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|  | The Personal Housing Plan (PHP) and Pathway Plan (PP) will detail the route to independence and is reviewed every six months. This is designed to manage expectations about future housing options where social housing is in short supply. Care Leavers can receive support after they turn 21, up to they age of 25, unless they opt out | |  |
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| **APPENDIX 8** - Young Person’s Pathway 18+ Leaving Care | | | |
| Phase | KCC Responsibilities | Young Adult Leaving Care | Local Authority (LA) Housing Depts in District/ Borough Council Responsibilities |
| KCC’s 18+ Care Leavers’ service will ensure that the care leaver (CL) has been assessed and a Pathway Plan in place to ensure that they have sufficient skills, knowledge, and that the right level of support is in place to sustain a tenancy.  The relevant part of the Pathway Plan, together with any risk factors will be shared with the LA. This preparation will be supported by the CL receiving tenancy training from the 18+ Service that will cover the core elements of living independently and be based on the KHOG Moving On- Moving-In Toolkit.  It is important that the CL has realistic expectations of the type of accommodation they might be offered. This might not include social housing as this is a limited resource therefore, suitable accommodation may be offered to the CL in the private rented sector.  Once the CL is ready to live independently, the allocated Personal Advisor (PA) will contact the relevant LA’s Housing Options team to discuss whether joint planning arrangements are necessary six months before the CL needs to leave their current placement. This may be a telephone/face to face interview between the CL, allocated PA and the Housing Officer, to explore accommodation options based on the accommodation of the CL Pathway Plan.  KCC will ensure that the CL has an up-to-date CL Pathway Plan which takes into consideration tenancy readiness. The PA will obtain an information sharing consent form from the CL to share the accommodation section of the Pathway Plan with the appropriate LA.  The PA will assist the CL to complete a Housing Register application to enable them to bid for properties under the Kent Homechoice scheme.    When the CL moves into in accommodation, the PA will make themselves known to the landlord with a view to being a point of contact. The PA will initially monitor the situation, but if there is a risk of breakdown in the tenancy, the landlord will notify the PA immediately with an indication as to how critical the situation is so that they can raise the issue with the CL and consult with the landlord and Housing Officer as needed.  The PA will contact the CL to ascertain what further support is needed with immediate effect and action this immediately in a severe crisis. The PA will notify the LA to access support in preventing homelessness.  A meeting will be scheduled by the PA with the CL and the LA lead person, to agree actions to resolve the situation and ensure that the CL is appropriately supported going forward so that the tenancy can be  sustained. | Young Adult who is Leaving Care, will have a Personal Housing Plan (upon request) and a Pathway Plan and will be ready to live independently.  The Personal Housing Plan (PHP) and Pathway Plan (PP) will detail the route to independence and the PHP will be reviewed every six months. The PHP will be utilised ad hoc to guide an accomodation transition. This will help to manage expectations for a limited social housing supply. Care leavers can receive support post 21, until 25, where assessed as beneficial.  The care leaver’s Personal Advisor (PA) will contact the LA to discuss whether joint planning arrangements are necessary, six months prior to the CL leaving their placement.  KCC, the LA and the CL will discuss options and the LA will decide whether a Kent Agency Assessment form is needed, depending off level of identified need.  The PA will make sure the PHP and PP is up to date, obtain consent and ID and will support the CL to understand the options. Where required, the PA will support the CL in making an application for the Housing Register (ideally six months prior to required move date) so they can bid on properties.  The LA will make an assessment based on the information provided as to whether the CL can live independently and will share a range of options such as private rented, supported accommodation or social housing. They will record that the Young Adult is a CL and details of the Personal Advisor.  The LA may have arrangements within their Allocations Scheme for direct letting to care leavers, or nomination arrangements for care leavers, to receive an allocation of social housing  The PA willensure that the CL is supported to identify suitable accommodation. Where necessary/appropriate to do so, this may be via additional support from the Housing Support Team. They will also support the LA and CL, by ensuring that the CL is aware of the possible implications for ongoing support from the LA, of refusal of a suitable property. This discussion should be noted in either their Pathway Plan, or in their Personal Housing Plan. | The Housing Department has a duty to assist a Young Person (YP) under the Housing Act 1996, the Homelessness Act 2002, and the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 if the YP meets certain criteria. The YP must be:   * Homelessness or likely to be homeless within 56 days; and * Eligible for assistance (this is about their immigration status).   Prevention Duty: where a Local Authority (LA) is satisfied that an applicant is threatened with homeless within 56 days and eligible, it must take reasonable steps to help the applicant secure that accommodation does not cease to be available for the applicants accommodation.  Relief Duty: where a LA is satisfied that an applicant is homeless and eligible, it must take reasonable steps to help the applicant secure that accommodation becomes available for at least 6 months.  Under both the Prevention and Relief Duty there is some discretion for LA’s to decide exactly what the assessment should include, but certain matters must always be considered:  - the circumstances which led to homelessness or threatened homelessness  - the housing needs of the applicant  - what support would be necessary for the applicant and his/her household to have and retain suitable accommodation.  Both the Prevention and Relief Duty will coexist with the duty assess and applicant’s need and produce a Personal Housing Plan (PHP), which is kept under review. The PHP should contain the steps to be taken to prevent or relieve the applicant’s homelessness, the LA must try to agree with the applicant:  - any steps the applicant is to be required to take to find and retain accommodation for their household  - the steps the authority will take to assist the applicant in finding and retaining accommodation. The authority may also include steps which it considers would be a ‘good idea’ for the applicant to take, but which are not required of him/her.  Under Prevention Duty the LA must work with the YP for 56 days to take reasonable steps to prevent the YP becoming homeless. The Prevention Duty will continue to be owed beyond 56 days where the YP has received a valid Section 21 Notice and continues to be at risk of eviction. The LA can use discretion to extend the Prevention Duty beyond 56 days, in non-Section 21 cases, but does not have to.  If a YP becomes homeless during the Prevention Duty they will be owed the Relief Duty. A YP may also already be homeless when an application for housing assistance is first made and owed the Relief Duty from the start. Under the Relief Duty the LA must work with the YP for 56 days to take reasonable steps to relieve the YP of their homelessness. The LA will have a duty to provide interim accommodation where there is reason to believe the YP is eligible, homeless and in priority need.  The Relief Duty can be ended in a number of ways including if the YP has suitable accommodation where there is a reasonable prospect that this accommodation will remain available for at least 6 months, or where the YP refuses a final offer of Part 6 accommodation (social housing).  Once the 56 days has passed since this duty was owed, the LA will owe the main housing duty on day 57, or within 15 working days thereafter (after should further enquiries be required), if the YP remains eligible for assistance, is in priority need and is unintentionally homeless. This places a duty on the LA to ensure that accommodation is made available to the YP. If the YP is found to be not in priority need, or is in priority need but intentionally homeless, the LA only has a duty to provide advice and assistance.  The LA has the discretion to extend the Relief Duty beyond 56 days where the main housing duty would not be owed.  The main housing duty can be brought to an end if the YP accepts or refuses a final offer of Private Rented Sector Accommodation or final Part 6 offer. It can also be ended if the YP becomes no longer eligible for assistance or found to be intentionally homeless from the temporary accommodation provided to them. |
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