

Appendix N: Move-On Arrangements – Planned and Unplanned Endings and Evictions

All young people reaching the age of 18 should have a pathway plan that sets out the arrangements for them moving to semi-independent or independent living. Young people reaching the age of 18 and commencing a “Staying Put” arrangement should also have a pathway plan that sets out the provisional arrangements for moving-on from “Staying Put”. The majority of young people will leave “Staying Put” in a planned manner and move to a housing authority or housing association tenancy in the same way that other care leavers do. Individual arrangements should be set out the young person’s pathway plan.

Planned Move-On

Where young people decide that they would like to leave the “Staying Put” arrangement, or the “Staying Put” carers decide that they would like the arrangement to come to an end, each party should give at least 28 days’ notice. The young person’s leaving care personal adviser will arrange for the young person to access suitable accommodation via their local housing department or partner housing association.

Placement Stability

Where a young person displays unacceptable behaviour or participates in activities that are deemed inappropriate, a “Staying Put” stability meeting will take place in line with the fostering placement stability policy. Any new or changed requirements or house rules will be set out in an up-dated Living Together Agreement.

Emergency and Unplanned Move-On and Evictions

Where a young person displays extreme behaviour, commits an offence against a person within the household they may be required to leave the “Staying Put” arrangement on the same day or within a short period of time. Wherever possible, a “Staying Put” stability meeting will take place and will set out where the young person will move to.

The circumstances leading to the young person being required to leave may result in the young person being deemed intentionally homeless. Additionally, leaving the “Staying Put” arrangement in an emergency and in an un-planned manner may limit the young person’s accommodation choices, and in the short term they may need to live in a range of temporary accommodation.

Non-Payment of Rent

In situations where young people do not pay their rent, either by not making the required payment or by not claiming Universal Credit rent element they may be subject to an eviction process. In all situations where a young person owes four weeks rent a “Staying Put” stability meeting will be called. The “Staying Put” stability meeting will decide on the action required by the young person to address the rent arrears. Young people will be given every opportunity to repay any arrears and eviction will only take place as a last resort in situations of rent arrears.

Tenancy Status – Excluded Licence

The tenancy status of young people living in “Staying Put” arrangements is that of an ‘Excluded Licensee’. Being on a ‘Licence’ and living in a household with the ‘landlord’ means that the licensee has very few tenancy rights and can be asked to leave the property with ‘reasonable notice’. Reasonable notice could be construed as having to leave immediately, where a person has acted in an extremely inappropriate manner, for example, violence towards members of the household, property damage, abusive/racist behaviour, theft from the property. Wherever possible, 28 days’ notice should be given by any party wishing to end the “Staying Put” arrangement.