



## NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST

### Agenda Item Cover Sheet

**TITLE OF PAPER:**

**Findings of the review of accommodation related services**

**DATE OF MEETING:**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**ORGANISATION/SUB GROUP:**

CYPS

**RELATED CYPP IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY:**

Preventing homelessness and provision of suitable accommodation for young people

**RELATED PERFORMANCE INDICATOR(S):**

- Homeless preventions
- Satisfactory accommodation

**MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF PAPER:**

1. That the Board considers the findings of the service review and the proposed pathways service approach to commissioning replacement services.
2. That the Board endorses the revised procedures for partnership working in regard to 16 & 17 year olds.

**IMPACT ON RESOURCES:**

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Resource Type</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Benefit</b>
1	Service provision	In the order of £3m	More consistent and equitable provision at lower cost
2	Staff	Not quantifiable	More effective working and improved outcomes for young people

**AUTHOUR:** David Walker, Education Officer (Social inclusion)

## NORTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

20 September 2010

**Findings of the review of accommodation related services****1.0 Purpose of Paper**

- 1.1 To inform the Board of the findings of the review of accommodation based services for young people (16-25).
- 1.2 To request endorsement of the revised procedures for partnership working to prevent the homelessness of young people aged 16-17.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board considers the findings of the service review and the proposed pathways service approach to commissioning replacement services.
- 2.2 That the Board endorses the revised procedures for partnership working in regard to 16 & 17 year olds.

**3.0 Scope of the review**

- 3.1 The current review covers young people's accommodation related services provided by the Supporting People programme (SP), District Housing Authorities and Children and Young People's Services. This has been completed by a multi-agency task group including SP, District Council Housing Officers, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and representatives of the Community and Voluntary Sector working with homeless young people. For the purposes of the review, relevant young people are those aged 16 to 25 and who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless and those young people assessed to be in priority need<sup>1</sup> for accommodation support.
- 3.2 A reference group of young people has been established that has contributed to the review. This group will assist with the commissioning and quality assurance processes once new services are in operation.
- 3.3 The review has covered levels of need, demand, current provision and has identified what good looks like. Extensive consultation with all stakeholders (including providers and service users) has informed the review.
- 3.4 The specification for services will be completed by the end of September with a view to meeting potential providers in October. The task group has been working towards completing the process by March, with new services commencing in April. It is likely that this will slip by 4 to 8 weeks because of the need to wait until the impact of the Spending Review can be fully assessed. Existing services will be extended accordingly.

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<sup>1</sup> As set out in the *Children's Act 1989, Housing Act 1996* and Guidance issued by the Secretaries of State for DCSF and CLG, *Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people*, issued April 2010

- 3.5 Guidance has been taken from Val Keene (Specialist Advisor, Youth Homelessness CLG/DFE), who has commented favourably on our approach, provided helpful contacts in other local authority areas and facilitated a visit to see best practice in Oxfordshire.
- 4.0 **Findings of the service review** (Annexe 1 provides further detail).
- 4.1 In summary, SP commissions 10 service providers to operate 27 services. These provide a total of 359 units of provision county-wide at a cost of £1.7m.
- 4.2 The District Councils provide 4 types of prevention service funded by their CLG Prevention grant (in some areas topped up by additional funding, including from CYPS). These services have a critical impact on reducing demand for acute provision. In the last full year these provided 290 interventions costing £199,500.
- 4.3 CYPS provide a range of prevention and accommodation services either directly or through commissioning arrangements. This includes accommodation and support costs for care leavers, those on the edge of care and for a range of lower level *Think Family* interventions with families with dependent children (and including Family Intervention Programme provision). In 2009-10 there were 62 care leavers requiring accommodation, with 42 remaining with foster carers provided through the *Staying Put* scheme. This is causing a severe problem providing sufficient foster placements for new care entrants (including 25 aged 16-17 in 2009-10) and suitable move on accommodation is urgently required to free up these placements. It is essential that prevention services (including mediation for young people, such as *Time Out* and early work with families and young people) is available county-wide in order to reduce the number of young people requiring accommodation before they are ready to be independent. Total expenditure for these services is in excess of £2m.
- 4.4 **Providers told us that they**
- are encountering an increasing proportion of individuals assessed as being chaotic, for which there is insufficient provision
  - have waiting lists of between 0 and 28 individuals, a number of providers provide outreach support until a place is available
  - there are problems with lack of suitable move-on accommodation being available, this causes bottlenecks within services
  - some areas lack sufficient prevention services (family mediation etc) which results in additional demand for acute services where relationships fail
  - special provision is needed for teenage parents
  - professional relationships are strong between the different services but a current lack of clear service pathways from assessment to independence, creates problems that could be avoided
  - accommodation support only works where providers have access to suitable accommodation
- 4.5 **Service users told us**
- most often they are homeless because of family relationship breakdown
  - they have had periods of sofa-surfing and living with friends before being able to access services
  - a number have lived rough (including in tents)
  - many had a range of personal issues including alcohol and drug problems, or had gone off the rails through loss of a parent
  - some had fled abuse
  - support provided by services was generally valued and kept them out of trouble

- services had helped them become more able to manage budgets and tenancies
- family relationships often improved, sometimes they were able to go home
- many were able to complete their studies
- most felt much safer

#### **4.6 Things that would have made a difference to service users**

- More information before having to leave home (on what was available) would have helped a lot
- Provision nearer to home would have been valued. For example emergency accommodation that could provide a breathing space. This was often too far from home to access (eg Night Stop)
- Agencies should work more closely, to reduce multiple-assessments, frequent changes of accommodation and inconsistency of provision and expectations
- Drop-in provision available to people after they left services would have helped
- Teenage-parent provision near to home and family was needed
- Housing providers were often not very good at finding move-on accommodation
- Most young people valued 24/7 support by staff being available
- More positive activities were needed, especially in the evenings

#### **4.7 What good looks like**

- 4.8 CLG and DFE have provided guidance on what good practice looks like (Annexe 3). When considered against the type of provision we know to be effective in North Yorkshire and what we have learnt from consultation, this guidance looks realistic and provides a useful starting point as we work up service specifications.
- 4.9 This guidance is based on the practice developed by children's services and housing partners in Oxfordshire. Members of our Task Group have had a detailed discussion with Oxfordshire officers on the approaches they took and how applicable that might be to a North Yorkshire context.
- 4.10 The key features of Oxfordshire practice are:
- Clear working procedures have been agreed across partners, this covers referral, assessment and access to services.
  - A pathway approach providing four clear routes from assessment to secure independent living have been commissioned. Allocation is based on each individual's risk assessment.
  - Only young people who present a clear risk to themselves or others are provided with a specialist service. Those not assessed as such, are provided with support through mainstream services or generic SP commissioned services.
  - In each District the Housing Authority co-ordinates access to service provision.
  - Each District has an accommodation forum that considers the individual placement needs of young people.
  - Services are procured and quality assured through a co-ordinator based in children's services.
  - Service users are involved in quality assurance (through a Young People's Inspection Service).
  - A 20% saving in costs has been secured, with services being assessed as more consistent and equitable and with improved outcomes overall.

## 5.0 **The Pathway approach** (see Annexe 2)

- 5.1 Accommodation Pathways provide a range of support levels, designed to meet varying degrees of individual need and risk. Sufficient accommodation capacity is secured for each pathway as part of the procurement process. Providers must be able to either provide accommodation directly as part of the package (for example RSLs have their own housing stock), or work in partnership with housing providers so that both accommodation and related support can be provided as a single package.
- 5.2 In all cases prevention services will attempt to restore the young person to their family, or if that isn't possible then with kinship arrangements. This is the most effective way of reducing levels of risk for a young person. The young people accommodation pathways are only available to those deemed to be at medium and high risk. Those assessed to be at low risk will be offered mainstream support.
- 5.3 Pathway 1. Young people with the highest levels of risk will be offered accommodation with on site 24/7 support available. This provision will often be provided through foyers and hostel provision. Typically this kind of provision will be accessed by those with multiple needs, for example including those who may have a combination of alcohol and substance misuse, offending behaviours and severe mental health needs. Many individuals will already be known to social care, health and criminal justice services.
- 5.4 Pathway 2. Those with lower levels of need will be offered supported lodgings. This kind of provision places a young person with a family. A room, access to cooking and washing facilities are provided and advice when requested. Service users will include those who are not yet ready for full independence and who might be vulnerable if placed in shared accommodation with other young people.
- 5.5 Pathway 3. Some young people with lower support needs but still considered to be at risk will not wish to stay with a family. These individuals will be offered accommodation with support. Typically this will be shared accommodation. In this kind of provision young people have their own rooms but have shared access to a kitchen and bathroom. On site staff are available 24/7 but during the hours 10:00 to 08:00 this is limited to a concierge provision.
- 5.6 It is possible for individuals to move between pathways if their circumstances change (to be considered by the accommodation forum). Most will travel through the full pathway though, at the end of which permanent accommodation is secured with floating support available. This tails off as an individual becomes fully independent.
- 5.7 Through securing sufficient provision within these pathways for all young people assessed as being at risk, in one process, best value is secured. This would eliminate the need, for example, of spot purchase of accommodation for care leavers, young offenders and teenage parents. This has the potential to deliver significant savings.

## 6.0 **Working Procedures**

- 6.1 Effective and efficient partnership working is essential, both to prevent homelessness in the first place and to find the most appropriate accommodation solution when this happens. North Yorkshire partners have been commended nationally for having excellent working procedures for a wide range of vulnerable groups. The procedures for 16 & 17 year olds have been especially commended (post Southwark) and other local authority areas have been in touch and requested copies of the document

- 6.2 The North Yorkshire procedure for 16 & 17 year olds has been updated to incorporate the most recent CLG guidance, which follows a number of case law judgements and the requirement to consider the additional needs of teenage families. The opportunity has also been taken to produce a simple pathway chart and to make the text as straightforward as possible. The document will be placed on the Safeguarding web site and will become the working reference for all front-line staff in relation to 16 & 17 year olds needing accommodation assistance.

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6<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Annexe 1 - extract from report to SP Commissioning Group,  
compiled by Gill Warner

# **Young People's accommodation related services review**

# Existing SP Services

- 10 Service Providers
- 27 services

Young People at Risk	22
Teenage Parents	1
Young People Leaving Care	1
Single Homeless	3

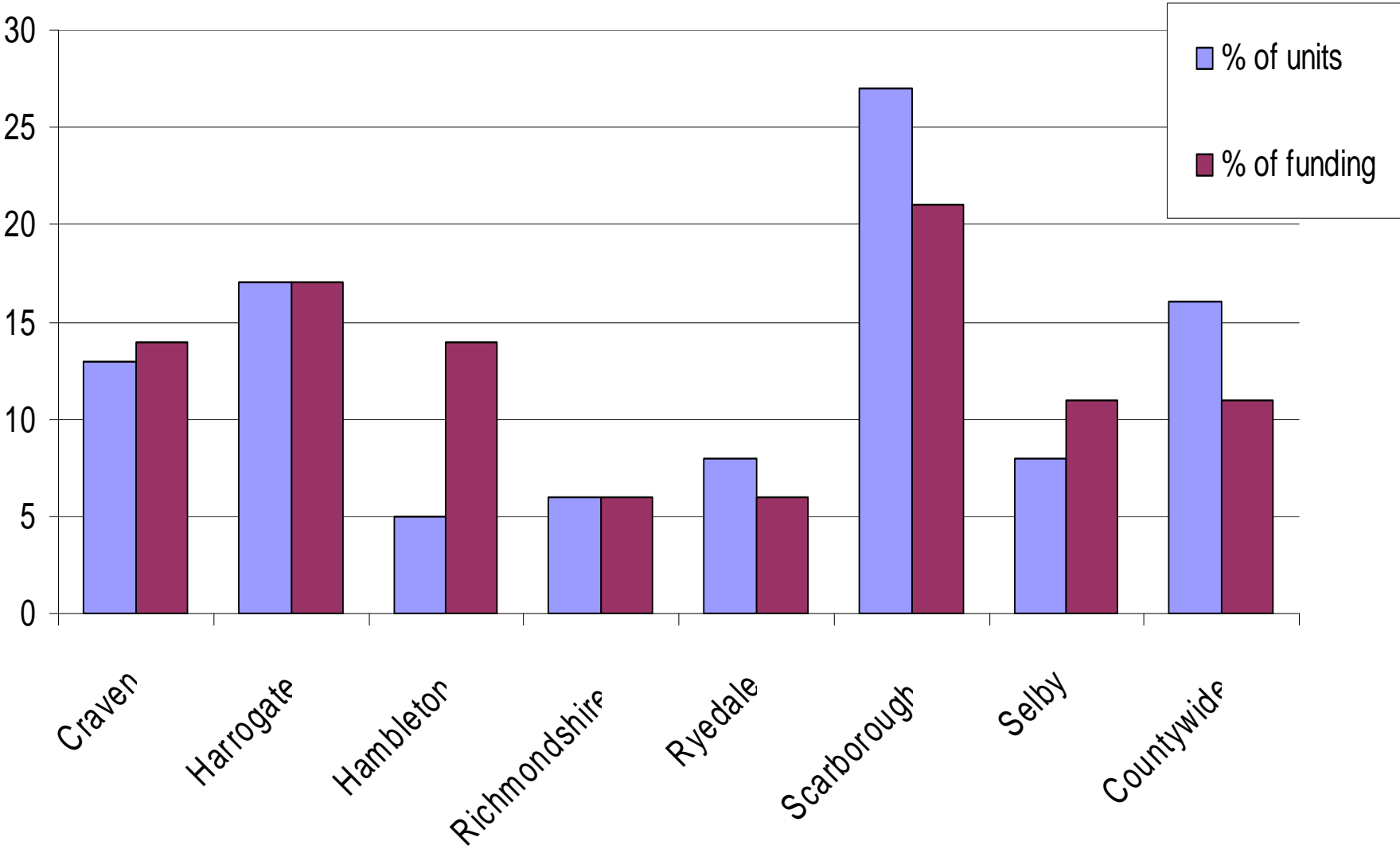
# There are:

- 359 Units of which:
  - o 234 Accommodation Based (65%)
  - o 125 Floating Support (35%)
- At a Total cost of £1.7m

# Existing SP Services

District	Units		% units	£	% funding
	AB	FS			
Craven	32	17	13	237173.45	14
Harrogate	46	17	17	294,081.38	17
Hambleton	18	0	5	237,866.60	14
Richmondshire	20	0	6	102,938.51	6
Ryedale	14	10	8	111538.91	6
Scarborough	58	40	27	359909.61	21
Selby	8	20	8	196930.25	11
Countywide	36	21	16	190146.48	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£1730585.19</b>	<b>100</b>

### Units and Funding by District



# Service levels & costs

- Services range from mediation and floating support services to services with waking night staff
- Costs range from £23 pw to £426 pw

# There are 2 countywide services:

- o 1 enables young people leaving care to remain with foster carers at age 18
- o And the more recently commissioned supported lodging scheme

North Yorkshire (Adult Social Services)	Staying Put	Floating Support	21	Countywide
Barnardos	North Yorkshire Supported Lodgings	Accom Based	36	Countywide

# There are 3 Accommodation based services with either waking or sleeping night staff

Broadacres	South Parade	Accom Based	9	Hambleton
Foundation Housing	Poplar Villa	Accom Based	9	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Selby - Cygnet House	Accom Based	8	Selby

# 5 services with daytime staff on site and emergency call out

Enclosure 3

Foundation Housing	Hambleton & Richmondshire Young Persons Service	Accom Based	12	Hamb/Rich
Richmond Ymca	Richmond Ymca Foyer	Accom Based	13	Richmond
Richmond Ymca	Craven Ymca Foyer	Accom Based	10	Craven
Ripon Ymca Housing Association	Ripon Ymca Housing Association	Accom Based	13	Harrogate
Ryedale Ymca	Ryedale Ymca Foyer Project	Accom Based	14	Ryedale

# 4 Time out/mediation services

Foundation Housing	Time Out Scarborough	Accom Based	3	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Time Out Scarborough - Mediation Service	Floating Support	40	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Hambleton Time Out	Young People at Risk	2	Hambleton
Harrogate Borough Council	Young People At Risk Floating Support Service	Floating Support	17	Harrogate

# 1 Teenage Parents scheme Enclosure 3

Foundation Housing	Teenage Parents	Accom Based	7	Harrogate
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## 1 with live in landlord/landlady

Barnardos	Supporting Lodgings For Young People	Accom Based	12	Harrogate
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# 11 services with floating/visiting support

Enclosure 3

Foundation Housing	North Craven Young People	FI Supp	17	Craven
Foundation Housing	Craven - Supported Housing Scheme	Accom Based	22	Craven
Leeds Federated	Ripon Star	Accom Based	10	Harrogate
Foundation Housing	Young People At Risk	Accom Based	4	Harrogate
Richmond Ymca	West Mews	Accom Based	4	Richmond

Foundation Housing	Ryedale Young People Service	FI Supp	10	Ryedale
Foundation Housing	Belle Vue Terrace	Accom Based	10	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Young Person Foyer Service	Accom Based	12	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Young People	Accom Based	24	Scarborough
Foundation Housing	Selby Supported Tenancies	FI Supp	10	Selby
Chevin Housing Assoc.	Floating Support Service - Selby	FI Supp	10	Selby

# Ages and main need

- 413 client records submitted for 2009/10
- 48% aged 16 – 17
- 41% aged 18 – 25
- 11% aged 26 +
- 81% were listed as Young People at Risk or single homeless
- Client Record data from homeless prevention services in 2009/10 shows another 201 young people aged 16 to 25 using their services, 13% of the people were 16/17-year-olds

# Age & Gender

	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>21-25</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Male</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Female</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>352</b>	

# Outcomes Monitoring from 258 people using services in 2009/10

Support/Outcome	Number	%
Maximise Income	209	94%
Reducing Debt	73	67%
Paid Work	85	20%
Training/Education	144	69%
Leisure/cultural	58	88%
Work like Activity	57	61%
Contact with external services/ with friends /family	143	85%
Manage Physical Health	74	74%
Manage Mental Health	84	78%
Manage Substance Misuse	57	51%
Maintained Accommodation	188	72%
Complied Stat Orders	41	76%
Managed Self Harm	26	85%
Minimised Causing Harm to Others	25	68%
Minimised Harm From Others	39	74%
Confidence and Ability	180	84%

# Consultation with providers

- Need for more services for chaotic young people,
- Waiting lists between 0 and 28 individuals, depending on service.
- Most services keep in touch with young people on waiting list, and carry out interview when there is a vacancy to ensure young person is appropriate.
- Many providers provide (unpaid) floating support or drop-ins for young people on waiting lists, or those that have moved on from services.
- Need for more support for teenage parents
- Not enough emergency accommodation
- mediation in some areas does not seem to be working
- Move-on is difficult as there is a lack of affordable move on accommodation. This blocks up services and young people in need are not able to move in.

# Consultation with providers...

- High proportion of young people with mental health problems
- Alcohol problems, rough sleeping, teenage pregnancy and domestic abuse not recorded in client records
- Quite a number of people in services had been in care
- Activities to stop young people getting bored are good – examples of this include growing vegetables, cooking lessons & making advice leaflets for other young people.
- Where young people have to pay for gas/electricity on a meter this is good for teaching young people budgeting skills.
- Currently relationships between providers are mostly good, and young people are referred between providers when necessary. However, a clear pathway through services would make relationships more effective.

# Consultation with providers...

- Floating support could be possible but the following things would have to be seriously considered:
  - **Young people rarely come with accommodation, and so they would still need access to appropriate accommodation.**
  - **Some young people might require daily visits, e.g. teenage parents would be especially likely to need intense floating support initially**

# Consultation with people using <sup>Enclosure 3</sup> services

## **Reasons for accessing service**

- Nowhere secure to live, family unable to accommodate
- Breakdown in family relationships, including abuse
- Sofa surfing/living with friends until this relationship breaks down
- Sleeping rough (more than 1 lived in a tent)
- Needed support/alcohol/drug issues
- Had gone off rails when one of parents died

# People who use services...

## **Accessing Service and wait time**

- Only a minority stayed in Bed and Breakfast prior to coming into an SP service
- Between 2 days and 4 weeks waiting, sometimes instant
- If there was not a vacancy they were seen, signposted and kept in touch until vacancy occurred

# People who use services...

## **Benefits of using these services**

- Provided stability and encouragement not to get into trouble
- Services identified as good and assisting independence
- Although individuals thought they were independent, they went off the rails and the service supported them to independence and education
- Now able to manage a budget and save for things
- Family relationships have improved because of space factor
- Able to see things from a different perspective
- Individual has been able to complete education and move on
- Individuals accessing services are monitored by providers – feeling of safety

# What would have made a difference to individual service users?

- Would have been nice to talk to someone before leaving home about homelessness or living in a supported scheme – some schemes have a bad reputation and this can be quite scary even if this is not true
- Nightstop was offered but not local so not taken up
- More information would be helpful from the Housing Department about options and where you are on waiting list.
- Would be better if the housing providers, local authority and local landlords worked better together
- The use of drop in after leaving the service is seen as beneficial – many people return for years for a bit of help
- Having teenage parent provision locally – only scheme in Harrogate

# What would have made a difference to individual service users?...

- Housing Provider were good when you are actually homeless but not so good when you wanted to move on
- Would not want to move away from family connections – sometimes problem if there are no local schemes
- Connexions had an “At Risk” fund which assisted Young People in crisis – this should be reinstated as funding was ceased early this year Used to get birth certificates, proof of identity to claim benefits.
- Would prefer support staff at night rather than emergency call out, feels more secure
- When ready to move onto independent flat with support from another provider they insist on pre tenancy training which has already been undertaken with the present provider – communication issue?
- Something to do in the evenings, although roof over head, lack of activities

# The accommodation?

- Some young people were grateful for self contained accommodation – communal living would not have helped
- For some a shared kitchen and bathroom initially was not seen as ideal but has turned out to be good – meeting new people and building confidence
- Some accommodation is in old buildings and needing repairs
- Accommodation good, able to take own belongings if needed

# Stakeholder events

- A Separate report is available

<b>Area covered by event</b>	<b>Number of attendees</b>
Hambleton/ Richmondshire	30
Ryedale/ Scarborough	30
Selby	21
Harrogate/ Craven	61

**Workshop one: *Homeless prevention services* countywide – *what should they be and how should they work together.***

- preventative work in schools,
- improved multi-agency working, e.g. co-location
- short-term/emergency accommodation,
- Mediation should be a priority and more accessible to over 18s
- intervention being family focussed
- the need for young people to be able to access information and guidance.
- better coordination of parenting support as part of homelessness prevention
- more ‘parents of teenagers’ courses

## **Workshop 2: *What should a typical support service for young people look like?***

- importance of supported accommodation for young people.
- both accommodation based and floating support services
- Joint working with shared budgets and co-location of services
- joined up working on the front-line
- choice/flexibility of services,
- flexible support packages ranging from intense to non-intrusive (low level)
- importance of education and prevention;
- young people should have some elementary choice with the support they receive – provider and how it's provided
- need for out of hours support especially for intense customers.
- 24/7 support would be ideal, but not always possible, however there is a need for flexibility in terms of support hours
- increased out-of-hours support,

# Homeless prevention services

- There is currently no consistent approach to how CLG homeless prevention funding is spent across the county
- young people's homeless prevention is mixed in with other homeless prevention work
- Nightstop acts as a deterrent as well as a short term intervention (young people return home rather than accept nightstop)

# Homeless Prevention Services

The most consistent spend affecting young people is on:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of districts</b>	<b>As % of total CLG funding</b>	<b>As % of total prevention spend</b>
Nightstop	5	10%	6%
Timeout/crashpad/mediation (extra to SP funding)	6	15%	9%
Other Outreach work in schools	4	7%	4%
Bonds, Rent in Advance	6	46%	28%
<b>Total as % of CLG funding to Districts</b>		<b>78%</b>	<b>47%</b>

# What does good look like?

- CLG tool – Joining up the commissioning of accommodation and support for young people aged 16 to 25
- Takes a strategic approach to commissioning
- Identifies areas of joint working, savings
- Clarifies young people's pathways through services
- Identifies case studies e.g. Oxfordshire where 20% savings have been made

# Next steps

- Gather more information about the needs of and delivery of services to higher level needs groups, e.g. teenage parents and chaotic young people
- Draft specification
- Further consultation with Housing authority colleagues
- Share information with children and young people's service
- Analysis of financial data and population figures
- Draft countywide service delivery plan/strategy
- Provider marketplace event

# Timeline

September 2010	Data analysis, specification,
	Consult HAs on draft spec
	Provider marketplace event
	Steering group meetings 14th
October	EM
Oct/Nov 2010	PQQ
	ITT

# Accommodation & Support Pathways

Annexe 2: Pathways to independence		Prevention	Access	Progression	Move - through	Independence	
Assessment, Referral							
Assessment completed by	Referral co-ordinated by:		➡	➡	➡	➡	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For care leavers aged 16 &amp; 17: completed by social worker</li> <li>For 16 &amp; 17 homeless: completed jointly by a social worker and housing officer</li> </ul>	<b>High Risk</b> Children and Young People's Service	CYPS Mediation  Including: - CSC - Think Family - IYS	<b>Housing for high risk young people with multiple needs</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For care leavers aged 16-21: completed by social worker</li> <li>For 16 &amp; 17 homeless: completed jointly by a social worker and housing officer</li> <li>For 18 – 24 homeless: Completed by Housing Officer</li> </ul>	<b>Medium Risk</b>  Housing Officers	Housing Options mediation	<b>Supported Lodgings</b>				
			<b>Direct access supported housing</b>	<b>Supported housing</b>	<b>Floating Support</b>	<b>Outreach + Drop in</b>	
	<b>Low Risk</b>	Mainstream and Generic SP services					
	<b>Average time in service</b>	1-3 months	1.5 – 6 months	6-18 months	6 months	3 months	

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICE  
CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE (C&YPS)**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE HOUSING AUTHORITIES**

Title:

**JOINT PROCEDURE FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF  
HOUSING AND SUPPORT NEEDS OF HOMELESS  
16/17 YEAR OLDS**

**1. SUMMARY**

The procedure deals with homeless prevention and joint assessment of 16/17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness who may also be pregnant or have a partner and child/ren. It is not intended to be used for 16/17 year olds who have housing that it is reasonable to continue to occupy but who wish to make a planned move. See Appendix 1 for a summary flowchart of the procedure and Appendix 3 for definitions, legislation and guidance.

It is very important that prevention activities are exhausted first to avoid unnecessarily taking young people into care under section 20 which is in line with the statutory guidance issued by the DCSF referred to at 3 below on page 3.

Housing Authorities and C&YPS value diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity and access to suitable accommodation for all young people, regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, culture, faith or disability.

The aims of the procedure:

- To prevent homelessness through active intervention.
- To assist 16 and 17 year olds to remain in their family home where possible.
- To ensure that the option of using mediation is considered in every case to help ensure young people remain with their family or within kinship arrangements where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- To ensure that all agencies act to prevent homelessness where they can.
- To safeguard and promote the welfare of children within the area.
- To ensure a home visit is undertaken in every case of a potentially homeless 16/17 (unless there is a compelling reason not to visit/or the home visit is refused by the householder).
- To ensure a seamless service to the young person. It is not acceptable for the young person to have to go from 'pillar to post'.
- To ensure that the duties under section 17 Children Act 1989 are met.
- To assist 16 and 17 year olds who may be pregnant and where 16 and 17 year olds have a partner and child/ren are provided with accommodation together where required.

**Section: 2.8**

- That C&YPS and Housing authorities will jointly assess each homeless 16/17 year old's housing (who may be pregnant and their partner and child/ren) and support needs and ensure they are met.
- That C&YPS will lead on the joint assessment with the Housing Authority and C&YPS will provide services under section 20, Children Act 1989 in line with the Southwark Judgement and guidance from the DCSF in April, 10 entitled 'Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation'.
- To ensure that the duties under section 20 Children Act 1989 are met.

All 16/ 17 year olds who are owed a full statutory duty to be accommodated by C&YPS pursuant to section 20 Children Act 1989, and/or homelessness duty by a Housing Authority will have a support and accommodation package drawn up following the joint assessment. The needs of 16 and 17 year olds for accommodation will be assessed in the context of their relationship with any partner and child/ren or if they are pregnant.

Where young parents are provided with accommodation by C&YPS and becomes looked after, it does not follow that their child will also be looked after. This is an issue for an entirely separate assessment based on the needs of the child.

Other homeless 16/17 year olds who are not owed a full duty will be offered specific support to resolve their housing issue.

Where a 16 or 17 year old is part of a family who are deemed to be intentionally homeless staff should refer to the 'Joint Procedure For Families With Children Who Are Intentionally Homeless Or Ineligible For Assistance, under the requirements of the Children Act 1989 and the Housing Act 1996 (as Amended by the Homelessness Act 2002).

Other organisations and services involved include Housing Providers, Support Services (Housing and specialist), the Youth Justice Service who are responsible for the assessment, case management and rehabilitation of young offenders. This will often include support with family and parenting issues, social and behavioural needs, life-skills and Education, Training and Employment etc. Integrated Youth Support (IYS) which is a range of services offering targeted support including support at school, college, training and work placements. There is a referral form to complete for access to Integrated Youth Services (IYS) and Think Family. Contact details for IYS and Think Family are listed at Appendix 5 and staff can contact the relevant IYS for their area in order to obtain a referral form. Key House formerly known as HARP, are commissioned until February 2011 to provide C&YPS workforce with a legal help advice line and can also take queries from the young people themselves.

<b>2. LINKED PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS</b>
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Joint Procedure For Families With Children Who Are Intentionally Homeless Or Ineligible For Assistance, under the requirements of the Children Act 1989 and the Housing Act 1996 (as Amended by the Homelessness Act 2002). (Section 2.9)

Joint Procedure for Co-operation to Meet the Housing and Support Needs of Care Leavers at Risk of Homelessness (Section 2.9A)

Initial Assessment (Section 2.3)

Planning and Review of Children in Need Services (Section 2.5)

Looked After Children Procedures





**3. LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS**

Children Act 1989  
 Housing Act 1996  
 Homelessness Act 2002  
 R(on the application of G) (FC) (Appellant) v London Borough of Southwark (Respondents) (2009) UKHL 26  
 'Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation'. (Department for Children, Schools and Families) May 2010

**4. RESPONSIBILITY**

Children's Social Care Senior Management Team  
 Learning and Youth and Skills Management Team  
 Chief Housing Officers Group  
 County Homelessness Group

**5. ACTION**

<p><b>5.1 ACTION / RESPONSIBILITY:</b></p> <p><b>SOCIAL WORKER / CARE WORKER (BLUE)</b> </p> <p><b>MANAGER (RED)</b> </p> <p><b>CARER (GREEN)</b> </p> <p><b>OTHER (PURPLE)</b> </p>		
<p>5.1 In assessing the needs of young people for accommodation and support, those involved in that process must take account of the special needs and cultural background of the young person.</p>	<p><u>Responsibility</u> C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	
<p>5.2 The most recent judgement R (G) v Southwark (2009) UKHL 26, has clarified the established legal position that the duty under system 20 of the Children Act 1989 takes precedence over the duties in the Housing Act 1996 in providing for children in need who require accommodation, and that when the criteria for section 20 is fulfilled takes precedence over the general duty owed to children in need and their families under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.</p>		
<p>5.3 It is in the best interests of most young people aged 16 or 17 to live in the family home, or, where this is not safe and appropriate with responsible adults in their wider family</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	

<p>and friends network. Housing Authorities and C&amp;YPS are required to work pro-actively with young people and their families to identify and resolve the issues which have led to the homelessness crises. This preventative work must be undertaken alongside the statutory assessment processes outlined in this procedure and must not delay assessment or the delivery of statutory services to 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless or at risk of homelessness. If key issues affecting the young person’s welfare and/or the sustainability of their living at home remain unresolved, post-reunification support must be provided to the family after the young person returns home. Assessment, support and accommodation services must take into account if a 16 or 17 year old is pregnant and young peoples’ relationship as well as any dependent children and, where appropriate, support them to build a positive family life.</p>		
<p>5.4 The needs of 16 and 17 year olds’ for accommodation should be assessed in the context of their relationship with any ‘partner’. In some cases it may be appropriate for a 16 or 17 year old to be accommodated in a situation where they can live with their partner. This will not prevent C&amp;YPS from accommodating a 16 or 17 year old under section 20 where the young person is owed a duty under this section. Specific consideration must be given to placement options for young people accommodated under section 20 whilst living with a partner. For example, placement in an alternative arrangement such as a self contained property with visiting support may be appropriate. It is important to have a contingency plan in place in case relationships break down.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	
<p>5.5 Where young parents are provided with accommodation by C&amp;YPS and become looked after, it does not follow that their child will also be looked after. This is an issue for an entirely separate assessment based on the needs of the child.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p>	
<p>5.6 In all cases when a young person is 16 or 17 years of age and suspected to be homeless or threatened with homelessness, The Housing Authority and C&amp;YPS will first establish whether there is homelessness on the first day. If the young person is not homeless but is in danger of becoming homeless in the near future, prevention activities will be necessary. Where the young person first presents to the Housing Authority they must ensure they ask the young person for their consent to contact C&amp;YPS. If the young person refuses consent for contact to be made with C&amp;YPS the Housing Authority will continue it’s statutory enquiries by way of a joint assessment with C&amp;YPS and either the Housing Authority or C&amp;YPS will provide suitable accommodation in the interim. See 5.20</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	<p><b>FIRST DAY</b></p>

<p>below.</p> <p><b>5.7 Arrangements for Obtaining the Consent of the Young Person to Share information</b></p> <p><b>5.8 How should staff seek the young person’s consent to share their information?</b></p> <p>5.9 The Housing Authority will establish from the young person prior to contacting C&amp;YPS whether they have had any prior involvement or current involvement with C&amp;YPS.</p> <p>5.10 Where the young person has had prior involvement with C&amp;YPS and can recall the name of the Social Worker, the Housing Authority will ask the young person for their written and signed consent to contact that Social Worker for information about them. Where the young person gives their written and signed consent, The Housing Authority will ask them to sign the release of information form at Appendix 3 (page 30) and fax a copy of the young person’s written and signed consent on the release of information form to the Social Worker in C&amp;YPS. This Social Worker must ensure they put a note on the young person’s record on ICS about the check and place the fax in the young person’s case file. The Social Worker in C&amp;YPS require this fax before they can release any information.</p> <p>Where the young person cannot recall the name of the Social Worker, Housing contact the Customer Services Centre (Specialist Officers) Tel 01609 536993, to obtain the Social Worker’s name and contact details.</p> <p><b>5.11 What information needs to be shared?</b></p> <p>Where the young person has current involvement with C&amp;YPS and a Social Worker, Housing should ask the young person for their written consent to contact that Social Worker for information about them. The Housing Authority will inform the young person about the information they will be requesting from C&amp;YPS. The information the Housing Authority require about a young person for their housing needs assessment and a risk assessment is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) When was the case opened?</li> <li>(ii) What are the basic issues in relation to C&amp;YPS involvement with the young person?</li> <li>(iii) Does the young person pose a known risk to themselves or others?</li> </ul>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p> <p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p> <p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) Are there any issues concerning adults in the household that we should be aware of?</li> <li>(v) Has the young person ever been in care?</li> <li>(vi) Has a Common Assessment been completed?</li> <li>(vii) What involvement from C&amp;YPS and support is the family receiving?</li> <li>(viii) Are any other agencies known to be involved with the child?</li> <li>(ix) Are there any other family members who may be able to provide a period of accommodation?</li> </ul>		
<p>5.12 When first contacted by the Housing Authority, C&amp;YPS Staff will check they have an up to date written and signed consent form to share information on the young person’s case file. If there isn’t a written and signed consent form, this will not stop the Social Worker, their manager or other member of staff in the team providing the information to the Housing Authority, provided have obtained the written and signed consent of the young person to ask C&amp;YPS for this information and have faxed the young person’s written and signed consent on the release of information form to C&amp;YPS. C&amp;YPS require this fax before they can release any information.</p> <p>C&amp;YPS staff will ensure they arrange to obtain written and signed consent from the young person they are currently involved with where there isn’t a current up to date signed consent form on their case file. C&amp;YPS need to use the consent form in the leaflet, ‘About Social Care Records’ and the requirements for obtaining consent to share information in the Confidentiality’ procedure in section 1.9 of the C&amp;YPS Social Care Procedures.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS</p>	
<p>5.13 Where the young person is not currently involved with C&amp;YPS but has had previous involvement, The Housing Authority will ask the young person for their written and signed consent to contact C&amp;YPS for information about them. The Housing Authority will fax the young person’s written and signed consent on the release of information form to C&amp;YPS. C&amp;YPS require this fax before they can release any information. Housing staff will request the following information and inform the young person of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Broadly, what did C&amp;YPS prior involvement with the young person consist of?</li> </ul>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY &amp; C&amp;YPS</p>	

<p>(ii) Has the young person ever been in care?</p> <p>(iii) When was the case closed?</p> <p>(iv) Why was the case closed?</p> <p>(v) Name and contact details of previous worker.</p>		
<p><b>5.14 Prevention</b></p>		
<p>5.15 In order for homelessness prevention to be effective all agencies involved in the procedure will be responsible for taking immediate steps to prevent homelessness if they are approached by a young person aged 16/17 who appears to be threatened with homelessness. A minimum response will be referral to the local dedicated service providing support and family mediation to 16/17 year olds (e.g. Time Out). In the absence of such a service locally, referral should be made to the Housing Authority.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	
<p>5.16 Consideration should be given to whether the young person would benefit from referral to IYS for targeted support aiming to keep them in an educational setting, training or employment.</p>	<p>INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES</p>	
<p>5.17 If the Housing Authority has taken the initial enquiry from the young person there may be instances when it considers that temporary accommodation is not necessary because they consider the young person is still able to live at home. In these cases the Housing Authority should be able to demonstrate that they have carried out an assessment of the risk to the young person if they remain at home. In all cases Housing staff must ask the young person for their consent to contact C&amp;YPS. See 5.7 above. C&amp;YPS will cooperate in the provision of information to inform this risk assessment. This does not mean that a formal referral to C&amp;YPS is necessary (see 5.1 above). It is expected that C&amp;YPS will respond to any request for assistance or information from the Housing Authority as soon as possible, and vice versa.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	
<p>5.18 Mediation and support for the family may be required and the Housing Authority will need to ensure these services are provided. Local arrangements should ensure that a service exists to provide family mediation/ support to 16/17 year olds at risk of leaving home/ being excluded from home. If no such dedicated service exists C&amp;YPS including the Youth Justice Service will provide this service.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE</p>	
<p>5.19 The Housing Authority may provide temporary</p>	<p>HOUSING</p>	



<p>end date and 'see attached uploaded Joint Assessment'. C&amp;YPS ICS users will need to click the forms tab and then click created document link and upload the Joint Assessment form.</p>		
<p>5.23 Much of the joint assessment interview will contribute to the C&amp;YPS initial assessment and the Housing Authority Part 7 assessment. Given the Children Act 1989 takes precedence over the Housing Act 1996 C&amp;YPS will be the lead agency in the joint assessment. The question whether any substantive duty is owed under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 will depend in part on the outcome of the assessment by C&amp;YPS, and whether any duty is owed under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. See 5.14 above for the arrangements for prevention of homelessness, which must commence on the first day.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	<p>FIRST DAY</p>
<p>5.24 Where the young person first presents to C&amp;YPS, C&amp;YPS will check ICS and provide interim suitable accommodation if needed with help from the Housing Authority if necessary and within one day. Where C&amp;YPS provide the accommodation and whether this is emergency accommodation or not it means the young person will become looked after under section 20(1), whilst their needs, including their need for continuing accommodation and support are further assessed.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING STAFF</p>	<p>WITHIN ONE DAY</p>
<p>5.25 Where the young person/s presents to any other organisation, they will make a referral to C&amp;YPS or the local Housing Authority on the first day.</p>	<p>OTHER ORGANISATIONS C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	<p>FIRST DAY</p>
<p>5.26 C&amp;YPS, assisted as necessary by the Housing Authority will undertake an initial screening on the first day regarding the case to ascertain the urgency and needs of the young person/s and any children they have. Discussion with C&amp;YPS and the Housing Authority will take place at this point to ascertain whether Section 20 duties may apply. The joint assessment with C&amp;YPS and the Housing Authority will take place within ten working days of the referral. Both C&amp;YPS and the Housing Authority will complete the joint assessment form at Appendix 3 together with the young person. C&amp;YPS will also complete an initial assessment within ten working days and liaise with the Housing Authority and the Housing Authority will commence their own statutory assessment under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and liaise with C&amp;YPS.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	<p>FIRST DAY</p> <p>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</p>
<p>5.27 C&amp;YPS will consider whether the young person is a child in need (C&amp;YPS have previously agreed that all 16/17 year olds that are homeless will be a child in need under Section 17, see Appendix 3) and whether the young person requires accommodation under section 20</p>		

by considering within their initial assessment section 20 and 17 as follows; which they will complete in ten days.

Section 20(1) requires that:

Every local authority shall provide accommodation as a result of –

- (a) there being no person who has parental responsibility for him;
- (b) his being lost or having been abandoned; or
- (c) the person who has been caring for him being prevented (whether or not permanently, and for whatever reason ) from providing him 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 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 him with accommodation.

In addition, section 20(4), provides that:

A local authority may provide accommodation for any child within their area (even though a person who has parental responsibility for him is able to provide him with accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

5.28 The duty is engaged whenever any authority has determined that the young person is in fact in need and requires accommodation as a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1) (a) to (c) or in section 20(3).

5.29 There can be no doubt that where a young person requires accommodation as a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1) (a) to (c) or section 20(3) then that young person will be in need and must be provided with accommodation. As a result of being accommodated the young person will become looked after and C&YPS will owe them the duties that are owed to all looked after children, set out in sections 22 and 23 and once they cease to be looked after, the duties that are owed to care leavers.

5.30 Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 sets out the responsibilities of local authorities to provide services for children in need and their families. It is the general duty of every local authority –

<p>(a) to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need; and</p> <p>(b) so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children’s needs.</p> <p>Section 17 (10) of the Children Act 1989 defines a child as being in need if –</p> <p>(a) he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority under this Part;</p> <p>(b) his health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services; or</p> <p>(c) he is disabled,</p> <p>The duties described in section 17 apply to all children in need in the area of the local authority.</p> <p>A child is any person under the age of 18. (see section 105(1) of the Children Act 1989.) C&amp;YPS will need to ensure that the young person is 16 or 17.</p> <p>5.31 Identifying the needs of the young person and the best response to these needs will be the function of each initial assessment. The critical factors to be taken into account in assessing whether a young person is in need under the Children Act 1989 are what will happen to the young person’s health and development without services being provided or secured by C&amp;YPS and the likely effect of the provision of services will have on the young person’s health and development. Where a young person is excluded from home, is sofa surfing among friends, or is sleeping in a car, it is extremely likely that they will be a child in need.</p> <p>5.32 Similarly where a 16 and 17 year old teenage parent is homeless they are also likely to have significant needs and require accommodation and support as a child in need. Determining who is in need and the extent of any needs requires professional judgement by C&amp;YPS, informed by consultation with other professionals familiar with the circumstances of the individual young person and their family. The young person’s (See 5.44 below) and their family’s wishes and feelings must be taken into account.</p> <p>5.33 C&amp;YPS are required to agree an assessment plan with the young person at the beginning of the initial</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS</p>	
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<p>assessment and with their family which makes it clear from the outset who is doing what, within what timescales, and what the possible outcomes of the assessment might be. These can range from the young person becoming, or continuing to be (if C&amp;YPS has provided or secured emergency accommodation) accommodated by C&amp;YPS to no services being provided.</p> <p>5.34 The initial assessment will need to include consideration of whether or not the young person can return home, with support for them and their family if necessary, or whether this is not a possible or safe option. See Appendix 5 for ‘Factors to be considered by C&amp;YPS when assessing 16/17 year olds who may be homeless children in need’. It will be necessary for C&amp;YPS to visit the family home or other accommodation where the young person has been living as part of the assessment process. C&amp;YPS will need to establish in their initial assessment whether the factors set out in sections 20(1), 20(3) or 20(4) of the Children Act 1989 are applicable to the young person’s circumstances.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p>	<p><b>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</b></p>
<p><b>5.35 Services under Section 17 Children Act 1989</b></p>		
<p>5.36 Providing accommodation under section 17 must not be used to avoid the duties incumbent under section 20. In some cases, it may not be necessary for the young person to be accommodated by C&amp;YPS because the young person’s needs can be met by providing other services, for example support to enable the person to return to the care of their family or other responsible adults in the young person’s network. Where C&amp;YPS concludes that the young person does not require accommodation for this reason, they will consider whether they should provide services under section 17, which could include financial support under section 17(6) to sustain any plan for the young person to live with members of their family. C&amp;YPS will also need to put in place a strategy to try and avoid the young person being threatened with homelessness in the future. Where the young person is a child in need C&amp;YPS will use their powers under section 17 to provide these services within ten working days.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p>	<p><b>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</b></p>
<p>5.37 However, if the young person requires accommodation, then this must be provided by C&amp;YPS and the young person concerned will become or continue to be (if C&amp;YPS has provided or secured emergency accommodation) looked after with C&amp;YPS having the responsibilities towards them set out in sections 22 and 23 and once they cease to be looked after, the duties owed to care leavers.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p>	<p><b>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</b></p>

<p>5.38 Where the Housing Authority has been providing interim accommodation pending assessment of the young person, once the initial assessment by C&amp;YPS is complete and it has been determined that the young person will be accommodated by C&amp;YPS under section 20, C&amp;YPS will notify the Housing Authority immediately. Where accommodation is to be provided under section 20 arrangements for the move to a secure suitable long term accommodation will be made as quickly as possible. C&amp;YPS will liaise with the Housing Authority to help provide this accommodation if needed under section 27 of the Children Act 1989 within ten working days. Looked After Children's procedures will commence by C&amp;YPS. C&amp;YPS need to liaise with the Housing Authority in the future in order to meet the young person's accommodation in the longer term.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	<p>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</p>
<p>5.39 Where C&amp;YPS have informed the Housing Authority that as a result of their Initial Assessment, they do not have a duty to provide accommodation under section 20 or where the young person has refused provision of accommodation, C&amp;YPS must consider what other support or services are required to meet their needs in conjunction with the Housing Authority under section 17. The Housing Authority will complete their assessment under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. Where the Housing Authority finds that no homelessness duty is found they will refer back to C&amp;YPS where required to assist the young person under section 17. Where the Housing Authority provides accommodation for a child in need, C&amp;YPS will need to consider the provision of services under section 17 to meet the young person's needs to help ensure he/she does not become intentionally homeless in the future by for example as a result of accruing rent arrears or being evicted due to bad behaviour.</p>	<p>HOUSING AUTHORITY C&amp;YPS</p>	<p>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</p>
<p>5.40 An initial assessment is not complete until C&amp;YPS have decided what action is necessary to respond to the young person's needs and this has been communicated to the young person, the adults responsible for their care, the Housing Authority and any other relevant agencies within ten working days.</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	<p>WITHIN TEN WORKING DAYS</p>
<p>5.41 <b>16 and 17 year olds from one local authority area who seek assistance from C&amp;YPS in another local authority area</b></p>		
<p>5.42 Where a 16 or 17 year old who was living in one local authority area and moves into North Yorkshire County Council area where they seek assistance from C&amp;YPS, the duty to assess falls on C&amp;YPS not children's services</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p>	



that the young person can expect as a looked after child and, subsequently, as a care leaver. C&YPS will also ensure that the young person receives accurate information about what assistance may be available including from the Housing Authority under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, if they do not become looked after, and how any entitlement for assistance under Part 7 will be determined. The following information may help to explain this to the young person.

Provision of services by CYPS		Provision of services by housing authority	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages
Pathway Plan	Housing only secured until 18 (albeit help available after that).	Ongoing housing provided after 18	Possible less intensive support.
Personal adviser	More limited housing choice	May be greater choice of accommodation	The council will only provide ongoing housing if the child had not become homeless intentionally.
More help with housing costs if rent privately up to 25			
More all round help			

5.48 Where there is any doubt about a 16 or 17 year old's capacity to judge what may be in his or her best interests, for example whether they should become looked after or seek alternative assistance, there will need to be further discussion with C&YPS, the Housing Authority, the young person concerned and their family, to reach agreement on the way forward.

5.49 C&YPS will explain to the young person that they can have access to independent advocacy and support from NYAS to assist them in weighing up the advantages and disadvantages and coming to a balanced decision.

5.50 The fact that a young person may be reluctant to engage with the initial assessment is not in itself a basis for assuming that the young person has rejected any C&YPS intervention to provide them with accommodation. Lack of co-operation is no reason for C&YPS not to attempt to carry out its duties under the Children Act 1989. In these circumstances, the initial assessment will need to involve careful recording of how C&YPS has attempted to engage with the young person to assess their needs in order to determine and provide appropriate services. Ultimately, however, it is not possible to force services on young people who

C&YPS  
HOUSING  
AUTHORITY

C&YPS

C&YPS

<p>persistently continue to refuse them.</p> <p>5.51 Where a 16 or 17 year old child in need wishes to refuse accommodation offered under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, C&amp;YPS must be satisfied that the young person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- has been provided with all relevant information</li> <li>- is competent to make such a decision</li> </ul> <p>5.52 The powers of C&amp;YPS to provide accommodation under section 17 cannot be used to substitute for the duty to provide accommodation under section 20C1) of the Children Act 1989. The provision of accommodation under section 17 will concern young people needing to be accommodated with their families.</p> <p>5.53 C&amp;YPS must only provide young people and teenage parents with supported accommodation which is suitable and of high quality. Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not suitable. A range of different types of accommodation to meet their assessed needs can include foster care, children’s homes, supported lodgings, foyers, properties with visiting support and other types of supported accommodation. C&amp;YPS and the Housing Authority will liaise under section 27 of the Children Act 1989 in order for the Housing Authority to assist in providing suitable long term accommodation. The choice of placement will be informed by the Initial Assessment of their needs and help with the young person’s transition. See Appendix 6 The Law and Suitable Accommodation.</p> <p>5.54 Section 23(2) (f) (i) of the Children Act 1989 permits C&amp;YPS to make ‘such other arrangements’ as seem appropriate when they place a child. The provision allows C&amp;YPS to make appropriate provision tailored to the needs of the young person but for whom fostering or a children’s centre placement is not the most suitable option.</p> <p>5.55 Where C&amp;YPS place a young person in ‘other arrangements’ they are required to prepare a placement plan which is integral with the Care Plan and is agreed between the young person and the person responsible for supporting the young person in the accommodation. The accommodation provider needs to have a full understanding of the young person’s needs and their role in meeting these needs and the support arrangements that C&amp;YPS are putting in place. The placement plan must be explicit about the respective roles and responsibilities of the accommodation provider and the young person’s Social Worker, their Independent</p>	<p>C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p> <p>C&amp;YPS</p> <p>C&amp;YPS HOUSING AUTHORITY</p>	
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## **6. IS AN EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?**

**YES**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is to be undertaken on the procedure.

## **7. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1 - 16/17 Year Old Lone Homeless Summary Flow Chart.
- Appendix 2 - Joint Assessment Form for Assessment of a Young Person's Accommodation Support Needs
- Appendix 3 - Definitions, Legislations and Guidance
- Appendix 4 - Integrated Youth support listings
- Appendix 5 - Factors to be considered by C&YPS when assessing 16/17 year olds who may be homeless children in need.
- Appendix 6 - The Law and Suitable Accommodation.

**8. DOCUMENT AUTHOR : Maureen Howard  
Strategy and Performance Officer**

## **9. PROCEDURE TO BE REVIEWED EVERY THREE YEARS**

## **10. COMPLIANCE TO EQUALITIES**

North Yorkshire County Council is committed to equality and to making fair and equitable treatment an integral part of all we do.

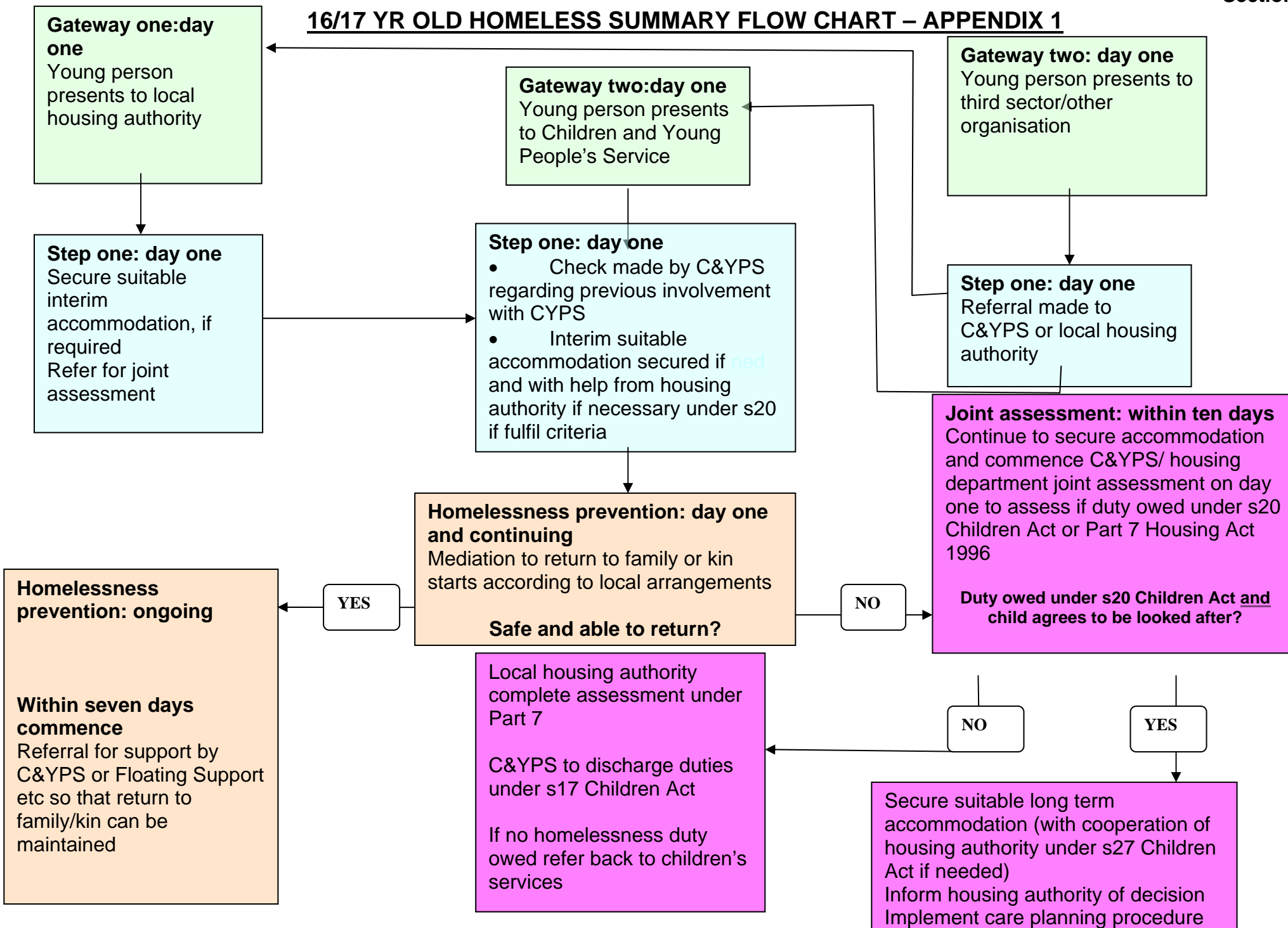
We will take action to identify and eliminate any directly or indirectly discriminatory practices, which act as barriers to achieving this objective. We oppose all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination whether on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sex or gender reassignment, marital status, sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability, or any condition or requirement which places a person at a disadvantage and cannot be objectively justified.

The full text of the Equalities Policy statement can be found on the Intranet or be obtained from the Corporate Personnel policy unit at County Hall, Northallerton.

## **11. DISTRIBUTION:**

All Children's Care Procedures Holders, North Yorkshire County Council's intranet website.

**16/17 YR OLD HOMELESS SUMMARY FLOW CHART – APPENDIX 1**



**APPENDIX 2**

Housing Authorities Ref. No.....

ICS No: .....

**JOINT ASSESSMENT FORM FOR ASSESSMENT OF A YOUNG PERSON'S ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT NEEDS**

Name of Worker: Housing Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Children and Young People's Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of this form is to assist a professional assessment whose purpose is to:

- (a) identify the housing and support needs of the young person; and
- (b) identify the nature of the need in order to be able to develop a plan for the young person.

The assessment should be completed with the young person who should agree the content. The young person should be informed of his/her rights and be made aware that although they may refuse to provide some of the information required, this will make meeting the person's needs more difficult.

The assessors should:

- (a) give the young person space and time to tell his/her story; and
- (b) use cues from the story to extract further information.

**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of accommodation/ arrangement (eg. Tenancy, friend, family, etc)

\_\_\_\_\_

Date required to leave: \_\_\_\_\_

Why does the young person have to leave? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Can we contact the person the young person is living with? Yes/No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date moved in: \_\_\_\_\_ Date left: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did the young person leave? \_\_\_\_\_

N.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the young person's religion?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does the young person require an interpreter? Yes/No Language Spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Does the young person require a signer for the deaf? Yes/No

Does the young person require written information in Braille? Yes/No

Is the young person pregnant? Yes/No

Copy of proof of pregnancy

Does the young person have a partner who is the parent of their child? Yes/No

Name and address of parent/guardian/carer:: \_\_\_\_\_

Has the young person recently contacted their parents? Yes/No

What was the outcome? \_\_\_\_\_

Can we contact their parents? Yes/No Telephone no: \_\_\_\_\_

What is the best time to contact them? \_\_\_\_\_

If the young person has had a difficult relationship with parents, offer mediation or support for the family. Inform the young person that contact will be made to confirm situation (unless child protection issue).

Does the young person have any family or friends who could offer accommodation? (please go through all family members and if necessary/ appropriate contact them) Yes/No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.no: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we contact them to try and arrange accommodation? Yes\No

Does the young person have friends/significant others who need to be available to provide support?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes\No

Has the young person previously had independent accommodation? Yes/No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord: \_\_\_\_\_

Why did they lose this accommodation? \_\_\_\_\_

**Involvement with other agencies**

Has the young person had any contact with other agencies previously?

Children and Young People's Service Yes\No Name of worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Justice Service Yes\No Name of worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Voluntary Organisation Yes\No Name of worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been:

On a care order Yes/No In trouble with the Police: Yes\No

Accommodated by Children and Young People's Service Yes\No

If yes to any of the above, give details and lengths of time in care, and dates of convictions and offences committed

Does the young person have any health problems? Yes/No

If yes, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of G.P. \_\_\_\_\_ (If young person is not registered with GP ensure advice is given on registering)

What (if any) medication does the young person take regularly? \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

Where did the young person receive their education over the past 5 years?

School\College	Dates from and to
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Has the young person a statement of educational needs? Yes/No

If yes, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the young person need any help with the following:

Reading	Yes/No	Claiming Benefits	Yes/No
Writing	Yes/No	Managing money	Yes/No
Household skills	Yes/No	Filling in forms	Yes/No

**Employment\Training**

Give details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the young person's financial situation

---

*(Does the young person need welfare benefits advice?)*

**Dependency Problems and Misuse**

Does the young person have a drug/alcohol dependency? Yes\No

If yes, give details: \_\_\_\_\_

---

*(Has the young person got specialist support?)*

Does the young person take drugs/drink heavily? Yes/No

If yes. give details: \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical or emotional abuse**

Has the young person suffered any form of abuse? Yes/ No

If yes, give details: \_\_\_\_\_

**Accommodation**

What type of accommodation does the young person require?

What are the young person's skills and abilities for independent living?

Does the young person have all the basic items needed to move into independent accommodation? ie pots, pans and bedding.

List the items needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the young person a risk to themselves?

Yes/No

If the young person is to be placed in temporary accommodation,  
Is there a risk to others?

Yes/No

Is there any other information to be taken into account?

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**Analysis of the information and the decision made**

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**Section 20 Test Questions**

Is the young person a child?

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Is the young person a child in need?

---

Is the young person within the Local Authority's area?

---

Does the young person appear to the Local Authority to require accommodation?

---

---

Is that need for accommodation the result of:

- (a) there being no person who has parental responsibility for him;
- (b) his being lost or being abandoned;
- (c) the person who has been caring for him being prevented from providing him with suitable accommodation or care?

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Where are the young persons wishes regarding the provision of accommodation?

---

What consideration (having regard to age and understanding and competence) should be duly given to those wishes?

---

---

Does any person who has parental responsibility object to the Local Authority providing accommodation? Or if young person is aged 16 or over, do they object to being provided with accommodation?

---

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### **The 5 Stage Test Housing Authorities**

Is the applicant

Eligible

---

Homeless

---

In Priority Need

---

Internationally Homeless?

---

Do they have a Local Connection?

---

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>			
		Action Taken	Date Referral Made
Does the young person have health issues?	Yes/No		
Educational need?	Yes/No		
Income need?	Yes/No		
Has the young person applied for benefits?	Yes/No		
Is the young person in any form of debt?	Yes/No		

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>	
Details of family history relevant to assessment	
Agencies contacted during initial assessment	
Accommodation need (can they remain at home with support)	
Support programme	
<p>Young person's accommodation and support needs will be monitored and reassessed by Children and Young People's Service and the Housing Department within three months of the initial date and not later than: _____</p>	

**Partner of Local Authority Release of Information**

Enclosure 3

In order to make enquiries into your homelessness under the provisions of the Housing Act 1996 Part VII and the Children Act 1989, the Council or Children and Young People’s Service may need to contact other persons or agencies on your behalf. If there is anyone we may not contact, please give details below.

<p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p>
------------------------------

**I give my permission that any relevant person or agency may be contacted in the process of gathering further information to support my application.**

Signed ..... Date:

.....  
(Applicant)

**DECLARATION**

**Your application will be considered under the Housing Act 1996 Part VII. If you have approached Children and Young People’s Service and are in need of accommodation, these details may be sent to the local Housing Department for consideration. If you make false statements or deliberately withhold information relevant to your application, the Council may take action against you which could result in a criminal conviction carrying a fine or conviction of up to £5,000.**

**I can confirm that all the information I have given is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and complete. I understand that I must tell the Council/Children and Young People’s Service if any of my circumstances change.**

Signed: .....

(Applicant)

Date: .....

**I have read and explained the declaration to the applicant.**

Signed: .....

(Housing Officer)

Date: .....

Signed: .....

(Social Worker)

Date: .....

## MEDIATION

Mediation for young people and their families aims to resolve conflict between vulnerable young people and those they consider to be part of their family or social support network. Through mediation, a young person can be supported to rebuild a relationship with family members. The young person may decide to take up a tenancy outside the family home with this support. Agencies need to have access to mediation services to assist homelessness prevention.

## PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

These include mediation between the young person, parents, relatives, friends and landlords. It can include support to maintain existing accommodation as well as help to find and move to new accommodation.

The appeal in relation to R (on the application of G) (FC) (Appellant) v London Borough of Southwark (Respondents) 20<sup>th</sup> May 2009. See procedure.

## The CHILDREN ACT 1989

The Children Act 1989 Section 20 places a duty on Local Authorities to provide accommodation for young people in need under the following criteria:-

Section 20(1) states that:-

'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:-

- a. There being no person who has parental responsibility for him;
- b. His being lost or abandoned;
- c. The person who has been caring for him being prevented (whether or not permanently and for whatever reason) from providing him with suitable accommodation or care'.

Section 20(3) continues:-

'Every Local Authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need in their area who has reached the age of 16 and whose welfare that Authority considers is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide accommodation'.

Section 17(10) defines a "**child in need**" as follows:-

- a. He is unlikely to achieve and maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving and maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a Local Authority under this part;
- b. His health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired without the provision for him of such services; or

c. He is disabled.

## Section 27

Enclosure 3

Section 27(10) of the Act allows Local Authorities to request the help of various agencies and people to assist in discharging these duties. Those identified in the Act who could be requested to help are:-

- a. Any Local Authority;
- b. Any Local Education Authority;
- c. Any Housing Authority;
- d. Any Health Authority;
- e. Any person authorised by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this section.

Any Authority requested to help is required to comply with the request provided that request is compatible with its own statutory or other duties and obligations and does not “*unduly prejudice*” the discharge of any of its own functions.

Whether a Section 27 referral is accepted or not the statutory duty for the provision of appropriate advice and assistance in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young person remains with C&YPS.

## SECTION 20 TEST QUESTIONS

Is the young person a child?

Is the young person a child in need?

Is the young person within the Local Authority’s area?

Does the young person appear to the Local Authority to require accommodation?

Is that need for accommodation the result of:

- (a) there being no person who has parental responsibility for him;
- (b) his being lost or being abandoned;
- (c) the person who has been caring for him being prevented from providing him with suitable accommodation or care?

Where are the young persons wishes regarding the provision of accommodation?

What consideration (having regard to age and understanding and competence) should be duly given to those wishes?

Does any person who has parental responsibility object to the Local Authority providing accommodation? Or if young person is aged 16 or over, do they object to being provided with accommodation?

## CHILD IN NEED

C&YPS have agreed that all 16 and 17 year olds that are homeless will be a “*child in need*” under Section 17. The full assessment will need to determine whether C&YPS have a specific duty to provide accommodation under Section 20. In determining whether a young persons welfare is likely to be seriously prejudiced, consideration will be given to whether the young persons health or development has been significantly impaired or she/he has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm and whether by virtue of this or any disability, the young person is not able to cope and manage in the community, notwithstanding the provision of services to her/him.

Circular LAC (2003) 13 (issued by the Department of Health, June 2003) clarifies the situation in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking children and other children and states that where a child has no parent or guardian in this country, the presumption should be that he/she would fall within the scope of Section 20 and become looked after, unless the needs assessment reveals particular factors which would suggest that an alternative response would be more appropriate. While the needs assessment is being carried out he/she should be cared for under Section 20. C&YPS staff can obtain further advice on unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from the Strategy and Performance Officer at Thirsk on Telephone Number 01609 532851

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children should be assessed in the same way as other 16/17 year old homeless young people within this procedure.

Where C&YPS provides help under Section 17 which involves providing or funding accommodation out of their own area, the placing C&YPS does not relinquish responsibility for the case unless it is specifically and formally transferred to another local authority in writing. In addition, the placing authority should consider whether it is the child's best interests to advise the second authority of the placement, and should do so unless there are strong reasons not to.

### **The CHILDREN ACT 2004**

- Section 10 establishes a duty on Local Authorities to make arrangements to promote cooperation between organisations in order to improve children's well-being, defined by reference to the five outcomes and a duty on key partners to take part in those arrangements. It also provides a new power to allow pooling of resources in support of these arrangements.
- Section 11 creates a duty for the key organisations who work with children to put in place arrangements to make sure that they take account of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children when doing their jobs.
- Section 12 allows further secondary legislation and statutory guidance to be made with respect to setting up databases or indexes that contain basic information about children and young people to help professionals in working together to provide early support to children, young people and their families. Case details are specifically ruled out.
- Sections 13-16 require that Local Authorities set up statutory Local Safeguarding Children Boards and that the key partners take part.
- Sections 44-47 put stronger requirements on Local Authorities to manage and monitor the current statutory notification scheme for private fostering arrangements. They also allow for a registration scheme to be set up if the notification arrangements prove to be inadequate.

In response to the above North Yorkshire C&YPS have produced a Children and Young People's Plan. One of the plan's aims is to take action to ensure that young people have access to decent, secure affordable homes and appropriate support so that they have a sound foundation from which to build their economic wellbeing. It is hoped that the impact of this will be a reduction in the numbers of young people staying in Bed and Breakfast and hostel accommodation.

**Relevant Child**

A '**relevant child**' is a child aged 16 or 17 who has been looked after (in care) by a Local Authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and has been looked after at some time while 16 or 17, and who is not currently being looked after. In addition, a child may be relevant if he or she would have qualified but for the fact that on his or her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he or she was detained through the criminal justice system, or in hospital, or if he or she has returned home on family placement and that has broken down.

For Care Leavers refer to the **Joint Working Arrangements to Provide Suitable Accommodation for Young People Leaving Local Authority Care. The HOUSING ACT 1996 (amended by the Homelessness Act 2002)**

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 places a duty on Local Authorities to provide assistance to certain categories of homeless people.

The **Homelessness (priority need for accommodation) (England) Order 2002** included new categories of homeless persons who have a priority need for accommodation and this includes a person aged 16 or 17 who is not a '**relevant child**' or a '**child in need**' to whom a local services authority owes a duty under Section 20 of the Children's Act 1989.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (Department for Communities and Local Government July 2006) informs local authorities that they need to consider the possibility of family breakdown and local authorities need to be able to effect reconciliation with the family. It indicates that this should be our first response.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities also makes Local Authorities aware that some parents and children may seek to take advantage of the fact that 16/17 year old applicants have a priority need for accommodation. Section 191 (3) intentional homeless will apply in cases where there is no genuine basis for homelessness and parents have colluded with a child and fabricated an arrangement. It is envisaged that this is a rare occurrence.

**Legislative framework of homelessness**

## Outline

There is a 5 stage test authorities use when someone applies as homeless.

Is the applicant:

Eligible  
Homeless  
In Priority Need  
Intentionally Homeless?

Do they have a:  
Local Connection?

The tests are assessed in order. For instance, if the applicant is not eligible, the LA need not make a judgement about whether they are in priority need.

1. The local authority must first decide if the person is **eligible for assistance**. This is a complex test and expert help should be accessed where there is any doubt. The web site [www.housing-rights.info/](http://www.housing-rights.info/) also gives an excellent explanation.

2. **Is the person homeless?**

A person is homeless if they have no accommodation anywhere in the world (other than temporary crisis accommodation eg. women's refuge) available for their occupation.

**A person is also homeless if they have accommodation but-**

- they cannot secure entry to it, or
- it consists of a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where he is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it, or
- it would not be **reasonable for the person to continue to occupy it,**

**Accommodation does not have to be settled or permanent.** Other relevant matters to be considered in relation to whether it is **reasonable for a person to continue to occupy** accommodation include:

Location, physical conditions, overcrowding, legal conditions, financial conditions (affordability) and employment.

In addition, **it is not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to domestic violence or other violence against him/her** or against-

- a) a person who normally resides with him as a member of his family, or
- b) any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him

When is a person **threatened with homelessness?**

**A local authority has to undertake the same enquiries for someone who is threatened with homelessness as someone who is actually homeless. Someone is threatened with homelessness when they will be homeless within 28 days, eg. when an order for possession of their property has been made and it expires within 28 days. If the local authority does not think the person will actually be homeless eg. because they believe they can do something to prevent the homelessness (for instance mediate to prevent eviction by relatives), they may not take an application. Applications must however be taken where a local authority have reason to believe that someone may be homeless or threatened with homeless. Reason to believe implies a low threshold of belief.**

3. Is the 16/17 year old in priority need?

**All 16/17 year olds are in priority need except:**

- those who have been in- but who have now left- local authority care; and
- children in need to whom a duty is owed under CA 1989 s.20 (local C&YPS have responsibility for both these groups see Joint Protocol on Children Leaving Care)

4. When is someone intentionally homeless?

**A person becomes homeless intentionally if:**

“he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable to continue to occupy.”

Enclosure 3

An act or omission in good faith on the part of a person who was unaware of any relevant fact shall not be treated as deliberate.

There is no requirement that a person deliberately becomes homeless merely that he deliberately did or failed to do something as a result of which he became homeless.

When does someone have a local connection?

Most authorities consider whether the applicant has a local connection with their area. If the applicant does not have such a connection the LA can refer the client to be housed by another LA where they do have a local connection. If the applicant does not have a local connection elsewhere, the LA to whom they made the application will house them.

A person may have a local connection with the district of a local housing authority based on one of the four grounds:

- a) because he is, or in the past was, normally resident there, and that residence is or was of his own choice. Service personnel are now deemed to have a local connection with the area in which they are stationed.
- b) because he is employed there;
- c) because of family associations, or
- d) because of special circumstances

Family associations do not usually extend beyond parents, adult children and brothers and sisters.

The Local Housing Authority's Duties and Powers

Pending enquiries

**If there is reason to believe someone is homeless and in priority need they will be housed pending enquiries into the rest of their circumstances**

Unintentionally homeless and in Priority Need

***duty to secure accommodation***

Unintentionally threatened with homelessness and in Priority Need

***duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that accommodation does not cease to be available***

Intentionally homeless and in Priority Need

***duty to provide advice and assistance and secure accommodation for such period as will give applicant a reasonable period to secure accommodation for him/herself***

Intentionally threatened with homelessness and in Priority Need

***duty to provide advice and assistance***

## Integrated Youth Support

Enclosure 3

NORTH	<b>Insite</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub 159-160 High Street Northallerton DL7 8JZ Tel: 0845 034 9571 Email: insite@northyorks.gov.uk	Sara Atkins Area Youth Work Team Leader 4Youth	Tel: Mobile: <a href="mailto:sara.atkins@northyorks.gov.uk">sara.atkins@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
WHITE HORSE	<b>Atmosphere</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub Old Court House Malton Road Pickering YO18 7JJ Tel: 0845 034 95 76	Dave Fincham Area Youth Worker 4Youth	Tel: 01609 533953 Mobile: 0797 612 76 81 <a href="mailto:david.fincham@northyorks.gov.uk">david.fincham@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
COAST	<b>Ourspace</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub George Pindar Community Sports College Moor Lane Eastfield Scarborough YO11 3LX Tel: 0845 034 9576 Email: ourspace@northyorks.gov.uk	Dave Flinton Trainee Connexions Worker Foundation Housing	Tel: Mobile: 0784 509 48 09 <a href="mailto:davef@foundationhousing.org.uk">davef@foundationhousing.org.uk</a>
CENTRAL VALE	<b>Sphere</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub 10b Abbey Walk Selby YO8 4DZ Tel: 0845 034 9574 Email: sphere@northyorks.gov.uk	Sue Carter YOT Area Prevention Manager	Tel: Mobile: 0797 676 46 67 <a href="mailto:susan.carter@yot.northyorks.uk">susan.carter@yot.northyorks.uk</a>
HARROGATE	<b>Trax</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub 15-17 Station Bridge Harrogate HG1 1SP Tel: 0845 034 9573 Email: trax@northyorks.gov.uk	Sarah Palfreyman PSA manager	<a href="mailto:Sarah.palfreyman@northyorks.gov.uk">Sarah.palfreyman@northyorks.gov.uk</a>
CRAVEN	<b>HQ</b> Integrated Youth Support Hub Navigation House Belmont Bridge	Jan Moriarty Extended Services Officer	Tel: 01609 535491 Mobile: 07968 475367 <a href="mailto:jan.moriarty@northyorks.gov.uk">jan.moriarty@northyorks.gov.uk</a>

	Skipton BD23 1RL Tel: 0845 034 9572 Email: hq- hub@northyorks.gov.uk		Enclosure 3
	<b>Think Family</b>	Stuart Davidson Operations Manager / Education Social Work Service	Tel: 01609 534462 <a href="mailto:stuart.davidson@northyorks.gov.uk">stuart.davidson@northyorks.gov.uk</a>

**Factors to be considered by C&YPS when assessing 16/17 year olds who may be homeless children in need.**

Enclosure 3

	Accommodation	Issues to consider in assessing child's future needs
1.	<b>Accommodation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child have access to stable accommodation</li> <li>• How far is this suitable to the full range of the child's needs?</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Family and Social Relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's relationship with their parents and wider family</li> <li>• 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</li> </ul>
3	<b>Emotional and Behavioural Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the child show self esteem, resilience and confidence?</li> <li>• Assessment of their attachments and the quality of their relationships. Does the child show self control and appropriate self awareness?</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Education, Training, and Employment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about the child's education experience and background</li> <li>• Assessment as to whether support may be required to enable the child to access education, training or employment.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Financial Capability and Independent living skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's financial competence and how they will secure financial support in future</li> <li>• Information about the support the child might need to develop self-management and independent living skills,</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Health and Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of child's physical, emotional and mental health needs</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Identity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the child's needs as a result of their ethnicity, preferred language, cultural background, religion or sexual identity.</li> </ul>

## THE LAW AND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION

Enclosure 3

<b>Local housing authorities</b>	<b>Children's services authorities</b>
<p><b>Housing Act 1996:</b> S206: All housing secured for homeless people MUST be suitable</p> <p>S208: As far as reasonably practical all accommodation secured shall be within the local authority's district</p> <p>S210: When considering whether accommodation is suitable local authorities shall have regard to issues of slum clearance, the presence of hazards (as defined under the Housing Act 2004) and the requirements for licensing of houses in multiple occupation</p> <p><b>Secondary legislation</b> All accommodation must be affordable (The Homelessness(Suitability of Accommodation) Order 1996 SI 3204)</p> <p>Local housing authorities can only use private B&amp;B accommodation for person who is pregnant if they have no other accommodation that is available and then only for a maximum of six weeks. (Homelessness (Suitability of accommodation)(England) Order SI 2003 3226)</p> <p><b>Homelessness Code of Guidance</b> Chapter 17 states that key factors to be taken into account when determining suitability include,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the needs , requirements and circumstances of the homeless household</li> <li>▪ Space and arrangement</li> <li>▪ Health and safety considerations</li> <li>▪ Affordability and location</li> </ul> <p>Para 17.33 states that B&amp;B accommodation is unlikely to be suitable for 16 and 17 year olds who are in need of support. Where B&amp;B accommodation is used is should be as a last resort for the shortest possible time. Annex 17 of the guidance sets out minimum standards for B&amp;B when they are used.</p>	<p><b>Children Act 1989:</b> S17: General duty of every local authority to promote welfare of children in need and, so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families.</p> <p>S20: Before providing accommodation under this section the local authority shall, as far as reasonably practicable and consistent with the child's welfare, ascertain the child's wishes, and feelings, regarding the provision of accommodation and give due consideration (having regard to his/ her age and understanding) to such wishes and feelings</p> <p>S22: Consideration also has to be given to the child's religious persuasion, racial origin and cultural and linguistic background.</p> <p><b>Children and Young Persons Act 2008: ( Commencement date awaited)</b> S8 amends the Children Act 1989 to the effect that accommodation provided for children must, as far as reasonably practicable, allow the child to live near their home, does not disrupt the child's education or training, enables looked after siblings to live together and meet the needs of children with disabilities. There should be a range of providers and accommodation types.</p> <p>S9: General duty of children's services departments to have sufficient accommodation in their area which meets the needs of children it is looking after.</p> <p><b>Regulation 27 and Schedule 6 "Care Planning, Placement and Case Review regulations"</b> (From April 1st 2011) provide for placements of looked after children in "other arrangements". Such arrangements must be suitable and the issues to be addressed include facilities and services provided, state of repair, safety, location, support, tenancy status and affordability. The child's views, understanding of rights, responsibilities and funding arrangements about the accommodation must be considered.</p> <p><b>Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people: DCSF/CLG April 2010:</b> Bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered as suitable for 16 and 17 year olds even on an emergency basis.</p>