

# Joint Housing Protocol between Warwickshire County Council's Children Services and the five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire



## Response and Provision of Accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who are Homeless or threatened with Homelessness

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## **1. Introduction**

This Protocol forms a working agreement between the five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council's Children Services in responding to prevent youth homelessness. The Protocol outline the roles and responsibilities for all parties involved in assessing and supporting homeless 16/17-year-olds. We will work together to ensure that young people only become a Child in Care when it is in their best interests and when there are no safe alternatives available within the young person's friends or family network

The document offers guidance to Children's Services and Local Housing Authorities to work collaboratively in their duties to young people and avoid young people being referred to different departments whilst a decision is made as to what service should take the lead responsibility in responding to their housing needs.

## **2. Aims and Principles**

2.1 The overall aim of this protocol is to reduce homelessness among 16 and 17 year olds and provide an effective service response to young people who present at either Housing Authority or Children's Services as homeless or threatened with homelessness.

2.2 The following principles apply when applying this protocol:

- The safety and welfare of the young person is paramount.
- It is in the best interests of the young person aged 16 or 17 years old to live with the family where it is safe and appropriate or with a responsible adult within their wider family or friends' network.
- It is best practice to work in partnership with families to prevent and respond appropriately to causes leading to a young person becoming homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Young People are supported to access services that can promote their overall wellbeing and welfare such as Health, Education, Employment, Training and prepare for independence.
- The Young Person's views, wishes and feelings are heard, clearly documented and an offer of independent advocacy is offered at the start of the assessment process.

## **3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance**

3.1 This protocol is concerned with the legal duties set out within:

- a) Part 3 of the Children Act 1989.
- b) Reflects the case law relating to House of Lords in (G) v Southwark relating to children who require accommodation.

- c) Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 relating to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness who approach either local authority requesting assistance.
- d) Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, duty to refer and joint assessment.
- e) Statutory guidance 2018 by the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government 'Prevention of Homelessness and provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation'.
- f) Regulation 39 of the care planning, placement, and case review (England) regulations 2010 as amended in 2015.

3.2 Legislation and statutory guidance set out that the primary responsibility for a Child in Need who requires accommodation, including a 16 and 17 year old who is homeless lies with Children's Services Authority as the case law relating to House of Lords in (G) v Southwark. The duty under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 takes precedence over duties in the Housing Act 1996 in providing for children in need who require accommodation. Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 takes precedence over the general duty owed under Section 17 of the same Act to children in need and their families when a young person needs to be accommodated.

3.3 Children's Services duty to accommodate under Section 20 is engaged when a Child in Need requires accommodation because of one of the factors within Section 20 (1)(a) to (d) or in Section 20 (3) and (4):

Section 20 requires that:

- Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any Child in Need within their area who appears to them to require accommodation because of:
  - There being no person who has parental responsibility for them.
  - Their being lost or abandoned.
  - The person who has been caring for them is prevented (whether temporarily or permanently and for whatever reason) from providing them with suitable accommodation or care.

When Section 20 (1) does 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 16 and who welfare is the authority consider is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide accommodation.

In addition, Section 10 (4), requires that:

- Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child within their area (even though a person has parental responsibility for them and is able to provide them with accommodation) if they consider that to do so would safeguard or promote the child's welfare.
- If a young person in need requires accommodation as result of Section 20 (1) (a-d) or Section 20 (3) or (4) then that young person must be provided with accommodation. A young person who is accommodated for longer than 24

hours becomes 'a Child in Care' if they consent. Whilst accommodated under Section 20 the young person would not be entitled to welfare benefits including Universal Credit or Housing Benefit.

- 3.4 There will be some young 16 and 17-year-olds who require accommodation and fulfil the criteria under Section 20 of the Children Act but who do not wish to be 'a Child in Care'. This is their right, but it is very important that the young person fully understands the consequences of their decision and that they can reconsider this offer later.
- 3.5 If the refusal to become 'a Child in Care' gives rise to safeguarding concerns or if there is a concern about the young person's ability to make such decisions, the social worker must consult with their team leader and operations manager whether there are grounds to override the young person's wishes and a child protection plan is necessary.
- 3.6 It is good practice that the young person seeks independent advice and that their decision is clearly documented in their children and family assessment, as a case note and in a letter to the young person the same day. A template letter is available to use for young people who decline Section 20 and wish to be accommodated as Section 17.
- 3.7 If a young person has been 'a Child in Care', however briefly, then ceases to be a Child in Care there are several important regulations which need to be complied with (regulation 39 of the care planning, placement, and case review (England) regulations 2010 as amended in 2015).

#### **4. Homeless Prevention**

- 4.1 The five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire and Warwickshire County Council's Children's Services believe in most circumstances, the interests of young people are best served by living with their families and they should move to independent living in a planned way. The initial priority for both Warwickshire Local Housing Authority and Children's Services will be to identify whether a young person who approaches either authority for assistance because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness, can safely return.
- 4.2 Warwickshire County Council delivers a range of Edge of Care services to support families with an aim of reconciling differences so that a young person can return home on an indefinite basis or can return home for enough time to enable a planned move to independent accommodation. If it is determined that a young person can return home to their parents or guardians, Children's Services will identify appropriate support and services to promote their return.
- 4.3 When a young person approaches either authority or presents as risk of homeless, consent will be obtained from the young person to initiate immediate enquiries on the same day. All professionals must ensure that data is shared securely between authorities.

4.4 The focus of initial enquiries will be to ascertain if:

- The young person is homeless or at risk of homelessness and identify needs that require assistance. See Appendix 1 for 'Dimension of Need'.
- If the young person is not homeless but at risk of homelessness enquiries will be made to identify friends or family members that can offer accommodation.
- A home visit to the young person's parents/carers to identify prevention support:
  - Mediation.
  - Family Group Conferencing.
  - Family Network Meeting.
  - Referral to Edge of Care Services such as FAST (formally STAY).
  - Referral to Barnardo's Independent Advocacy.
- A 'Duty to refer' is the online referral to one of the five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire. This must be completed on the same day and acknowledged by the Local Housing Authority within 24 hours. A joint assessment of need must be concluded within 10 days (see Section 8 below).

4.5 Warwickshire's Children's Services, Youth Justice Service and the five District and Borough Councils will work in partnership to ensure that young people aged 16 and 17 who are leaving custody and may be homeless or at risk of homelessness have suitable accommodation available on release and this will be jointly assessed during resettlement planning.

If the young person already has an allocated social worker, they should attend any resettlement meetings; a social worker from Children's Services should also attend if a young person will be referred under this protocol. Children's Services should always attend where the young person was a child in care after prior to custody and will need to become a child in care again on release.

Where possible, the focus of work should be ensuring young people can return home to live with their family or another family member and mediation services or a Family Group Conference should be considered to support this.

## **5.0 Referral Pathway**

5.1 Referrals can come from four sources:

- Young People not currently open to Children's Services and have presented to Children's Services.
- Young People not currently open to Children's Services but have presented to Local Authority Housing.
- Young People who are currently open to Early Help service, they will have a lead professional and plan of intervention but do not have an allocated social worker.
- Young People who are currently allocated a social worker within Children's Services.

Young People who are not currently open to Children's Services or in receipt of Early Help support:

### **Day 1**

The first point of contact is 'Front Door', this is the Children and Families Integrated Front Door (formally MASH).

A contact and referral is completed on the Mosaic System.

This referral will be processed, a Service User Group will be recorded as '16/17-year-old homelessness'.

This will be forwarded to the appropriate Initial Response Area Team and a notification sent to Homeless Prevention Advisor (HPA) within 24 hours. The duty social worker and homeless prevention advisor will contact the young person and their family to undertake an initial assessment of the situation on the same day. This will involve the provision of advice and information, discussion with the young person and their family, mediation if appropriate and practical. A full genogram will be completed with details of family and connected people. To make the Joint Housing Protocol 'duty to refer' referral (See Appendix 4) consent must be obtained from the young person and an explanation to them that their homelessness situation will be a joint assessment between the two authorities.

Following this initial visit there will be one of four outcomes:

1. A return to the existing accommodation (or home) proves possible and is deemed in the young person's best interests. The young person may be provided with advice and information regarding their needs and no further action is required.
2. A return to the existing accommodation (or home) proves possible and is in the young person's best interests but follow up work is needed. A 'Team Around the Child' meeting must be convened within 5 days with the young person, family, independent advocate (if young person has consented to an advocacy referral) and professionals to identify a plan of support. A referral is made to Edge of Care Services for family support from the FAST (formally STAY) and or ongoing support from the Homeless Prevention Advisor for up to 8 weeks. For families requiring more extensive support the social worker will complete the children and family single assessment via sec.17 of the Children Act 1989 to establish if the young person is a Child in Need.
3. If a return home is not possible or safe and there is nowhere for the young person to stay even on an interim basis, homelessness has been ascertained, the situation will be considered by the Social Worker, Team Leader who will then consult with their Operations Manager and Service Manager and a decision made whether temporary accommodation should be provided by and what level of support if needed. If accommodation is provided by the local authority, then the young person will be a Child in Care under Section 20, whilst the children and family assessment is completed. Temporary accommodation will be provided where there is no safe alternative available.

4. If temporary accommodation is provided the procedures set out in Section 3 of this guidance, a young person will become 'a Child in Care' following 24 hours in local authority care, unless this is declined by the Young Person. The young person can then be accommodated under Section 17 while a 'Team Around the Child' meeting is convened, consideration must be given for mediation and reconciliation and the children and family assessment completed. Where a young person refuses accommodation see Section 7.

The Children and Family assessment must not exceed 45 working days.

- 5.2 If a young person presents as homeless to the five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire, they will carry out initial enquiries to ascertain if the young person is homeless or threatened with homelessness and is eligible for assistance. If the young person presents as homeless and does not require accommodation under section 20 of the Children Act 1989, the Local Housing Authority under The Housing Act 1996 section 188 (1) must provide accommodation on an interim basis (56 days) until a decision or other event occurs where they believe an applicant is:

- a. Homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- b. Eligible for assistance.
- c. A priority need.
- d. Unintentionally homeless.
- e. Locally connected.

If it is identified that the young person is imminently homeless the District and Borough Councils in which the young person presented, they will provide emergency accommodation, and with consent, make a referral to the 'Front Door' at Warwickshire County Council. A Children and Family Assessment will be arranged, and a Joint Housing Protocol meeting is to take place within 10 days.

- 5.3 If a young person is allocated a social worker within Safeguarding and Support or Strengthening Families, the social worker will gain consent from the young person to contact the Homeless Prevention Advisor at the FAST team to provide prevention support and the allocated social worker will arrange a 'Team Around the Child' meeting between the young person, family, and professionals. Where a family is open to Strengthening Families and a child is 'Edge of Care' a transfer to the Safeguarding and Support Team will need to be completed.

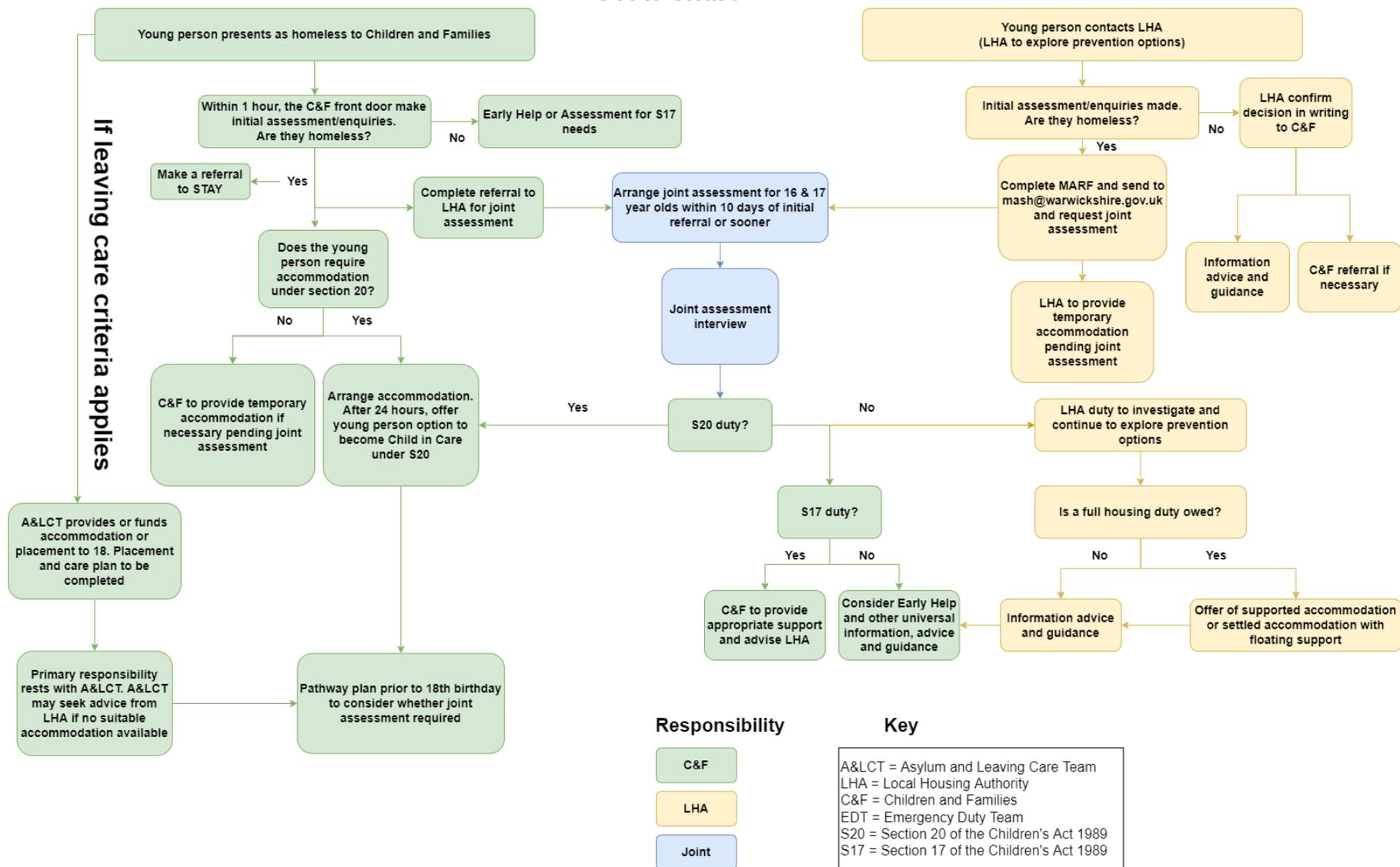
The 'Team Around the Child' is a strengths and solution focused meeting, with the aim to achieve the following outcomes:

- An agreed plan where the social worker will continue to co-ordinate work with the young person and their family to remain at home or within their connected network.
- Where the young person is likely to be homeless the same day, the social worker to work through the accommodation options available in Section 3, in consultation with the Team Leader, Operations Manager and Service Manager.

Where a child is at imminent risk of homelessness a 'Team Around the Child' meeting should be held on the same day where possible, to achieve the best possible outcomes.

- 5.4 If a young person is open to Early Help services the lead professional will contact the Front Door and the procedure followed as set out in 5.1. Temporary accommodation should only be considered if there is no safe alternative. This must be agreed with Operations Manager and/or Service Manager and the decision entered on the young person's file.

## Joint protocol for Homeless Young People (16-17 years old) Flow chart



## **6.0 Children and Family Assessment and Outcomes**

6.1 A Children and Family assessment is required for all young people presenting as homeless. Same day initial enquiries will establish if a young person may need temporary accommodation, or they may be safely supported short term with family or friends. The children and family assessment should decide whether the young person is a Child in Need, and if they are, whether they require services under Section 17 or under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989, the legal criteria set out in Section 3 above.

Where a young person is presenting as homeless an initial assessment is required the same day to ascertain if a safe return home can be negotiated, as this is often the best opportunity for a young person to return home and address the presenting issues.

During the assessment it is important to meet and discuss with the young person their story, wishes and feelings and their views. Consider the needs of the young person using the 'Dimension of Need' guide in appendix 1.

Consider and offer, if required, referrals to individual support to meet their immediate needs such as:

- Targeted support for young people, Mind or Compass. Consent should always be obtained from the young person before making referrals and recorded on their file.
- Offer of support from FAST to explore immediate mediation and de-escalation support.
- Complete a genogram and obtain consent to refer to Family Group Conference. Solutions are often found when families discuss their difficulties together.
- Provision of advice and information about alternative housing options from services such as Doorways or St Basils.
- Consider if the young person may be at risk or experience contextual safeguarding concerns and take appropriate action.

When the outcome of the assessment is likely to recommend a young person is accommodated under Section 20 a 'Team Around the Child' meeting must be convened with the young person, family, and agencies within 5 days. When there is an imminent risk of homelessness a 'Team Around the Child' meeting may need to be convened the same day.

6.2 When a Children and Family assessment is completed, and recommendations and outcome agreed by the Team Leader, the main outcomes are likely to be:

- The young person is not assessed as a Child in Need as they are not homeless. They may request to be assessed for their housing needs and referred to their Local Housing Area for consideration whether a duty is owed

under the Housing Act 1996. Otherwise, the young person may be closed to Children's Services.

- The young person is not assessed as Child in Need but needs targeted short term support a 'step down' to Early Help will be arranged. A triage form is to be completed and a Lead Professional identified. If the young person wishes to pursue alternative housing options a referral can be made to Doorways, P3 or St Basils for floating support.
- A young person is identified as Child in Need but is not in need of Section 20 accommodation, a Child in Need plan should be developed with the young person to remain within their family or connected person or rehabilitated home following mediation. A Joint Housing Protocol may still be required to enable housing to assess the young person's housing needs.
- The Young Person is assessed as requiring Section 20 Accommodation in the short, medium, or long term. When this is considered by the social worker the young person's situation should be considered by Operations Manager and Service Manager, who will agree if accommodation is needed and the level of support. Any decisions made will need to be recorded on the young person's file with a clear rationale and outcome.

6.4 Where a Young Person requires accommodation under Section 20, the procedure will be followed for a 'Child in Care':

- Children and Family assessment with clear rationale for accommodation will be shared with the Operations Manager/Service Manager decision and rationale clearly documented on the young person's file.
- A placements referral to be completed, with information about the appropriate level of accommodation required for the young person's needs. Children and Families have foster care provision and commissioned semi-supported accommodation that can provide different levels of support dependent on need – this will need to have been assessed at the time of assessment using the 'Dimension of Need' see appendix 1.
- Placements would normally only be agreed for 28 days while ongoing assessment and planning is completed to inform the ongoing needs and support of the young person and enable planning for medium/long term accommodation or reunification home to family or connected persons. A copy of the Accommodation Guide for 16 and 17 years old needs to be shared with the young person (See Appendix 3).
- Weekly visits to be carried out until the first:
  - 'All about me' review is completed within 28 days.
  - Child in Need review is completed.

A referral will be made for the young person to access a 'Personal Advisor' and create a pathway plan with the young person. If the young person is to remain 'a

Child in Care' the young person will transfer to 'Children in Care' Team at the second review meeting.

## **7.0 Young People who refuse to be accommodated under Section 20 (Child in Care)**

- 7.1 There may be circumstances when a young person has been provided with information about the support and assistance provided during and after a period in care and still refuses to become 'a Child in Care'. In this instance the young person's decision making, and discussions must be clearly documented in the young person's case notes, a letter detailing the outcome and accompanying Accommodation Guide for 16 and 17 years old provided (See Appendix 2 and 3).
- 7.2 This letter will outline the decision made and the potential consequences of their actions. The young person may continue to receive support as a Child in Need by the Local Authority while arrangements are made to support them into semi-independent living and decide to access additional support.
- 7.3 Children's Services recognise that young people may need time to consider their options and they may choose to accept the offer at a later stage. The social worker will continue to review this with the young person throughout the intervention.
- 7.4 Where a young person refuses accommodation offered by Children's Services under Section 20 or Section 17, the young person should be referred to the Local Housing Authority and a 'Joint Housing Protocol' meeting convened.
- 7.5 Where a young person requires accommodation and fulfils the criteria set out in Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 but who do not wish to be a Child in Care, this is their right and it is important that the young person understands the potential consequences of their decision. If the refusal to become a Child in Care arises from safeguarding concerns or arises around a concern for the young person's ability to make decisions, Social Workers must consult with their Team Leader and consider whether there is a parent who can support the young person and agree Section 20 or to override the young person's wishes and consider a strategy discussion to consider if the threshold is met for Child Protection.

## **8.0 Joint Housing meeting and Homeless Application**

- 8.1 Once the initial assessment has been completed and considered, the Social Worker and Team Leader will outline recommendations and decisions for any provision that best meets a young person's need and may not require the offer of accommodation.

These are where the young person is:

- Not a Child in Need or young person's refused Child in Need support; Early Help and Family Information Service can provide support.
  - 16 or 17-year-old Child in Need who, having been properly and fully advised of the implications and having the capacity to reach a decision, has decided that they do not want to be accommodated under Section 20 or under Section 17. The outcome of this decision must be given to the young person in writing and details of how to contact Children's Services if they change their mind.
- 8.2 The Social Worker will make contact by 'duty to refer' online portal for each Local Borough/District where the child has presented – See Appendix 4.

- 8.3 A Joint Housing Protocol meeting will be arranged and completed within 10 working days for the following reasons:
- To discuss the provision of accommodation where Children's Services have assessed that there is no Section 20 duty owed or has been refused by the Young Person.
  - Share with housing the outcome of our initial assessment to help inform young people of their options around accommodation and alternative options to meet their housing needs.
  - Prevent homelessness or risk of homelessness, information sharing could help the young person make an informed decision – they may decide to stay with family, friends.
  - All meetings must have minutes taken by the Social Worker and a record of the meeting and outcomes documented on the young person's file and shared with the Local Housing representative.
  - The outcome will be shared with the young person and their independent advocate, if they have one.
- 8.4 When a young person approaches the Local Housing Authority, a Joint Housing Protocol Meeting can be arranged and completed with Children's Services within 10 days, where the Local Housing Authority may have reason to believe the young person is eligible for assistance. A joint assessment will be undertaken, and interim accommodation may be secured under S188(1) of the Housing Act 1996 for a period of up to 10 days or sooner depending on the outcome of the joint assessment and information shared between Local Housing Authority and Children's Services.
- 8.5 Bed and Breakfast accommodation, as defined in Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) SI 3326 2003, is not deemed to be a suitable temporary accommodation option for 16 and 17 year old, even on an emergency basis (Homelessness Code of Guidance, CH17, 17.39). If appropriate accommodation cannot be sourced by Local Housing Authority the Head of Housing and Service Manager and Children's Services need to discuss to identify an appropriate resolution.
- 8.6 Where the Section 20 criteria are not met or declined by the young person and they do not want a service from Children Services, but they require accommodation the housing authority will discharge their duties under homelessness prevention or relief:
- Prevention duties apply to those that are eligible and threatened with homelessness within 56 days,
  - Relief duties apply to those that are eligible and homeless immediately or within 56 days which requires the council to take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure alternative accommodation.
  - The applicant is entitled to an assessment of their needs which must be confirmed to them in writing along with a Personalised Housing Plan which sets out the actions that both the applicant and the Council will take to find accommodation.
  - There is no duty on the Council to provide any sort of accommodation under the Relief Duty unless they are in Priority Need. After 56 days, if the person remains homeless then a final decision will be made as to whether the housing authority owes a main housing duty, otherwise no further duty is owed.

- **Where a young person is unwilling to return home, this will mean they will not be regarded as homeless under the 1996 Act.**

If a young person is assessed as not a Child in Need or is not determined as homeless by the Local Housing Authority, the young people will be referred to the Family Information Service, Doorways and Citizens Advice Bureau for further information and guidance.

## **9.0 Homeless arising out of hours**

9.1 The first point of contact for all 16 and 17-year-olds at risk of homelessness out of hours is the Children and Families Emergency Duty Team (EDT). Referrals can be made by contacting out of hours telephone number, available online. Where a young person is homeless the following actions will be taken:

- Emergency duty social worker will contact the young person and carry out an interview with the young person and seek consent to identify alternative and temporary accommodation such as return home, family or friends and gather further information.
- If temporary accommodation is required, the emergency duty social worker will liaise with their Team Leader and Operations Manager to co-ordinate temporary accommodation. In the event the young person is likely to be accommodated for longer than 24 hours, emergency duty social worker will need to seek authorisation from their Operations Manager or Service Manager to start the Child in Care Procedure.
- Emergency duty social worker can contact commissioned services P3 and St Basils for 'crash bed' availability.

## **10.0 16/17 year olds who cease to be a Child in Care**

10.1 If a young person who has been a Child in Care, however briefly, then ceases to be a Child in Care there are several regulations that need to be complied with (Reg 29 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010 as amended in 2015). These state that Children Services must undertake the following actions before a ceasing to Look After the young person:

- Assessed the accommodation, maintenance, and support arrangements in place for the young person.
- Ascertained the young person's wishes and feelings.
- Assessed whether ceasing to be a Child in Care young person will promote their wellbeing.
- Set out the support the Local Authority intends to provide.
- Ensure that the family and professionals have been consulted, as appropriate.

10.1 If a young person has been in care for longer than 13 weeks the plan should be discussed as part of the 'All about me' review. For a young person in care for less than 28 days they will require further assessment and include, the above actions and if required, a 'Return Home Assessment' and reunification plan following the NSPCC reunification model, to identify ongoing appropriate support.

## **11.0 Homeless young people from another local area presenting in Warwickshire**

- 11.1 Warwickshire Children's Services will carry out an assessment of a 16/17 year old that moves to the Warwickshire area from another area and seeks assistance. The immediate needs of the young person will be assessed and there will be no expectation or request for the young person to return to their previous authority.
- 11.2 However when young people present to Children's Services, and the young person has clear links to other areas, enquiries should be made to the previous Local Authority at the time of the referral to see if they are willing to undertake the Section 17 Children and Family Assessment. This matter can be escalated to Senior Managers in the absence of action, however, Warwickshire Children's Services will undertake an assessment as this is where the child is physically present.
- 11.3 The Local Housing Authority has a similar duty to assess the young person's homelessness application. However, even if the young person is found homeless, the Local Housing Authority undertaking the assessment can refer the young person back to the 'home' Housing Authority on the grounds there is a local connection. If during the assessment process there are safeguarding concerns, the matter must be referred to Front Door at Children's Services.

## **12.0 Data Collection**

The Homeless Prevention Advisor within FAST (formally the Support Team for Adolescent Young People, STAY) will maintain a spreadsheet to track the progress of current homeless young people. The number of young people presenting as homeless to either Authorities will be collated and shared within FAST and through monthly Performance and Improvement Meetings to track and identify outcomes and quarterly Housing Meetings. This information will be analysed and shared between partners and will consider:

- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds were prevented, a returned home sustained or re-presented with certain timescales.
- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds, had CIN assessments/Homeless applications and Duty to Refers made and recorded.
- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds, were offered/accepted advocacy?
- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds became s20 accommodated?
- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds had CIN plans?
- How many young people aged 16 to 17 year olds needed emergency accommodation and/or moved into supported housing?

## **13.0 Dispute Resolutions**

- 13.1 If either the Local Housing Authority or Children's Services are unable to agree in respect of any referral, assessment, plan of support or accommodation provision, then the case is to be referred to the housing manager responsible for homelessness in the case of the Local Housing Authority and the operations manager in respect of Children Services for resolution.
- 13.2 Where it is deemed necessary meetings will be convened on a case-by-case basis for a resolution to be negotiated.

- 13.3 Where the disagreement cannot be resolved at this level the case will be referred to the Head of Housing of the Local Housing Authority and the Service Manager at Children's Services.
- 13.4 If any young person is dissatisfied with the outcome of the joint assessment procedure, they have the right to complain or appeal through existing complaints and appeals procedures. This information will be included in the outcome of the Children's Services Assessment.

## 14.0 Appendices

### Appendix 1

Dimensions of need		Issues to consider in assessing child's future needs
1	Accommodation	Does the child have access to stable accommodation? How far is this suitable to the full range of the child's needs?
2	Family and social relationships	Assessment of the child's relationship with their parents and wider family. 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?
3	Emotional and behavioural development	Does the child show self-esteem, resilience and confidence? Assessment of their attachments and the quality of their relationships. Does the child show self-control and appropriate self-awareness?
4	Education, training and employment	Information about the child's education experience and background. Assessment as to whether support may be required to enable the child to access education, training or employment.
5	Financial capability and independent living skills	Assessment of the child's financial competence and how they will secure financial support in future. Information about the support the child might need to develop self-management and independent living skills.
6	Health and development	Assessment of child's physical, emotional and mental health needs.
7	Identity	Assessment of the child's needs as a result of their ethnicity, preferred language, cultural background, religion or sexual identity.

'Prevention of homelessness and provision of accommodation for 16- and 17-year-old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation' DfE 2018.

### Appendix 2

#### [Letter - Decline Section 20 Offer 16 & 17 year olds](#)

The effect of Section 20(11) Children Act 1989 is that 16- and 17-year-olds can accommodate themselves against the wishes of their parents. However, the child must understand the consent that they are giving.

Appendix 3

Leaflet – [Accommodation Guide for 16 and 17 years olds who may be homeless in Warwickshire](#)

Appendix 4

[Appendix B – Initial Referral Form](#)

Appendix 5

[Warwickshire Spectrum of Support](#)