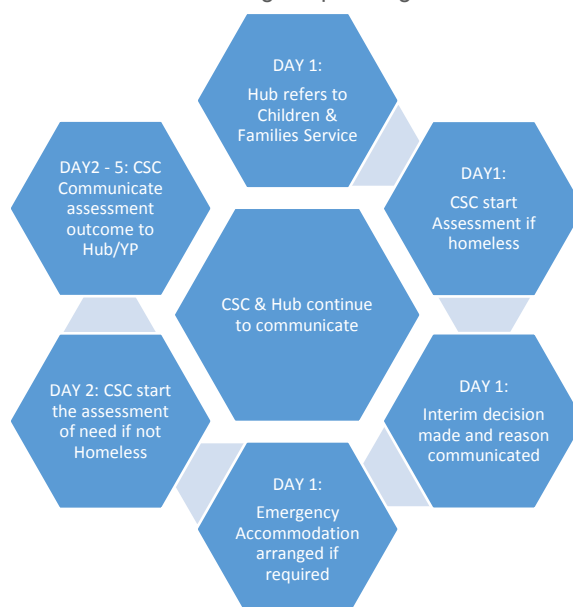
## 4. Timescales

### On Day One

1. Housing Hub refers young person to Children & Families Service with consent, clearly stating they are homeless or have additional needs. The 'Information on Support for 16 & 17 year olds' leaflet is to be used by the Hub to explain the services the young person may be entitled to receive from Children's Social Care and the Housing Authority.
2. If the young person is immediately homeless Children's Social Care contact the Hub and Young Person to start the Children & Families assessment and the housing element must be completed on day one, with the Social Worker explaining the services the young person may be entitled to receive from Children's Social Care.
3. Social Worker and Team Manager agree an interim decision on statutory duty owed and communicate this with the Hub and young person stating the reasons for the decision in writing. If a young person is accommodated for a continuous period of 24hrs they become looked after under s20, if they consent. If they do not consent but agree to being supported by Children's Social Care they can be supported and accommodated under s17 until they reach 18.
4. If emergency accommodation is required the Hub will assist Children's Social Care by referring to:
  - a. SASH Nightstop
  - b. Foundation Emergency beds
  - c. Alternative provision, not B &B, may be offered by the local housing authority or Children's Social Care following agreement of what is most suitable or available. (See section 13 Suitability of Temporary Accommodation)

### Days 2 – 5 (working days)

1. Following point 1 above and if the young person is not immediately homeless or has additional needs Children's Social Care contact the Hub and Young Person to start the Children & Families assessment, with the Social Worker explaining the services the young person may be entitled to receive from Children's Social Care.
2. Social Worker communicates the outcome of the Children and Families Assessment to the Hub and young person stating the reason for the decision in writing.
3. Communications between the two agencies will continue on the next course of action if a duty is owed under the 1989 Act with Children's Social Care leading the planning.



## 5. Approach to District/Borough Council Housing Solutions @ The Hub

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**Information** - Young people must be given realistic and full information about the support that they could receive at the start of to help them make a fully informed decision. This must include information Section 20, Section 17, Leaving Care and assistance under Part 7 of the 1996 Housing Act, as amended. Staff will be trained to understand the different legislation and how it affects young people.

**Referral to Children & Families Service** - Where a 16 or 17 year old has additional needs, is homeless or is threatened with homelessness within 56 days the Hub will obtain consent and refer on day one to the Customer Resolution Centre, screened by MAST. The Hub should make it clear they are making a request for a Children & Families Assessment or for Early Help support, to assist with the screening process.

**Reconnection** – Home visits must take place immediately to progress reconnection with immediate or extended family. If the Homelessness Prevention Worker has reason to believe there are safeguarding issues they should discuss this with the Hub Coordinator and determine if further support from Children & Families Service is required.

**Emergency Accommodation** – If the young person is homeless the Hub will assist Children's Social Care by making a referral to SASH Nightstop emergency accommodation or the Foundation emergency beds. Where Temporary Accommodation is used as an alternative 16 and 17 year olds must be supported, as a minimum, under s17 while accommodated if they decide they do not want to be accommodated under section 20. It is essential for the Hub and Children's Social Care to communicate on planning and support to continue to reconnect the young person with family or other networks for longer term accommodation to minimise time needed in emergency accommodation.

## 6. Approach to Children & Families Service

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*The Duty to Refer, Regulation 10 of The Homelessness (Review Procedure etc.) Regulations 2018 under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) specifies:*

- If a public authority considers that a service user may be homeless or threatened with becoming homeless within 56 days, or if a service user positively discloses this information, the public authority will be required to ask the customer if they would like to be referred to a local Housing Authority of their choice on the grounds that they are homeless or at risk.
- If the individual consented to a referral, the public authority will be required to make the referral, notifying the identified local Housing Authority of the reason for the referral and how the individual may be contacted.

### **New enquires to Children & Families Service**

**Information** - Young people must be given realistic and full information about the support that they could receive at the start of to help them make a fully informed decision. This must include information Section 20, Section 17, Leaving Care and assistance under Part 7 of the 1996 Housing Act. Staff will be trained to understand the different legislation and how it affects young people.

- If they are homeless Children's Social Care will start a Children's and Families assessment on day one, contacting the local the local Hub for assistance.
- If they are threatened with homelessness Early Help will refer to the local Hub for housing advice and commence prevention support jointly.

### **Open to Children & Families:**

*The following service all have a duty to refer young people to the local housing authority where a young person is threatened with homelessness. Where homelessness is imminent or actual:*

- Early Help can step-up a case to Children's Social Care and contact the Hub.
- A Relevant Care Leavers (16/17 year old care leaver) Leaving Care Case Worker will refer for a Children and Families Assessment to commence, contact the Hub and review the Pathway Plan. Leaving Care Assistant Team Manager will authorise the plan.
- Youth Justice will refer for a Children and Families Assessment to commence and contact the Hub.
- If in custody the lead worker refers to the local Hub, where the young person originates or is being released to, must be done 3 months prior to release, to ensure a smooth transition into supported housing. If the young person is going to be homeless or had additional needs a referral be made to Children & Families Service by the lead agency.

**Accommodating under S20** - if there is an imminent threat of homelessness or if the young person is actually homeless, a Children and Families assessment must be started on day one. If accommodation is required due to homelessness this can be provided under section 20. There are only two circumstances in which a children's services authority might find that a homeless young person should not be accommodated under Section 20, and may instead be owed duties under Housing Act 1996. These are where the young person is:

- not a child in need;
- a 16 or 17 year old child in need who, having been properly and fully advised of the implications and having the capacity to reach a decision, has decided that they do not want to be accommodated under section 20.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation, as defined in Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) SI 3326 2003, is not deemed to be a suitable temporary accommodation option for 16 and 17 year old even on an emergency basis (Homelessness Code Of Guidance, CH17, 17.39)

## 7. Children and Families Assessment

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Factors to be considered when assessing 16-17 year olds who are homeless or may be child in need:

| Dimensions of need |  | Issues to consider in assessing child's future needs   |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 1                  | Accommodation                                      | Does the child have access to stable accommodation?<br>How far is this suitable to the full range of the child's needs?  |
| 2                  | Family and social relationships                    | Assessment of the child's relationship with their parents and wider family. What is the capacity of the child's family and social network to provide stable and secure accommodation and meet the child's practical, emotional and social needs? |
| 3                  | Emotional and behavioural development              | Does the child show self-esteem, resilience and confidence?<br>Assessment of their attachments and the quality of their relationships.<br>Does the child show self-control and appropriate self-awareness?                                       |
| 4                  | Education, training and employment                 | Information about the child's education experience and background.<br>Assessment as to whether support may be required to enable the child to access education, training or employment.  |
| 5                  | Financial capability and independent living skills | Assessment of the child's financial competence and how they will secure financial support in future.<br>Information about the support the child might need to develop self-management and independent living skills.                             |
| 6                  | Health and development                             | Assessment of child's physical, emotional and mental health needs.   |
| 7                  | Identity   | Assessment of the child's needs as a result of their ethnicity, preferred language, cultural background, religion or sexual identity.  |

Section 20(6) of the Children Act also requires that:

Before providing accommodation under this section, a local authority shall, as far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with the child's welfare;

- a. ascertain the child's wishes and feelings regarding the provision of accommodation; and
- b. give due consideration (having regard to their age and understanding) to such wishes and feelings of the child as they have been able to ascertain.

## 8. Children and Families Assessment Outcome

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During the assessment where a return home is not immediately viable, a Children's Social Care Manager will make an interim decision on day one as to whether a duty is owed under S20 and seek agreement from the Head of Service where this is required. The case will still need to be discussed at the Placement, Permanence and Complex Decision Making Forum.

If a young person is S20 Children's Social Care will take the lead, working with the Hub who will source suitable and available accommodation through the Young Peoples Pathway 1 emergency provision or where the young person cannot return home through Pathway 2 with a priority status. If no accommodation is suitable or available the Hub will explore other non-commissioned provision and Children's Social Care will need to explore regulated placements.

Children's Social Care process to determine if a young person becomes S20:

- SW completes the assessment and makes a recommendation to the Team Manager
- Team Manager presents the recommendation to the Placement, Permanence and Complex Decision Making Forum, where a decision is made.
- Children's Social Care will inform the young person and the Hub of the outcome using the standard letters sent securely, clearly stating the reasons behind the decision and what support is in place/available if a service is not offered.

There will be young people who state that they don't want to be 'looked after', in which case Children's Social Care will, taking the person's wishes into account and determine whether the application of S.20 is appropriate. All discussions regarding this need to be done jointly with the Hub. Young people who indicate that they do not want to become looked after should also be aware that they can request a re-assessment at a later stage if they revise their decision and decide that they would consider becoming a looked after child.

Every 16-17 year old assessed as being a child in need but who does not wish to be accommodated under section 20 should have a child in need plan setting out the services that will be provided to meet their needs.

If the young person still does not wish to be accommodated under section 20 and is judged to have the capacity to make that decision they should be offered accommodation under section 17 with a child in need plan in place, until they no longer require accommodation or they reach the age of 18. In such cases, children's services and housing services will need to work together with the young person to ensure that they are not placed at risk of homelessness as they approach age 18

Early Help can provide support if a young person decides they do not want a service under S17 or S20 subject to consent.

- Parties are entitled to seek advice where Children's Social Care do not make a S20/S17 decision against the wishes of the young person and where the Housing Authority believe the young person is S20/S17 this can be escalated by:
  1. Young person being advised of their right to complain about the assessment process using NYAS (National Youth Advocacy Service) – 0808 8081001 <https://www.nyas.net/> - Child needs be CIN or can be challenging a CFS decision if not CIN to use this service.
  2. Housing Authorities refer to Section 12 Escalation Stages.



**Supporting Transition into Pathway 2** - Closure of S17 cases accommodated in Pathway 2 should be made in agreement with the young person and provider they are housed with. To support the transition and settling into supported accommodation is recommended that S17 cases are kept open for at least six weeks from move in date.

## 9. Homelessness Application

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Children's Social Care will work with the housing authority for further assessment under the Homeless provisions of Part 7 Housing Act 1996, as amended, if appropriate on a case by case basis.

Where the S20 criteria is **not** met or declined by the young person and they do not want a service from the Hub, but they require accommodation the housing authority will discharge their duties under homelessness prevention or relief.

- Prevention duties apply to those that are eligible and threatened with homelessness within 56 days.
- Relief duties apply to those that are eligible and homeless immediately or within 56 days which requires the council to take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure alternative accommodation. The applicant is entitled to an assessment of their needs which must be confirmed to them in writing along with a Personalised Housing Plan which sets out the actions that both the applicant and the Council will take to find accommodation. There is no duty on the Council to provide any sort of accommodation under the Relief Duty unless they are in Priority Need.

After 56 days, if the person still remains homeless then a final decision will be made as to whether or not the housing authority owes a main housing duty, otherwise no further duty is owed.

Where a young person is unwilling to return home this will mean they will not be regarded as homeless under the 1996 Act, however it is at the discretion of the Hub to use Nightstop on a case by case basis considering the vulnerability of the individual, and efforts will continue to reconcile the family involving the Hub and Children and Families Service.

## 10. Out of Hours Access

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Where young people present as homeless outside of office hours, the priority must be the safety and well-being of the young person, and where needed, accommodation will be provided until the next working day using the Young Peoples Pathway Out of Hours Procedure. All out of hours enquiries are made to the Emergency Duty Team:

- SASH Nightstop is available until 9pm, 7 days a week.
- Foundation emergency beds in Harrogate (1) and Scarborough (1) can be accessed at any time out of hours provided No Wrong Door can facilitate the assessment and travel.

If these options are not available, not suitable or refused by the young person EDT will contact the local Housing Authority for assistance or source an alternative from Children's Social Care. Bed and Breakfast is not deemed as suitable.

EDT will ensure Children's Social Care and the local Hub are aware of the young person accessing the service the next working day, passing on communications with the emergency bed provider (SASH/Foundation).

## 11. 16 & 17 year olds from out of area

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16 & 17 year olds from one local authority area that seek assistance from a children's services in another local authority area should not be returned and Children & Families Service must consider the young person's immediate needs. The duty to assess falls on the authority area where the young person is requesting assistance.



If during assessment it becomes clear that young people are ordinarily resident elsewhere, the decision may be made by Children's Social Care to return these young people to their home area provided that it is safe to do so. Enquiries should be made by Children's Social Care with the "home authority" for them to take over the assessment of their needs. Homeless young people should not be returned to another area where there is no confirmation that accommodation is available for them.

If the young person refuses to return to where they are ordinarily resident Children's Social Care must take into account the child's wishes and feelings and deal with the case as they would if the person was from the local area working in partnership with the Hub.

## Travel Warrants / Fares

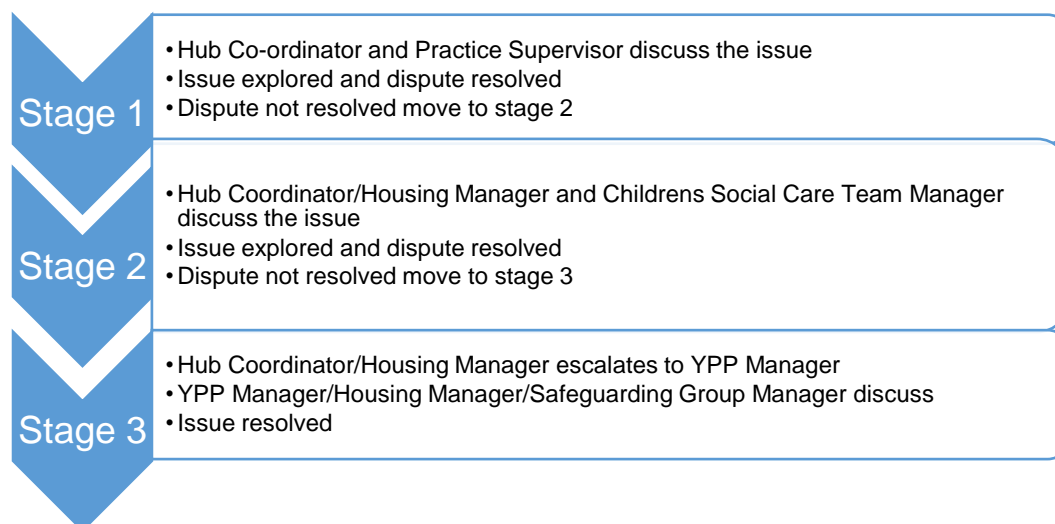
Where needed, travel warrants or bus fares will be provided by either:

- CSC, if they are s17 or 20
- Early Help if they are an open case
- the Hubs emergency fund for warrants and monies up to £25, over this amount must be authorised by the Young Peoples Pathway Manager, requested by email. Access from the local NYCC Admin Office (see separate protocol, *to be written*).

## 12. Escalation Stages

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Front line staff should be aware that it is everybody's responsibility, including their own, to work together to implement this protocol for the benefit of the young people concerned. However, it is recognised that from time to time they may not be able to resolve issues between different service elements, (for example, where expectations for completing assessments within specified timescales have not been met), and may need to escalate problems through the appropriate line management:



Where issues are not resolved, or tensions continue after stage 3 has been exhausted matters will be discussed prior to or at the next Governance Group depending on urgency.

## 13. Suitability of Temporary Accommodation

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SASH Nightstop and the Foundation Emergency Beds are the Young Peoples Pathway commissioned emergency accommodation. If not available, or refused then a Local Authority temporary accommodation may be offered if suitable and available, this may include on-site support or an out of hours service. The local authority must give consideration of current tenants and risk factors in deciding to make an offer.

Consideration will be given to the wishes, feelings, education, employment, training and health needs of the young person in offering emergency accommodation. Both the Housing Authorities and NYCC's Children's Services will need to consider how a young person's disability affects the suitability of emergency accommodation offered to them. Location of accommodation, including proximity of support, will be a relevant factor. The Housing Authorities and NYCC's Children's Services will be mindful that the accommodation offered does not expose a young person to harm or social exclusion.

The Housing Authorities and NYCC's Children's Services will need to be satisfied that the accommodation offered is safe, secure and affordable. The accommodation must be in a reasonable standard of repair and meet the suitability of accommodation in the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

Bed and Breakfast accommodation, as defined in Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) SI 3326 2003, is not deemed to be a suitable temporary accommodation option for 16 and 17 year old even on an emergency basis (Homelessness Code Of Guidance, CH17, 17.39).

## **14. Young Person's Wishes and Feelings**

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Both the Hub and Children's & Families Service will need to have reasonable regard for the wishes and feelings of the young person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness.

This will include consideration of their emotional and behavioural development and their capacity to make use of wider resources to manage independent living.

If a young person states that they do not wish to be accommodated then this will be a significant, but not absolutely decisive, consideration in the overall judgement of their jointly assessed needs and what services need to be offered to meet these needs.

It is important that young people are consulted and are provided with information, in a format that they can understand, about what services can be provided to them as a Child Looked After.

Consideration should be given to whether the young person has the capacity to understand the implications of accepting or refusing the housing and support options that are being made available to them. A young person should be encouraged to secure independent advice and support that can help them to determine what housing and support options they want.

## **15. Monitoring the Protocol and Review**

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Review this protocol at each the quarterly County Operational Group and report back to Governance Group on operation, what is working well and any issues to resolve.

The Protocol will be reviewed annually and when changes in legislation determine.

## Appendix 1: Definitions

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### Section 17 Child in Need Support

Support from a social worker in partnership with the family, who will consider which other professionals will be involved in providing support. This may include education welfare workers, personal advisors and youth workers. Support to take on the responsibilities for living independently, or in returning to live with family (depending on circumstances).

- a plan to detail what support will be received and who will be providing that support.
- meetings and reviews the young person and any other people who become important in meeting the support needs, which include:
  - Housing issues and appointments
  - Education, employment and training
  - Independent living skills
  - Support to claim income and housing benefits
  - Support in keeping up relationships with family members
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Other advice and support as needed
- Some temporary financial support is available until benefits are received. If this is backdated, some of the money will need to be paid back to Children's Services.
- This support is available for as long as it is needed, or until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday

### Section 20 Looked After Child Support

Children's Social Care look after and support in partnership with the family (if appropriate). A social worker will consider which other professionals will be involved providing support.

- a Care Plan will detail what is needed and how different agencies can help. A social worker will coordinate the agencies providing the support.
- As part of the Care Plan, there will be a more detailed Placement Plan, which will set out what the placement will be provided and what is expected. Help with:
  - Housing issues and appointments.
  - Education, employment and training
  - Independent living skills
  - Support in keeping up relationships with family members
  - Health and wellbeing

Other advice and support as needed

- There will be regular meetings and reviews (known as statutory reviews) involving the young person and the services that are supporting to see if all the help and support is meeting needs. The reviews will be chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer
- Regular Health checks are offered, including checks on height, weight, a general chat about how the young person is are feeling and any health issues or any worries and help to register with a Doctor and Dentist.
- Rent will be paid for by Children's Social Care and a weekly allowance paid, at the same rate as welfare benefits.
- Accommodation will be discussed.
- Benefits can be claimed at the point of leaving care
- If looked after for 13 weeks or more a personal adviser will be appointed and support is available as a care leaver up until at least the age of 25 years.

### Care Leaver Support Offer

Entitlements vary depending on whether the young person is Eligible, Relevant or Former Relevant and less support for Qualifying Care Leavers. Broadly support is available up until the age of 21 and in some cases 25 with:

- a personal adviser allocated.
- the continuation of the Pathway Plan, including regular reviews.
- living expenses associated with living near the place where they work/plan to work.
- assistance with education and training needs.
- Higher Education bursary
- help with accommodation

### **Homeless or threatened with Homelessness**

A person is threatened with homelessness if they are likely to become homelessness within 56 days.

A person is homeless if they have no accommodation that is available for their occupation, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere that they have a right to occupy, and which is reasonable for them to occupy.

### **The Housing Act 1996 (Part 7), as amended**

Statutory provision for Housing Authorities to intervene earlier and support all those affected (not just those in 'priority need\*') to:

- provide information and advice about homelessness, prevention and rights of those affected
- where there is reason to believe a person is homeless or at risk of homelessness to enquire whether a duty is owed under Part 7 of the 1996 Act:
  - to prevent homelessness within in 56 days, which includes
    - help to stay in current accommodation
    - find new accommodation prior to becoming homeless
  - relieve homelessness by providing support for 56 days for those who are actually homeless
    - helping to secure accommodation
    - providing interim accommodation, if in priority need
  - agree a Personal Housing Plan, following assessment, including reasonable steps/actions for the applicants and housing authority to take to prevent or relieve homelessness
  - Main Housing Duty for those that are:
    - Eligible
    - In priority\* need
    - Not intentionally homeless
  - Duty ends (discharged) when:
    - Suitable accommodation provided until a settled home is offered, settled being:
      - LA Secure or introductory tenancy
      - Registered Provider (Housing Association)
      - Private Landlord with a tenancy of at least 6 months
      - Pathway 2 commissioned supported accommodation
      - Other non-commissioned supported accommodation
    - Applicant turning down the offer of suitable accommodation
  - Intentional Homelessness as a result of a deliberate:
    - Action - a decision to leave accommodation where it was reasonable to continue living there
    - Omission – non-payment of rent where the rent was affordable
    - If in priority need and intentional, advice and assistance to find accommodation will be given and accommodation for a “reasonable” period of time. Intentionally homeless families may be referred to (separate protocol – hyperlink to tri-x).