

SECOND CHANCE PROTOCOL

Introduction

The Local Authority recognises that the first move a Young Person makes may not be successful and therefore may require additional support second time around.

The DfE highlights that local authorities should 'make sure that young people are provided with the opportunities they need, which will include offering them more than one chance as they grapple with taking on the responsibilities of adulthood'.

'Access All Areas' (2012) states 'As the collective corporate parents of these children, it is our responsibility to ensure they get the start in life they deserve. They cannot, and should not be expected to pay the price for mistakes they have played no part in causing. (Tim Loughton, Children's Minister).

The Pathway Plan identifies the appropriate stage at which the Setting up Home Allowance is paid and support is provided to young people to maximise this allowance and obtain the appropriate items to set up their first home.

There may be circumstances whereby the young person loses their belongings and requires additional support. The Local Authority will act as a reasonable parent and offer support under these circumstances.

The following are examples of where additional support may be required however this is not an exhaustive list and the circumstance of each young person should be considered.

- House Fire
- Flood
- Burglary

Storage facilities are available for young people who receive a custodial sentence, however depending on the length of sentence this may not be viable.

Eligibility

- The young person must be either relevant or former relevant to be considered under this protocol.
- The young person must have had their full allocation of Setting up Home Allowance. Where an element of this allowance has not been spent, this would be used to support the purchase of items required.
- An assessment of the circumstances leading to the exceptional circumstances must be completed and evidence why the young person requires additional support. This should also include a detailed list of items required.
- Evidence of the exceptional circumstances must be obtained, for example Police Reference Number or observe the damaged items.
- Additional support can only be provided in respect of items included in the Setting up Home List.

It is not possible to outline all circumstances whereby additional financial assistance may or may not be approved, and therefore the assessment is the mechanism whereby the young person's circumstances and needs is outlined.

Protocol

1. The allocated worker is advised of a significant event which has resulted in the young person losing their home contents.
2. The allocated worker will obtain a full and detailed account of the circumstances of the event.
3. The allocated worker should check the home contents insurance policy held by the young person and support them with a claim to replace the items lost.
4. Where the young person is able to claim on their insurance, the Local Authority will support the young person to make the claim. It may be appropriate to consider additional financial assistance in the short term to support the young person remaining in their home however this may be reclaimed from the young person when the Insurance Company makes a payment.
5. The allocated worker must discuss the information obtained with their line manager and agree whether the young person is eligible for further or additional funding.

6. A request for additional funding should be submitted via the line management process to the Head of Service, with a detailed account of the circumstances and a list of items required and associated costs.
7. Second hand items must be considered unless the allocated worker or young person can give reasonable justification why this is not appropriate.
8. Where additional funding is approved, the young person will be supported in purchasing the items required by the allocated Personal Advisor to maximise the amount provided.
9. Where additional funding is not approved, the young person will be advised in writing and advised of their right to appeal against this decision. The Personal Advisor may support the young person to explain in writing within 10 working days why they feel they should be provided with support.
10. The appeal should be sent to the Head of Service, Cared for Children, who will then attach a copy of the assessment and a brief outline as to the reasons they refused additional support. The Head of Service would then send this information to the Assistant Director, Children's Social Care
11. The Assistant Director will consider the information received and respond to the young person within the required timescale as per the Complaint Procedure.

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