



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Kim Davis

Youth Homelessness Advisor

12th September 2019

Homelessness Advice and Support Team



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The HAST – Youth Focus and offer

MHCLG and DfE jointly funded posts to focus on 16/17 year olds, care leavers, young people leaving custody, single young people aged 16 – 24

A DfE funded post in the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) to work with LAs on care leavers at risk of rough sleeping

Work focuses on preventing and relieving youth homelessness through:

- **Targeted visits and support** to some LHAs and Children Services Authorities
- **Advice and information** including support on protocols and pathways
- **Delivering joint training**, briefings, workshops and events,
- **Sharing of learning**, innovative models, relevant data and trends.



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Homelessness Reduction Act

Key changes to legislation – a quick recap

- **Expanded advice and information duty:** Available to **all residents** regardless of eligibility. Advice must be designed to **meet the needs of particular groups:** care leavers, former members of the armed forces, people leaving custody, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving hospital and people with mental health issues.

For people who are ‘eligible’ and are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days:

- New duty to **assess and plan - Personal Housing Plans** – applicant and local authority to take ‘reasonable steps’ to prevent or relieve homelessness
- New duty to **prevent homelessness within 56 days**, no tests applied in relation to priority need, intentionality or local connection
- New duty to **relieve homelessness within 56 days** – no test applied in relation to priority need or intentionality, unless the applicant needs emergency interim accommodation, when the priority need test is applied (i.e. is the applicant priority need or might they be?)
- New **duty to refer** on specified public bodies **with consent** people who may be at risk of homelessness or homeless



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Joint MHCLG and DfE Guidance on homeless 16 /17 year olds

Amended in light of the Homelessness Reduction Act - Published on 30.4.18

Children Act still take precedence over Housing Act 1996 for homeless 16/17 year olds

Incorporates relevant updates, including '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*'

Emphasis on JOINT WORKING across Housing and Children Services throughout, with guidance on responsibilities and duties

Focus on suitable accommodation, B&B is always unsuitable

Focus on **early intervention, joint assessment and planning** to prevent and relieve homelessness, meeting needs of YP and better sustained outcomes.

Includes guidance on Young People in custody

Guidance on operational **Protocols for working together** to meet the needs of YP to prevent homelessness, including process of referral and possible outcomes



16 & 17 year olds at risk of homelessness

Key points in the revised guidance

- **Homelessness applications** must be taken for all 16/17 approaches to housing authorities if are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days
- **Homeless 16/17 year olds must be referred to Children's Services, to complete a Child in need assessment.** Trigger points and timescales for a child in need assessment changed
- HRA places a **Duty to Refer on Children's Services** to notify a housing authority where they consider someone is or may be homeless within 56 days. Does not diminish Children's Services duties. It is not an alternative to a child in need assessment or an early help assessment
- Young peoples **options and choices** must be clearly explained, including providing clear information on S20 offer and Part 7 Housing Act duties
- Young people should have **access to an advocacy services** to assist them in making the right choice for them
- **Child in need plans** should be in place for all 16 and 17 year olds who are assessed as being children in need, including those who are homeless but do not want to be looked after
- Section 17 cannot be used as a substitute for the Section 20 duty



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What we know about Kent and youth homelessness since the changes to the legislation

- 6 months of H-Clic data to MHCLG (experimental data - April – September 2018). This data is in the public domain.
- 3599 households were owed either a ‘prevention’ or a ‘relief’ duty
- Of these, 1563 households were assessed as having 1 or more support needs. Within this group:

62 people were identified as aged 16/17s

42 were identified as care leavers aged 18 – 21

62 were identified as care leavers aged 21+

144 were identified as aged 18-25 requiring support to manage independently



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Updates for reference

Code of Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Joint DfE/MHCLG separate guidance on 'Prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for **16-17 year old young people who may be homeless** and/or require accommodation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation>



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Any queries please contact us on:

kim.davis@communities.gov.uk

Hast@communities.gov.uk

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