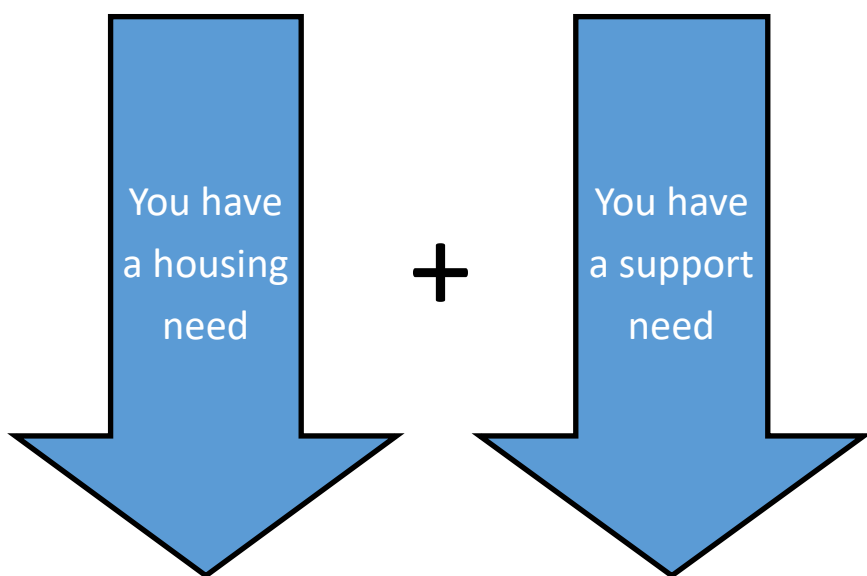




Why do I need a joint assessment?



Both Children’s Social Services and Local Housing Authorities have responsibilities towards you if you are 16 or 17 and homeless. Guidance requires both organisations to work together to support, safeguard and promote the welfare of young people.

Your social worker will discuss and support you with a ‘child in need’ plan. Once you are settled in your home, you may not need to be a child in need and the social worker will help you find other support before they end their involvement.

Your housing officer will tell you about your housing options and can support you once you are 18 and ready to move on from your accommodation. You will be able to ask them for advice in the future.

This leaflet has been developed to accompany the Kent Joint Working Protocol for Young People 16-17, which is guidance published by the MHCLG, DfE and provision under the Children Act 1989 and Housing Act 1996 (amended).

> Outside of Office Hours Duty Social Worker: 03000 419191

> Advocate

> Housing Officer

> Social Worker

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:



What is a joint assessment?



A joint assessment is a FREE OF CHARGE process that finds out what your individual needs are. The meeting may take a couple of hours and your social worker will make sure you are aware of the date and you are able to attend.

During the meeting, there may be some things which are difficult to talk about. It is really important you give as much information as possible about why you are homeless and why you cannot return home. You will also be asked about things like your education, training, employment, health and support needs.

First Stage: A meeting between Social Services, Local Authority Housing, yourself and, where necessary, an advocate. You also may want to bring a family member or adult friend with you.

Second Stage: Your social worker and housing officer will need to talk to your family, or who you have been living with to find out the reasons why you have been asked to leave and talk through what can be done to help you return home, where it is safe to do so.

If you need supported accommodation, funding of this can be discussed further in the initial meeting. Your social worker will be able to support you with applying for any benefits you may be entitled to. The support you need will remain in place as long as you need it, even once you are no longer homeless.

It is really important to ask questions if you do not understand what is being said, this is about you!

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Finally, an advocate is also able to help you appeal any decisions if you are unhappy with the outcome of the assessment.

The advocate will also give you written information about your rights and entitlements.

You may have.

and will support you to share your wishes, feelings and worries that will make sure that you fully understand what is available to you options available to you and what they recommend. Your advocate At the assessment Social Services and Housing offer all of the on your behalf.

whether you will need help in saying this and want them to speak having an assessment and what your situation is. They will also ask the assessment to discuss what an advocate does, why you are the advocate will meet with you for around 15 minutes earlier than if you have not been able to meet beforehand, then at the meeting, time to chat through your situation and reasons for choices.

Where possible, if you want an advocate to attend, ask to be assigned one before the joint assessment, this will then give you support you in the meeting.

long term. They will help you to make an informed decision and entitlements, your housing and support options both short and An Advocate makes sure that you fully understand your rights and

Use this space for questions or notes.



Why might I need an advocate?

What happens next?

