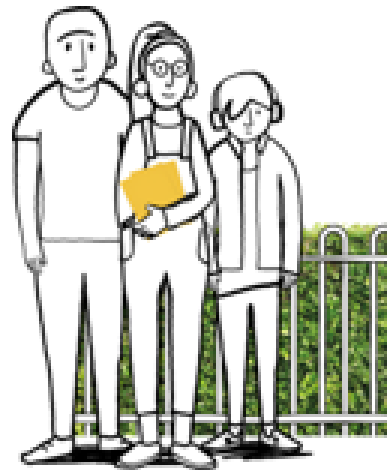


**Manchester City Council's joint protocol for
working with young people aged 16/17 years
old who are homeless or threatened with
homelessness**

Jan 2022 to 2023



1. Purpose of the protocol

1.1 This joint working protocol will set out how Manchester City Council's Young people's Services and Homelessness Services will work jointly to ensure the provision of appropriate accommodation and support for young people aged 16 and 17 who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness.

1.2 The main objectives of the protocol are:

- To meet the Councils duty to provide suitable accommodation and support for homeless young people aged 16 and 17 years old, in order to safeguard and promote their welfare
- To prevent and reduce homelessness in the city. Homelessness will be prevented by returning young people to their family wherever possible. If a return home is not possible, suitable accommodation and support will be secured for the child to relieve homelessness
- To promote integrated service delivery and multi-agency working to ensure young people achieve good outcomes and can move successfully to independence
- To assist workers in assessing the housing needs and wider needs of young people who present as homeless

2. Scope

2.1 This protocol will apply to all young people aged 16 or 17 years old who present for assistance in Manchester and are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

3. Principles underpinning the protocol

3.1 The safety and welfare of young people is paramount

- Unless there is clear evidence to the contrary, the starting point will be that all young people are best off with their immediate families. Every effort should be made therefore to mediate between young people and their families to negotiate a return home.
- Where young people are unable or unwilling to return to their immediate families, they should be supported to explore wider family members and community options where their needs can be met.
- Where a child is provided with accommodation pending an assessment, mediation work will continue between the child and their family to negotiate a return home where possible.
- Young people are engaged throughout the process by ensuring decisions are fully explained and that their views are considered. They will be kept informed of the progress and make an active contribution to their assessment and plans.

- The completion of a holistic assessment which takes into account all of the young person's needs, will support the return home of the young person or the development of a support package with wider family members/friends, where this is assessed as safe to do so. These assessments provide a structure in which the needs of young people can be assessed, and support plans developed for young people with additional and/or complex needs.
- Our aspiration is all accommodation provided for a young person will be suitable to meet their needs. Our intention is to never use Bed and Breakfast accommodation for young people who are 16 or 17 years old.
- Agencies will work together to assess and meet the needs of young people and will share information appropriately and effectively.
- Agencies will work individually and collectively to ensure that this protocol is implemented and that there is a genuine integration of services so that no young person is left without accommodation or support when they need it.

4. The legal framework

4.1 The legal responsibilities of the Council towards 16- and 17-year olds who are homeless, and the interrelationship between the duties under the Young people Act 1989 (the 1989 Act) and homelessness duties in Part 7 Housing Act 1996 (The 1996 Act) were clarified in the case of *G v Southwark*, heard in the House of Lords (now the Supreme Court) in 2009.

4.2 This judgement restated the established legal position that the duty under s.20 Young people Act 1989 takes precedence over the duties in Pt 7 Housing Act 1996 in providing for young people in need who require accommodation, and that where the specific duty is owed under s.20 Young people Act 1989, a 16 or 17 year old should be accommodated under that provision rather than looking to the general duty owed to young people in need and their families under s.17 of the 1989 Act.

4.3 Local authority duties for accommodating young people under s.20 are not simply a matter for local policy. The duty is engaged whenever a child in need in the local authority's area requires accommodation as a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1)(a) to (d) or in section 20(3) and 20(4)

Section 20(1) requires that:

- a. every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who appears to them to require accommodation as a result of:
- b. there being no person who has parental responsibility for them;
- c. their being lost or having been abandoned; or
- d. the person who has been caring for them is prevented (whether permanently, and for whatever reason) from providing them with suitable accommodation or care.

In addition, even if the criteria in section 20(1) do not apply, section 20(3) requires that:

- a. Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who has reached the age of sixteen and whose welfare the authority consider is likely to be seriously prejudiced if they do not provide them with accommodation.

In addition, section 20 (4), provides that:

- a. A local authority may provide accommodation for any child within their area (even though a person who has parental responsibility for them 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 a result of one of the factors set out in section 20(1) (a) to (d) or section 20(3) and 20(4) then that young person must be provided with accommodation.

- As a result of being accommodated by young people's services for a continuous period of more than 24 hours the young person will become looked after if they consent.
- Whilst accommodated under section 20 the young person is not eligible for welfare benefits, including housing benefits or housing costs under universal credit
- Provision of 'accommodation' means that which is provided by Young people's Social Care or the Housing Authority or a jointly commissioned supported accommodation offer

4.4 In April 2018 the statutory guidance, *Prevention of homelessness and the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homelessness and/or require accommodation*, jointly issued from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and the Department for Education was refreshed and updated to reflect the new duties introduced through the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017¹. Local authorities are expected to comply with this guidance when performing any function towards young people who are homeless and require accommodation and who seek help from, or who are referred to them, unless there are exceptional reasons in a particular case not to do so.

4.5 The lead agency is Childrens Services however Housing Services also have duties towards young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Duties owed by both services will depend on a range of factors requiring them to work together to plan and provide a service centred on young people and their families.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation>

Children Act 1989 duties

4.6 If a young person who is 16 or 17 years old seeks help from children's services, or is referred to children's services by some other agency as they appear to be homeless or threatened with homelessness an assessment must be carried out to determine what duty, if any, is owed to them. This applies to all 16 or 17-year-old young people; including those with partners, those who have young people, or who are pregnant.

4.7 If the young person is threatened with homelessness, the circumstances causing the threat of homelessness and the needs of the child will determine the level and type of support required. Where the threat of homelessness is imminent, an assessment of the young person's needs must be carried out to determine the duty owed. The focus will be on supporting the child to remain in their home, wherever appropriate.

4.8 Where a 16 or 17-year-old seeks help from or is referred to children's services and it appears that they have nowhere safe to stay that night, then children's services must secure suitable emergency accommodation for them under s.20 of the 1989 Act, whilst their needs are further assessed. If it is assessed that the young person continues to require accommodation and they are accommodated for more than 24 hours they will become Looked After (subject to paragraph 4.7 below) and they will be owed all the duties that are owed to a looked after child, in accordance with the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010² and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review statutory guidance.³

4.9 In cases where it is judged that a child is not eligible for s.20 accommodation because assessment has identified that they are not a child in need who requires accommodation in accordance with Sections 20(1)(a) to (c) or Section 20(3) of the 1989 Act, or where the child has refused s.20 accommodation, consideration must be

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/959/contents/made>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-people-act-1989-care-planning-placement-and-case-review>

given as to whether support under s.17 Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child should be engaged. This can include support to the child within an accommodation pathway, support to remain or return home or support to help the child secure alternative suitable accommodation. In these circumstances, any housing duties that are already in place under Part 7 of the 1996 Act will continue (see "Housing Act 1996 Duties")

Housing Act 1996 duties

4.10 If a young person who is 16 or 17 years old seeks help from housing or homelessness services and they appear to be homeless or threatened with homelessness this should be treated as an application for assistance under Part 7 Housing Act 1996 and an assessment must be carried out to determine what duty, if any is owed to them.

4.11 If a young person is eligible for assistance and threatened with homelessness or is eligible for assistance and homeless an assessment of their needs must be carried out. This will include consideration of the following; the circumstances that caused the child to become homeless, the housing needs of the child and what accommodation would be suitable for them and the support that would be necessary for them to secure and sustain suitable accommodation.

4.12 Where a young person aged 16 or 17 is eligible for assistance and homeless there will be a reason to believe they will be in priority need for accommodation due to their age. In this circumstance the homelessness service will have an immediate duty to secure interim accommodation under s.188 of the 1996 Act. Homelessness services will not be able to determine whether a 16 or 17-year-old has a priority need under the Housing Act 1996 until a child in need assessment has been completed.

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 A joint approach between Children's Services and Homelessness Services has been established which offers an integrated service to young people aged 16 and 17 years old who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This approach seeks to ensure that the accommodation and support needs of young people are met at the earliest opportunity and that homelessness is prevented wherever possible. In line with the guidance and case law Children's Services will be the lead agency about assessing and meeting the needs of 16- and 17-year olds who seek help because of homelessness. This can include a joint assessment with the Homelessness Service, which will consider other factors affecting young people, such as physical and emotional health care needs, education, training and promoting safe relationships. The assessment should also consider any dependant young people or partners the child may have.

5.2 Where a young person aged 16- or 17-years old approaches children's services for assistance and is homeless children's services will provide clear and frank information (both verbally and in writing – see appendix 1) in relation to their duties in respect of both s.17 and s.20 of the 1989 Act, and the assistance that may be available to them if they don't become looked after, including assistance from Homelessness Services. This is to ensure that the young person is offered a fully informed choice about the support available to them. The information will provide a safety net for young people who may initially want to avoid formal interventions and statutory young people's services. The young people will be provided and encouraged to access advocacy services, should they wish to access support from them. The decision will be kept under review and the young person will always retain the option to change their mind.

5.3 Where a young person is accommodated under s.20 of the 1989 Children Act children's services work will continue to help them to return home, wherever appropriate, and there is an expectation that young people will engage with services

in order to achieve this. As the duty under s.20 only applies where a young person is actually homeless any young person who is accommodated and who then successfully returns home or who subsequently does not appear to require accommodation will cease to be looked after.

5.4 Where a young person does not meet the criteria to be looked after under s.20 or where they make a fully informed choice to avoid this statutory intervention, they will be referred to the homelessness service who will complete an assessment with the young person to decide what duties, if any, are owed under Part 7 Housing Act 1996. The primary focus is to prevent homelessness by supporting the young person to remain at, or to return to the family home. If this is not possible the young person will be supported to secure alternative suitable accommodation. Access to suitable accommodation will be reliant on effective partnership working.

5.5 Where a young person is homeless and is accommodated under s.188 Housing Act 1996 (that is, they are homeless, eligible for assistance and have a priority need) children's services work will continue to help them to return home, wherever appropriate, and there is an expectation that young people will engage with services in order to achieve this. Where a young person is accommodated under s.188 but then successfully returns home the case will be closed as a successful prevention or a successful relief case.

5.6 Detailed operational practice guidance has been developed by Manchester's 16/17 Positive Housing Pathway team⁴. This sets out key principles for the service approach, roles and responsibilities with child and family assessments (including home visits), prevention tools, timescales and processes. A link to the document is contained in Appendix 4.

⁴ Manchester 16-17 Positive Housing Pathway, Practice Guidance:

6. Referral Routes and assessment processes

6.1 A child who is homeless or threatened with homelessness may contact services via several routes. The process for young people's services or homelessness services to follow, dependant on which service they come into contact with first, is set out here.

6.2 The assessment will determine an immediate intervention if required, wider needs and the longer-term intervention, including whether the child is a 'child in need' or whether it is in their best interests to become 'looked after'. The following guidance will be applied during the assessment process:

6.3 In the event a child who presents at risk of becoming homeless or who is actually homeless and is not known to the service and who require assessment of their needs they should be referred to children's services via our AGS arrangements. If the person is a Manchester resident an assessment of their presenting needs will be delivered by the 16-17 Positive Housing Pathway Team. This assessment under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 will be carried out by a qualified social worker and may result in advice and guidance and / or referral for an early help assessment. Childrens services will notify the homelessness solutions service following the Duty to Refer procedure.⁵ The child and their family should be notified of any action that is taken.

6.4 If the outcome of the assessment is that the young person is a child in need and they have no suitable accommodation available to them, children's services must secure suitable accommodation for them under s.20 of the 1989 Act.

6.5 In the event a child presents as at risk of becoming homeless or is homeless and has an allocated practitioner/Social Worker within children's services advice/support will be provided from that team/allocated practitioner. It is expected that in this instance the young person will have a plan of intervention and which may include a risk management plan around homelessness prevention. In these circumstances it is important that the intervention is consistent with their plan and actions are completed with the agreement of all parties; this may involve intervention focusing on rehabilitation, mediation, outreach support and problem solving. Temporary arrangements should be considered whilst an urgent multi-agency planning meeting is convened.

⁵ https://secure.manchester.gov.uk/forms/form/1594/en/public_authority_duty_to_refer

6.6 The following checklist will be used to determine the best possible support to young people.

1. Is the person a child (aged 16/17)?

Yes or no.

2. Is the young person a child in need?

It must be established whether this is a child in need in accordance with s17(10) of the 1989 Act. The assessment must determine what services are required to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. The assessment must also determine the level of vulnerability, including risk of safeguarding concerns; potential for CSE, CCE; health; education; criminal activity, etc. Include relevant concerns and previous involvement with Manchester City Council.

3. Is the young person within Manchester City Council's area?

It must be established whether he/she is normally resident in Manchester City Council's boundary. This can be a potentially complex area of law, so advice should be sought from the Homelessness Housing Solutions Service and from the Legal Service if required.

4. Does the young person appear to Manchester City Council to require accommodation?

The assessment must establish whether the child is in fact homeless as they cannot access any suitable accommodation. Homelessness is not restricted to street homelessness and a person will be homeless if they are in accommodation, but it is not suitable for them to continue to reside there.

5. Is that need the result of:

a) There being no person who has parental responsibility for him/her?, or

b) His/her being lost or having been abandoned?, or

c) The person who has been caring for him/her being prevented (whether or not permanently or for whatever reason) from providing him/her with suitable accommodation or care.

It may be necessary to provide temporary accommodation to allow for a plan to be put in place if the parents and child agree to services being provided to address the situation. This should be limited to a maximum period of six weeks. The decision regarding whether the temporary accommodation is provided under Section 20 of the 1989 Act is addressed in point 7 below.

Views of the family must be taken into consideration and clearly recorded before a decision to provide alternative accommodation is made.

d) Is the child's welfare likely to be seriously prejudiced if the LA does not provide accommodation?

(If a parent is prepared to provide accommodation and there is no safeguarding concern preventing the child from living at home, alternative accommodation should not be offered. A plan should be agreed to address the circumstances leading to the current situation.)

6. What are the young person's wishes and feelings regarding the provision of accommodation for them?

There is a duty to ascertain the wishes and feelings of a child regarding the provision of services under s17 Young people Act 1989 and before providing accommodation the Local Authority should, as far as is reasonably practicable and consistent with their welfare, ascertain their wishes and feelings about the provision of accommodation.

7. What consideration (having regard to his/her age and understanding) is to be given to those wishes and feelings?

Ensure careful regard is made to the updated statutory guidance Prevention of homelessness and the provision of accommodation for 16 and 17-year-old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation⁶, paragraphs 3.42 and 3.43. Where there is doubt about a young person's capacity to judge what may be in their best interests, there will be further discussion involving children's services, homelessness services, the young person and their family where safe and appropriate to reach agreement on the way forward. Also ensure a copy of the options leaflet (appendix 1) is issued to the child to aid their decision making.

6.7 In cases where it is judged that a young person is not eligible for S.20 accommodation because assessment has identified that they are not a child in need who appears to require accommodation, or where the young person has refused s.20 accommodation (having been properly and fully advised of the implications and having the capacity to reach a decision), consideration must be given as to whether support under s.17 Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of the young person should be engaged. The Local Authority will give due consideration to the wishes and feelings of the young person, having regard to their age and understanding. This can include support to the child within an accommodation pathway, support to remain or return home or support to help the child secure alternative suitable accommodation. A referral to the Homelessness Service must be made if the child is homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation>

(see paragraph 5.4 above). Children's services must obtain the consent of the young person to make a referral to the Homelessness Service, and this consent must be fully informed.⁷

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Process for housing solutions officers working with the Positive Housing Pathway Team

6.8 When a young person presents for assistance at the Positive Housing Pathway Team or is referred to the service by another agency an initial assessment will take place to determine how to proceed and what duty, if any, is owed to them. Housing Solutions Officers will undertake a homelessness assessment on the same working day, if possible, or as soon as possible on the next available working day once the presentation or referral is made. This will be a joint process with social workers in the 16-17 Positive Housing Pathway Team.

6.9 If the young person is threatened with homelessness the appropriate adult will be identified and key working/mediation will take place with the child and the appropriate adult to support them to remain and prevent homelessness. If any safeguarding concerns are identified an immediate referral will be made to children's services.

6.10 If the young person is threatened with homelessness within 56 days and is eligible for assistance a prevention duty under s.195 Housing Act 1996 will be in place. If the mediation work enables the child to remain at home a successful homelessness prevention outcome will be recorded. If any additional needs are identified through the Child and Family Assessment, this will be explored through the multi-agency Child in Need Plan.

6.11 If the young person is homeless an immediate child in need assessment will be commenced. If the young person is roofless or without suitable accommodation, they will be provided with emergency temporary accommodation under s.188 Housing Act 1996 or s.20 of the Children Act 1989. This temporary accommodation will never be a bed and breakfast placement.

6.12 If the young person is eligible and homeless a relief duty under s.189B

⁷ Paragraph 3.63 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/provision-of-accommodation-for-16-and-17-year-olds-who-may-be-homeless-and-or-require-accommodation>

Housing Act 1996 will be in place. This duty will remain in place until the outcome of the child in need assessment has been decided. It is not possible to make a decision on priority need or which final homelessness duty may be owed until the outcome of the child in need assessment is determined.

6.13 When the child in need assessment has been completed and the outcome is that the 16/17 year old is a child in need and the provisions of s.20(1)(a-c) or s.20(3) Children Act 1989 are met then the local authority must provide accommodation under s.20. If the child is accommodated under s.20 Young people Act 1989 following a child in need assessment, then the homelessness application under Part 7 Housing Act 1996 will be closed at that point.

6.14 In the rare circumstances where the S20 criteria is not met or declined by the young person and they do not want a service from Childrens services, but they still require accommodation the council will discharge their duties to prevent or relieve homelessness under The 1996 Act.

6.15 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.

6.16 An assessment of the young person's needs will be completed as part of the homelessness application and this will 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 applicant remains homeless then a final decision will be made as to whether or not the housing authority owes a main housing duty, otherwise no further duty is owed.

6.17 All presentations from 16-17 year old young people, either in person or via the duty to refer processes, will have a case created and recorded on the homelessness case file system and data submitted as part of the Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) returns.

Access to accommodation

6.18 When a young person is in need of emergency accommodation, this will be arranged via the Locality Teams, within children's services.

6.19 Referrals to commissioned supported accommodation will be made via a single point of access gateway system (MAS Gateway) social workers in the Positive Housing Pathway Team and Housing Solutions Officers each have access to this system. Any referral for a 16-17-year-old will be given priority on a service waiting list, once matched and accepted.

6.20 The Care Leavers and 16/17 accommodation framework can also be accessed following an assessment via the Children's Placement Team and 16+ Hub within children services. This maybe a commissioned supported accommodation option, temporary accommodation or short term via a s.20 route.

6.21 Any accommodation offered to a young person will be safe, secure and affordable and will meet all suitability requirements. Consideration will be given to the wishes, feelings, education, training and health needs of the young person when any accommodation offer is made.

6.22 Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not suitable accommodation for any 16-17-year-old child.

7. Young people from outside Manchester

7.1 When a 16-17-year-old from one local authority area seeks assistance from a local authority in another area the receiving local authority must consider the young person's immediate needs. The duty to conduct an assessment and undertake enquiries falls on the authority area where the child is requesting assistance.

7.2 When young people present as homeless in Manchester, but following an assessment it is confirmed that they are ordinarily resident in another local authority area, the priority will be to return these young people to their home area, where is it safe to do so, where the other local authority will take responsibility for providing the support and completing the processes set out in their own joint working protocol. Where needed, assistance to return to the other local authority area will be provided by either Manchester children's services or the homelessness service.

7.2 The initial interview process should be sufficient to establish where the young person's local connection sits. The initial interview should also establish the reasons why the young person has not sought help in their home district. To help determine whether it is safe for the child in their home district it would be useful for officers to make contact with the children's services in their home area. If it is decided that it is not safe for a young person to return to their home district, then support and assistance will be provided in Manchester.

7.3 Where young people are ordinarily resident in another local authority area the initial assessment will ensure that the immediate needs of the young person are met whilst work takes place to reconnect the young person to their home area. If the young person refuses to return to where they are ordinarily resident, the young person's wishes and feelings will be considered. Where disputes arise and these cannot be resolved immediately, the dispute will not prejudice the child's welfare, and this protocol will be followed whilst the dispute is resolved. Advice should be sought from senior managers and legal services where required.

8. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young people

8.1 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young people (UASC) are young people under 18 years old when their asylum application is submitted, who are not being cared for by an adult who by law or custom has responsibility to do so, is separated from both parents and has applied for asylum in the United Kingdom in their own right.

8.2 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young people are not eligible for assistance under the Housing Act 1996 and will not be able to access any homelessness prevention services. Children's Services have a duty to provide UASC with accommodation and support whilst their claim for asylum is processed.

9. Post 18 support

9.1 Young people who were looked after under s.20 for less than 13 weeks since their

14th birthday and were looked after for some time while they were 16 or 17 will be entitled to limited support from the Leaving Care Service which will include advice and assistance and will include support that will focus on their education, training and employment.

9.2 Young people who were looked after for 13 weeks or more after their 14th birthday and at some time while they were 16 or 17 will be former relevant young people and will be entitled to a full Leaving Care Service up until the age of 25 years old.

9.3 Former children in need who still have vulnerabilities may still receive a limited service from the Positive Housing Pathway Service until they have been handed over to appropriate adult or young people's services or for 6 months after their 18th birthday whichever is soonest.

10. Dispute resolution

10.1 The aim of this protocol is to clarify joint working arrangements and responsibilities across young people's and homelessness services and to ensure that the needs of young people are addressed and met by the most appropriate agency, having regard to the correct legislation, case law and guidance.

10.2 Where disputes or disagreements between officers or services arise, they should, in the first instance, be discussed between their respective line managers and a resolution sought within a reasonable timescale. This will involve the Team Manager from the 16-17 Positive Housing Pathway Service and the Housing Solutions Service Manager, including the Homelessness Commissioning Manager and Leaving Care Service Lead, where required. If this is not possible to resolve here, the dispute should be referred to the Head of Service, South Locality within Young people's services and the Strategic Lead for Homelessness.

11. Review of protocol

11.1 This protocol will be a dynamic document and will be updated in response to any changes in service structures and priorities, guidance and legislation, and provider services. The protocol will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis at the least, and more regularly if required. Governance of the protocol will be managed across Young people's Services CLT and Homelessness Services DMT.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Definitions of Leaving Care Eligibility

Appendix 2 – Related documents

Appendix 3 - 'Your Options' leaflet for homeless 16 and 17 year olds. This sets out the benefits and losses of both s.17 and s.20 duties

Appendix 4 – Manchester 16-17 Positive Housing Pathway Practice Guidance

Appendix 1

The Young people Leaving Care Act 2000 created four categories of care leaver who are entitled to support after their sixteenth birthday. The Young people and Social Work Act 2017 extended the 'Former Relevant' category from age 21 to age 25 for all young people. The amount of support a young person can receive depends upon which category they apply to.

'Eligible Young people'

A child is considered an 'eligible child' if they are aged 16 or 17 years old and currently looked after by the Council, having been looked after for a period of at least 13 weeks since the age of 14.

'Relevant Young people'

If a child has been looked after for at least 13 weeks from when they were 14 including at some point while they were aged 16 or 17 and have since left the Council's care but are still under 18, then they're considered a 'relevant child'. If a child has returned home to their parent(s) they will continue to receive support for a period of six months. If the young person turns 18 during this six month period, they can receive support as a 'former relevant' child. If this six month period ends before the child turns 18, their needs will be assessed as a 'qualifying child'.

'Former Relevant Young Person'

This applies to anyone from the previous two categories once they are between 18 and 25 years old.

'Qualifying Young Person'

A qualifying young person is someone who doesn't meet the criteria for being an eligible young person but who is or was a looked after child. The level of support and level of practical intervention is dependent upon an assessment of need.

Leaving Care Positive Housing Pathways – Related documents

[Greater Manchester Housing Strategy](#)

[Manchester children and young people plan](#)

[Our Children Sufficiency Strategy 2020-22](#)

[Early Help Strategy | Manchester City Council](#)

[Manchester Care Leavers Local Offer](#)

[The Positive Pathway - St Basils](#)

[Housing Act 1996 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (particularly Part 6 and 7)

[Chapter 22: Care leavers - Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Children Act 1989 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (particularly Section 23, 24 and 27)

[Children Act 1989: transition to adulthood for care leavers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Children and Social Work Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[5.7.2 Staying Put \(proceduresonline.com\)](#)

Date to be reviewed – Sept 2023

Senior leaders who will be responsible for ensuring the application of the protocol

- Emma Collingwood
- Sean Bleasdale
- Sarah McEntree