

Lancashire Joint Protocol - Joint Working Arrangements for Meeting the Needs of Homeless Young People

Additional Guidance

Block Contracted Supported Accommodation Services for Young People

Access Arrangements: Prioritisation and Duration of Service

16th March 2018

Support providers who hold block contracts with LCC to deliver supported housing services for young people apply the following prioritisation criteria when receiving referrals.

Additional information about how Providers respond to referrals can be found in the guidance titled "Joint Protocol Additional Guidance for Providers Managing Access to Block Contracted Supported Housing Schemes"

Priority	Needs of Individuals	Duration of Service
High Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under 18 year olds who are homeless • Children looked after who are in transition to leaving care (16-17 year olds) (eligible or relevant child as defined by legislation* – see notes below) • Young people in this group may have needs relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and may have or previously had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational (see separate guidance) <p>AND</p> <p>have a connection with Lancashire (as defined by the Homelessness Reduction Act)</p>	<p>Up to a maximum of 2 years; however the actual duration of the support received by people using the service will reflect individual needs.</p> <p>Providers are expected to move people on to independent living as soon as individuals have the skills to maintain a tenancy or live with lower levels of support.</p>
Medium Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former relevant care leavers aged 18-24 years old who are homeless • Qualifying care leavers aged 18-21 years old who are homeless • Young people aged 18-21 years old who are homeless and were formerly assessed as a Child in Need/Section 17 as a result of being homeless (i.e. through the Joint Protocol process) • 18-21 year olds who are homeless and are eligible for assistance under the Care Act • Young people in this group may have needs relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and may have or previously had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational (see separate guidance) <p>AND</p> <p>have a connection with Lancashire (as defined by the Homelessness Reduction Act)</p>	<p>Up to a maximum of 2 years; however the actual duration of the support received by people using the service will reflect individual needs.</p> <p>Providers are expected to move people on to independent living as soon as individuals have the skills to maintain a tenancy or live with lower levels of support.</p> <p>Young people are expected to have moved on from the service in a planned way by their 25th birthday, apart from in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Low priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22-24 year old qualifying care leavers who are homeless and have a local connection with Lancashire and where a social care 	<p>Initially 56 days and then extend on a weekly basis if capacity available</p>

	<p>assessment identifies a need for supported housing. (Local connection as defined by the Homelessness Reduction Act)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-21 years old who are homeless and have not been previously known to social care (i.e. don't fall into any of the above categories) and have a connection with Lancashire • 16-21 year children looked after or care leavers from other local authorities who are homeless and do not have a local connection with Lancashire as defined in the Homelessness Reduction Act* (see below) • Young people in this group may have needs relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and may have or previously had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational (see separate guidance) 	<p>Young people are expected to have moved on from the service in a planned way by their 25 birthday, apart from in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>(only exception would be where the design of the building/nature of the occupation means that legally the minimum term which can be offered is a six month assured shorthold tenancy)</p>
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***Definitions**

- **Eligible child** is a child aged 16 or 17 who has been looked after by the LA for at least 13 weeks, since the age of 14 and who is still being looked after.
- **Relevant child** is a child aged 16 or 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who have been looked after at some time after their 16th birthday who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained.
- **Former relevant child** is a young person over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Councils support this group until aged 21 or up to 25th birthday should they require a service
- **Qualifying child** is any young person under 21 (or 24 if in education or training) who stops being looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or being privately fostered, after the age of 16. However, they are not relevant or eligible as they don't fulfil the 13 week rule

****Low Priority - 16-21 year old children looked after or care leavers from other local authorities who are homeless and do not have a local connection with Lancashire as defined in the Homelessness Reduction Act**

Where a looked after child or care leaver up to the age of 21 who does **not** have a local connection with LCC, as defined by the Homelessness Reduction Act, seeks to access supported accommodation in Lancashire, an assessment of their individual circumstances will be made. The application must be shared with ART and agreement reached regarding the most appropriate response. The young person will only be considered eligible in exceptional circumstances. Where this applies, low priority will be awarded.