



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Support for Homeless 16/17 year olds and Care Leavers

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Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Dedicated posts jointly funded by DLUHC and DfE to focus on homeless prevention for 16/17s, care leavers, young people leaving custody, vulnerable young people aged 16 – 24

We help LAs via:

- **Targeted visits and support** Local Housing Authorities and Children Services Authorities together
- **Advice, challenge and support** to improve practice, joint protocols, pathways and performance
- **Delivering joint training**, briefings, workshops and events,
- **Sharing of learning**, innovative models, data, practice

And to:

- **Implement the Homelessness Reduction Act;** particular focus on improving outcomes for single people and rough sleepers
- **Develop homelessness strategies**
- **Providing intelligence from local areas** to inform on-going policy development.

Youth Homelessness Advice and Support Team

Our role and priorities

Our priorities:

- **Ensuring good practice to prevent homelessness for 16/17 year olds and compliance with the Joint Guidance:** [Provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who may be homeless](#)
- **Eliminating use of Bed and Breakfast for homeless 16/17 year olds** shared priorities, commitment and understanding across Children and Housing services, sufficiency planning and commissioning of suitable emergency accommodation
- **Supporting The Care Review implementation strategy** strengthening statutory guidance procedural expectations on Intentional Homelessness to remove its use for care leavers u25 and legislate if necessary
- **Making the Duty to Refer effective** Ensuring awareness and referral routes are widely known
- **Supporting delivery of DfE funding to Children's Services authorities** to prevent care leavers from becoming homeless and sleeping rough.
- **Improving joint working and pathways to ensure young people leaving care do not become homeless.** Our **Good Practice** guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/joint-housing-protocols-for-care-leavers>



Use of B&B for 16/17 year olds

Time Period (2022)	Total actual published LAs England	Total Number Kent
January to March	3	0
April to June	4	1
July to September	5	0*
October to December	3	1*

* Some data suppressed and not published so actual figure is higher.



Government's Implementation Strategy published Feb 2023 'Stable Homes Built on Love'. Consultation responses being analysed.

Mission 5: By 2027, we will see an increase in the number of care leavers in safe, suitable accommodation and a reduction in care leaver homelessness

We are working closely with DfE on taking forward our commitment to:

- ✓ Bring forward legislation, when parliamentary time allows, to **remove the local connection requirement** for care leavers seeking access to social housing at the next available opportunity.
- ✓ **Strengthening statutory guidance** and set out procedural expectations on **intentional homelessness** to remove its use for care leavers under 25 and legislate if necessary. We are at the very early stages of this work and are collaborating closely with the Department for Education to gather evidence and identify the most robust and practical way to do this.
- ✓ **Our advice is to** strengthen the governance arrangements by requiring sign off on all IH decisions by Directors of Housing and Children's Services, written into joint protocols with a commitment to joint working as corporate parents



Joint DFE and DLUHC Good Practice advice on developing care leaver joint housing protocols published in October 2020

A joint housing protocol should help children's services and housing authorities deliver the local accommodation offered to care leavers and prevent homelessness. It sets out commitments as corporate parents, and how these will be delivered in practice.

Keeping protocols live:

- Work should be assisted jointly by senior leaders and managers from across local housing authorities and children's services
- Introduce the protocol through regular training and induction programmes
- Keep under regular review and ensure it is informed by the views and lived experience of your young people

Examples of what works well:

- Housing representation at Corporate Parenting board
- Joint Panels between CSC and Housing to help with planning and earlier identification of homelessness risk
- Shared scrutiny of data including HCLIC to identify trends, lessons and opportunities for improvements.



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DfE funded programme to support care leavers at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping

Since October 2018, **47 local authority areas with the highest numbers of care leavers at risk of homelessness/ rough sleeping** have received funding from DfE

Aim to improve accommodation outcomes for the young people that live in these localities.

The Programme grew – x10 LAs joining on the programme in 2021/22 and x13 LAs in 2022/23.

£17.3m committed since 2018/19. Continued funding has just been confirmed for 2023/24 and planned for 2024/25.

The funding is for **additional specialist posts to deliver targeted support**, improve preventive work and the accommodation offer to care leavers.

The creation of dedicated housing specialist posts has had a transformative impact on how LAs approach this area of work, which has meant more bespoke and targeted support for young people, support for practitioners to strengthen their knowledgebase and greater strategic focus.

Kent's approach – A dedicated Accommodation Team in the Leaving Care service working to strengthen early intervention and planning in the service and improve joint working with Districts and Boroughs.