

# Homelessness

**Advice and support  
for 16/17 year olds**



**Are you worried  
about where you  
are going to live?**



# What will happen when I call Children's Services?

- You will speak to a social worker who will listen and ask questions to understand your housing situation better.
- The social worker will make a record of your discussion and document your views.
- The social worker will also speak to your parents/carers to gather their views.
- If you are not able to return home, Children's Services will start a joint assessment with Housing.

## Where will I go?

- Where possible we will always look at and prioritise options for you to remain living with your family/friends whilst we assess your needs and understand your situation more.
- We work with a service called Family Assist who will also provide support to you and your parents/carers to understand the reasons you are homeless.
- If there are no family/friends who can help you with accommodation or if you cannot return home, we will arrange short-term accommodation.
- A social worker will explain the different long-term housing options available to you.

## What are my longer-term options?

We know this is a worrying time so there will be support available through a **children's advocate**; they can help you to understand your options and ask questions on your behalf.





# The different options available to you are:

## Option 1

### Becoming a looked after child

- If you become a Looked After Child you will receive ongoing support from Children's Services. This will include regular reviews overseen by an Independent Reviewing Officer to ensure you are getting the right support.
- You will either live with a foster carer or in a semi-independent placement.
- You may also be entitled to support from the leaving care team up to the age of 25 - you can find out more information on our local offer by following this link: [www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section\\_attachments/366\\_9ds\\_care\\_leavers\\_offer\\_booklet-a5\\_rev1.pdf](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/sites/default/files/section_attachments/366_9ds_care_leavers_offer_booklet-a5_rev1.pdf)
- This is the most suitable option for most young people; if you do not wish to be looked after, you will be strongly encouraged to discuss your decision with the children's advocate.



## Option 2

### Supported housing

- If you decide you do not want to become a Looked After Child you will be offered supported accommodation through Housing via the Young Person's pathway (not temporary accommodation, B&B, Council accommodation etc).
- In most cases, based on your needs you will continue to be supported by a social worker until you turn 18.





# Are you worried about where you are going to live?

## H&F Children and Young People Services

If you need support and advice about your housing situation, you can call:

### Weekdays

Monday to Friday

☎ 020 8753 6600

🌐 [Familyservices@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:Familyservices@lbhf.gov.uk)

🕒 9:00am – 5:00pm

### Any time after 5pm and Weekends

**Contact the Emergency Social Work Team**

☎ 020 8748 8588