

## **Policy and Procedure**

# **The provision of accommodation to homeless 16 and 17 year old young people**

Implementation date: TBC  
Protocol review date: TBC

1	Introduction
1.1	<p><b>AIMS AND PRINCIPLES</b></p> <p>The Wakefield joint protocol aims to establish the roles and statutory responsibilities of the different agencies in respect of homeless 16 and 17 year olds. It sets out the practical joint working arrangements between the Vulnerable Adults Service, Children and Young Peoples Services and any other agencies that can assist with the housing and support needs of homeless 16 and 17 year olds. It establishes an underpinning principle that all professionals involved with young people will need to work together, in a co-ordinated way to deal effectively with young people who have accommodation needs. The joint protocol recognises that homelessness is damaging to young people’s personal, social and economic development and well being. Where possible homelessness should be prevented and all services should focus on ensuring that the young people are supported to remain at home (where safe to do so) or leave in a planned supported manner.</p> <p>The joint protocol will ensure the appropriate assessment, decision-making and delivery of services to meet the needs of this group of young people and that duties for homeless 16 and 17 year olds under the Children Act 1989, the Children Act 2004, and the Housing Act 1996 are appropriately fulfilled.</p> <p>The benefits of having a joint protocol are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a clearer understanding of the roles and responsibilities for workers, wider agencies and young people</li> <li>• a reduced risk of young people being let down by any agency and therefore becoming at risk of exploitation, rough sleeping and other safeguarding risks</li> <li>• to provide young people with the support to address their problems and to experience a timely and coordinated response to their needs so that homelessness can be avoided now and in the future.</li> <li>• To ensure that young people have access to the most appropriate housing provision and support services to prevent housing need impacting on their wider needs for education employment and training</li> <li>• to make the best use of limited resources and professional expertise</li> <li>• that young people are helped at the earliest and most appropriate stage of their housing pathway.</li> <li>• Avoid the use of unsuitable housing for 16/17 year olds such as bed &amp; breakfast accommodation.</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>Wakefield policy and procedure is underpinned by the following legislation and guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Children Act 1989 (S17 and S20)</li> <li>• Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015</li> <li>• Housing Act 1996/Homelessness Act 2002</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint statutory guidance and legal advice in relation to the <b><i>'Southwark Judgment' (May 2009)</i></b> on the provision of accommodation for sixteen and seventeen year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation, see link.</li> <li>• The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government jointly issued guidance to children's services authorities and local housing authorities about their duties to secure or provide housing for homeless 16 and 17 year olds.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8260/Provision_20of_20accommodation.pdf">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8260/Provision_20of_20accommodation.pdf</a></p>
1.3	<p>The Council's aspirations for our children and young people are contained within the Integrated Children and Young People's Strategy 2016/2017 and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people are supported and safe</li> <li>• Children and young people are ambitious and achieve</li> <li>• Children and young people have the skills for a successful transition to adulthood</li> <li>• Wakefield District is a great place to grow up</li> <li>• Children and young people are healthy and resilient</li> <li>• Children and young people are engaged as productive citizens</li> </ul> <p><b>These aspirations form the basis of any provision of services to young people in the District</b></p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Wakefield Council Policy Overview our commitment to preventing homelessness</b>
2.1	<p>This policy relates to sixteen and seventeen year old young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p> <p>It does not apply to the accommodation needs of young people who are in the Care of the Local Authority before their 16th Birthday or when these young people leave care</p>
2.2	<p>Sixteen and seventeen year olds may become homeless for a number of different reasons. Common reasons encountered by Local Authorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Situations in which parents or carers are unable to continue to offer care or accommodation as a result of disability, illness or death;</li> <li>• Situations in which parents or carers are no longer prepared to allow their child to live with them due to relationship breakdown which in itself can arise for different reasons often including challenging behaviour of the young person;</li> <li>• A young person leaving custody who has nowhere to live on their return to the community;</li> <li>• Situations in which a young person is made homeless as a result of bail conditions arising from offending;</li> <li>• Situations in which a young person cannot live at home due to them posing a risk e.g. to younger siblings;</li> <li>• Where the young person is placed at risk by factors within their current accommodation which cannot be safely managed;</li> </ul>

This policy is driven by the following key principles or beliefs:

- Unless there is clear evidence to the contrary it is in the best interests of young people to stay with their families or within their communities until they are able to move to independence. For this reason we should support these relationships as a means of preventing young people becoming homeless.
- All sixteen and seventeen year old young people have the right to be protected from harm arising from abuse, neglect or exploitation
- All sixteen and seventeen year old young people have the right to accommodation that is stable and suitable to their needs
- The Council will take all reasonable steps to ensure that no young person is ever left without a place to sleep
- Most sixteen and seventeen year old young people have the capacity to make their own choices and can refuse offers of accommodation or support. However it is normal for them to require support to make choices that will have a significant impact on them now and in the future. In making these choices they should receive high quality support, advice and guidance from Wakefield Council

2.3

The joint protocol recognises that homelessness is damaging to young peoples personal, social and economic development and well being.

Where possible homelessness should be prevented and all services should focus on ensuring that the young people are supported to remain at home (where safe to do so) or leave in a planned supported manner.

To this end and where it is in the young person’s best interests, we will always provide support to help them to remain in the care of their parents, carers or friends and family network by providing coordinated services to respond to their needs.

2.4

All 16 and 17 year olds\* who approach the Council for assistance with accommodation needs because they are homeless or potentially homeless will have their needs assessed (Section 17 Children Act 1989). This assessment will be completed by a social worker with contributions from the VAS and will consider the wider circumstances of the young person including a focus on how homelessness can be prevented, how the young person’s needs can be met in both the short and longer term and any support services that they require in respect of their general welfare.

\*including those that may be pregnant or have dependent children.

3	<b>Pathway to service provision</b>
3.1	<p><b>Understanding reasons for homelessness and providing support to return home where it is reasonable and safe to do so.</b></p> <p>Partner/third party organisations will be encouraged to access the pathway via Children and Young People’s Services, but it should be recognised that in practice an organisation or a young person aged 16/17 may present to either VAS or Children and Young People’s Services departments of the Local Authority to request assistance with their accommodation need.</p> <p>Irrespective of which department is the first point of contact it is essential that the young person receives clear advice about their options and that work is started immediately to understand and start to address the underlying problems or issues that may be contributory factors to their being homeless or potentially homeless.</p> <p>The main focus of this initial work will be to gather information about the young person’s circumstances, their family history and any other information which may prevent homelessness by enabling the young person to return home or to their wider networks where possible unless an unmanageable risk has been identified.</p> <p>Whichever department has first contact the worker must always ensure that a conversation takes place with the young person and their parents or carers to establish a chronology of the events leading up to their presentation with accommodation needs. It may be possible during this conversation to prevent homelessness and facilitate the young person remaining within their family network.</p> <p>This information will form the basis of a referral to Children and Young People’s Services which will focus on providing support to reduce the risk of future homelessness and identify the tier of service provision that will best respond to the young person’s needs.</p> <p><b>The joint priority is to prevent homelessness by working together with young people and their families using any support that can be coordinated and with the benefit of both social work and housing expertise at this early stage of contact.</b></p>
3.2	<p><b>Preventing homelessness</b></p> <p>All young people presenting with accommodation needs including when homelessness has been prevented by initial contact will need to be referred to Children and Young People’s Services via the Social Care Direct Customer Service Centre on 0845 8 503 503.</p> <p>These young people will always benefit from a joint approach and Children and Young People’s Services must liaise with VAS if they are the first point of contact for any young people presenting with accommodation needs.</p>

	<p>Social Care Direct will provide up to date information to establish if a young person is known to Children and Young People’s Services. If the young person is already known the information will be shared with the allocated social worker so that an updated assessment of their needs can be started or current plans reviewed.</p> <p>A referral may also be to consider the young persons support needs in circumstances when homelessness appears to have been prevented by initial contact with the young person’s family. A referral may be necessary to ensure that future accommodation needs are addressed early to prevent further concern emerging. The referral for support services will be progressed in line with current pathways and MASH checks may be considered necessary to assist in the assessment process.</p> <p>Children and Young People’s Services should consider whether they should provide services under section 17 of the 1989 Act to sustain any plan for the young person to live with members of their family and put in place a plan to try and ensure that the young person can continue to live with family in the future.</p> <p>The response to the referral will need to be given high priority to consolidate support to the young person and their family without delay. The young person and their family may benefit from expert information about future housing options provided by VAS and as such they will have a role to play in supporting any assessment.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Homelessness cannot be prevented</b></p> <p>A referral to Children and Young People’s Services may be aimed at responding to accommodation needs when initial contact with the young person and their family suggests that homelessness may be imminent and resources need to be coordinated urgently in response</p> <p>The referral will be dealt with by the Integrated Front Door (MASH) service. The Integrated Front Door Manager will confirm that contact has been made with the young person and their family to discuss presenting accommodation need and to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>All young people presenting as homeless will be treated with high priority and a decision to respond to their needs taken within 24 hours. In some circumstances the urgency of need will be such that the case will bypass the MASH process so that contact with the young person can start without delay. In such cases the Integrated Front Door Manager will exercise professional judgement to inform both the timing of and process to deal with the presenting issues. Where suitable accommodation has not been identified as available to a young person, accommodation should be provided/offered under s20 pending a full assessment of need under S17.</p>

	<p><b>If the presenting information suggests that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the young person has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm a strategy discussion will take place to gather information and plan a coordinated response to safeguard the young person in line with WSCB procedures.</b></p> <p>West Yorkshire Safeguarding Procedures <a href="http://www.proceduresonline.com/westyorksrb">www.proceduresonline.com/westyorksrb</a></p> <p>Any safeguarding action will consider the young persons wider needs including accommodation, their vulnerabilities and circumstances will be taken into account as work progresses and decisions regarding suitable accommodation options are made. Duties and responsibilities in respect of the provision of any accommodation will be as set out in section 4 below.</p>
3.4	<p>In all cases where a young person’s accommodation needs underpin a referral to Children and Young People’s Services the young person will be allocated a social worker so that a statutory Child in Need assessment can commence This assessment will be used to consider the young person’s needs including if they are homeless, any additional support that may prevent homelessness and if they are a child in need as defined by the Children Act 1989.</p> <p>Whilst being led by a social worker there will be a joint approach to the Section 17 assessment and both VAS and Children and Young People’s Services will share information and use their expertise to ensure the best outcomes for the young person; the principles as set out in section 2 above will underpin this joint approach</p>
3.5	<p>The assessment will be completed in line with the needs of the young person and no later than 45 days after the date of the referral. A review of progress should always take place on day 10 of the assessment to consider if a decision has been made to confirm that the young person is homeless and in need, what resources are required to provide support during the course of the assessment aid to review roles and responsibilities between VAS and Children and Young People’s Services</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Children Act 1989 – Assessment Of Need Section 17</b>
	<b>Duties under the Children Act – Assessment of Need</b>
4.1	<p>A ‘Single Assessment’ will be completed for all young people presenting with accommodation needs. It will be completed in a timescale to respond to the young person’s presenting needs and no later than 45 days after the referral.</p> <p>After initial allocation the assessment will start as soon as practicable and will usually provide an opportunity for both Children and Young Peoples service and VAS staff to take a detailed account of the young persons needs and work together to meet these needs.</p> <p>The single assessment will always include:-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An interview with the young person;</li> <li>• Interview with the parent or carer(whenever safe to do so);</li> <li>• Checks with other agencies with knowledge of the young person including health and education;</li> <li>• Cross referencing to other assessments and plans for young people with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND)</li> <li>• Reference to social care records and social history;</li> <li>• An understanding of the young persons education employment and training needs;</li> <li>• Their ability to manage finances and self care skills;</li> <li>• Application of the Signs of Safety approach;</li> </ul> <p>The assessment will consider the test as set out in the Southwark ruling and will aim to consider if the young person is homeless and if so how any duty to provide accommodation should be met alongside wider support needs. During the course of the assessment all opportunities to prevent homelessness will continue to be prioritised and any resources directed at supporting the young person returning to their home or family and friend network.</p> <p>The completed assessment will need to reflect contributions of both the Children social worker and the VAS worker.</p>
4.2	<p>In understanding the young person’s needs the assessment will be used to determine if the child is homeless by applying the following test as set out in the Southwark ruling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the young person a child?</li> <li>• Are they are child in need?</li> <li>• Does that need arise because they require accommodation?</li> <li>• Does the requirement for accommodation arise due to S20 (1)a-c)) or S20(3) or S20(4)</li> <li>• Are they from the local authority area ( if not – there may be a short term duty to protect and possibly provide accommodation whilst working with the child’s local Children’s Services authority to support longer term needs being met)</li> <li>• What are the young persons wishes and feelings about being provided with accommodation( based on impartial information having been provided )</li> <li>• Do they have capacity to make that decision – what consideration should be given to their views?</li> </ul>
4.3	<b>Outcome of Section 17 Child in Need assessment</b>

	<p><b>The child is not homeless and suitable arrangements can be put in place to facilitate their return home to family or friends.</b></p> <p>The assessment will consider the young person’s needs and at what level these may be met to prevent further issues emerging to impact on their accommodation. Services may be provided to support these arrangements under section 17 - by implementation of a CIN plan if the young person is defined as in Need and delivered by Children and Young People’s Services or using a CAF action plan or by a Early Help Plan lead by the Early Help Hub if the young person is not assessed as a Child in Need.</p> <p>Support services may be offered to prevent homelessness in the future via the Edge of Care Panel and this may include a referral to IST or for a family group conference to be held as part of the future plan to strengthen family relationships.</p>
4.4	<p><b>The child is homeless but is not a child in need</b></p> <p>Very few young people will be judged to be homeless and not be a Child in Need as defined by section 17 of the Children Act 1989, however should the case arise VAS should be notified immediately to ensure that any duties owed to the young person under the homeless legislation as considered and discharged. See appendix A – making referrals to VAS for consideration within the homeless legislation.</p>
4.5	<p><b>The child is homeless and judged to be in Need and they require accommodation to be provided</b></p> <p>If the young person is judged to be homeless and also a child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 the responsibility to provide and fund accommodation falls to Children and Young People’s Services and this duty must be met by provisions of CA ‘89 section 20.</p> <p>The social worker completing the assessment must share with the young person the benefits of provision of accommodation by Children and Young People’s Services under section 20 and this information should be comprehensive and objective. The benefits of the input of an allocated social worker and the support both practical and financial that will be available should be shared with the young person and their ability to understand these benefits and make decisions that are in their best interest must be part of the assessment process.</p> <p>At the point that the assessment has come to a conclusion to confirm the young person’s homelessness status and they are defined as a Child in Need the social worker should liaise with placement services to initiate the search to identify appropriately matched placement. VAS should continue to support the provision of suitable longer term accommodation by the provision of their expertise and knowledge in respect of housing options in line with the young persons assessed needs and may share information about resources that are available with the social worker leading the plan.</p>

4.5	<p><b>The Child is a Child in Need Section 17 but has rejected offers of accommodation under the provision of Section 20</b></p> <p>If a young person is judged to be in need and also homeless and the Social worker has shared all the benefits of their accommodation needs being provided under section 20 CA 1989, but the young person has refused to accept the offer VAS should be notified immediately to ensure that any duties owed to the young person under the homeless legislation as considered and discharged. See appendix A – making referrals to VAS for consideration within the homeless legislation.</p> <p>The Social worker may continue to remain involved to provide wider services to support the young person under Section 17 and this will require a Child in Need plan to be formulated..</p> <p>If the young person has refused the offer of section 20 this must be clearly recorded on the young persons record and good practice would require them to confirm this in writing. Independent advice for example via Shelter may be shared to ensure that the consequences of this decision is acknowledged by the young person both now and in the longer term.</p> <p>The young person should then be provided with a letter, informing them that they are not looked after by the local authority and their social worker has explained this to them, and they are in agreement with this decision.</p> <p>Information from the assessment and subsequent discussions with the social worker regarding the provision of accommodation must be shared with the VAS worker so that they have a full record of the young person’s wishes and feelings and up to date assessment of their needs to assist their assuming responsibility for meeting accommodation needs.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Children Act 1989 – provision of accommodation under section 20</b></p>
	<p><b>Implications of the Southwark judgement on the provision of services to homeless young people</b></p> <p>Southwark V G made explicit that Children’s Services cannot substitute an accommodation duty (S20) with a power (s17). If S20 duty is owing – accommodation must be provided under this duty,  There are a few exceptions to this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) If the YP says they do not wish to be S20 and has had impartial advice/info and is judged to have the capacity to make that decision as in 4.5 above</li> <li>2) If the YP does require accommodation and is therefore a child in need but requires accommodation as part of a family group – i.e. they are with a parent /someone with PR in which circumstances support may be provided under section 17 if an assessment judges this to be appropriate.</li> <li>3) If the YP says they do not wish to accept section 20 LAC status but is then found to be intentionally homeless when assessed by VAS under housing</li> </ol>

	<p>legislation and they still refuse to be S20 accommodated when reviewing their circumstances. In such a situation legal advice must be sought and careful notes recorded and an offer of accommodation and support under s17 may be necessary if endorsed by senior managers and legal services.</p>
5.1	<p>If the outcome of the CIN assessment is that the young person is homeless and in need under section 20 the provision of accommodation will be provided by Children and Young People's Services under S20 Children Act 1989. The social workers task will include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with the Service Manager to gain approval for the Section 20 status to be confirmed pending presentation of the case to the Edge of Care panel</li> <li>• Complete all the necessary statutory documentation, including any risk assessment, to confirm the young person's LAC status and make arrangements for a review of the care plan within statutory timescales</li> <li>• Liaison with placement services to make a referral for a suitable placement based on the assessment of the young person's needs</li> <li>• Seeking further approval from senior management if an externally provided placement is required (including permission from Service Director)</li> <li>• Completing all case recording and transfer summary at the point of transfer to the LAC team</li> <li>• Notifying those with Parental Responsibility of the arrangements that have been put in place</li> <li>• Notifying any other professionals who are involved with the young person so that they can contribute to the care plan</li> </ul>
5.2	<p>The case will be transferred to the LAC Team at the first review and all case records and key tasks will be completed at the point of transfer including a transfer summary and joint visit to introduce the new social worker.</p>
5.3	<p>The LAC Team Social Worker will then be deemed to be the case-holder and will hold primary responsibility for completion of all subsequent LAC processes including LAC Reviews and Statutory Visits.</p>

**6. Vulnerable Adults Services – when homelessness cannot be prevented**

6.1	If VAS are the first contact for a young person presenting with accommodation needs and efforts to prevent homelessness are not successful, the VAS worker will make an urgent referral to Children and Young People’s Services for a section 17 assessment of need.
6.2	The referral will contain all information gathered from the young person and will document all steps taken by the VAS worker in making efforts to prevent homelessness.
6.3	The VAS worker will remain available to support the CIN assessment to provide support expertise and advice and their input will be recorded within the assessment to documents the joint approach.
6.4	<p>The VAS worker will be provided with a copy of the completed CIN assessment and this will form part of the VAS record of housing need. The assessment will record clearly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the young person is assessed to be a Child in Need</li> <li>• If the young person is assessed to be homeless</li> <li>• If the young person has been provided with information regarding the provision of accommodation under the provision of Section 20</li> <li>• The young persons ability to understand and make decisions about Section 20</li> </ul>
6.5	<p><b>Outcome of CIN assessment – the young person is provided with accommodation under Section 20 CA 1989</b></p> <p>The provision of accommodation will be the responsibility of Children and Young People’s Services.</p> <p>The VAS worker will remain available to provide advice and expertise as part of the young persons LAC care plan including offering assistance in identifying and securing appropriate accommodation in the longer term.</p>
6.6	<p><b>Outcome of CIN assessment – the young person has rejected Section 20 CA 1989 provision</b></p> <p>If the young person is assessed to be a CIN and homeless and has been offered but rejected accommodation under section 20 the VAS worker will reassure themselves that the young person has rejected this offer on the basis of detailed and objective advice.</p> <p>See Chapter 4.5 regarding how the case will be referred to the service.</p>
6.7	<p><b>Housing Act 1996</b></p> <p>Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation (England) Order 2002) sets out the homelessness legislation. Housing authorities have a duty to take a homelessness application and make enquiries as to what duty, if any, is owed where they have reason to believe an applicant may be homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days.</p>

Under the protocol, the Local Authority (as good practice outlines) will initially deal with approaches under the provisions of the Children Act 1989, but will consider duties under the homeless legislation for young people, deemed not a child in need, young people refusing a S20 offer of accommodation or young people refusing to engage with Children Act assessments and requesting to be dealt under the homeless legislation. The only exception to this is where an adult approaches the Homeless Team direct and has a 16/17 year old person as a partner and wishes their application is processed under the homeless legislation (In these cases the Vulnerable Adults Service will take the responsibility to assess and accommodate if a duty is owed under the homeless legislation and will always make a referral to Children and Young People's Services relating to YP circumstances).

What duty is owed to an applicant depends on whether they are:

- eligible for assistance;
- homeless or threatened with homelessness;
- in priority need;
- intentionally homeless, and
- whether they have a local connection.

#### **Eligibility**

Certain groups of people from abroad, or returning from abroad, will be ineligible for assistance.

#### **Homeless or threatened with homelessness:-**

Someone will be homeless if they have no accommodation anywhere in the world available for their occupation, or they have accommodation but:

- they cannot secure entry to it;
- it is movable and they have nowhere to both place it and live in it;
- it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy the accommodation;

#### **Priority need**

Where 16 and 17 year olds refuse any duty owed under S.20 of the Children Act 1989 are considered to be owed a duty to have a priority need for housing. What duty is owed will depend on the decision made regarding their eligibility, reasons they became homeless and a local connection with the district.

#### **Intentionally homeless**

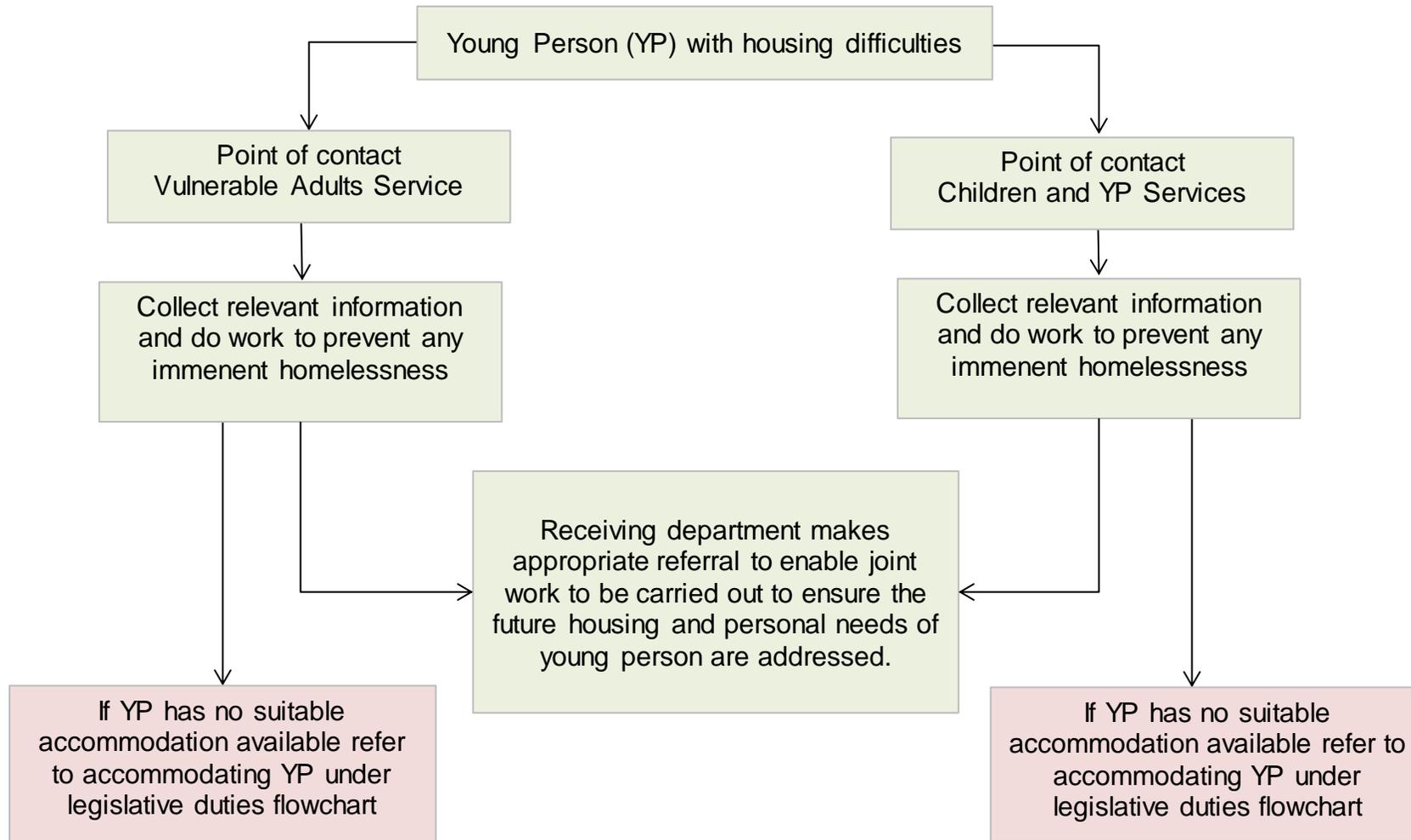
Someone will be homeless intentionally if (s)he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which (s)he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his / her occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him/ her to continue to occupy. The joint assessment will be part of information used to consider whether a young person is intentionally homeless and what future provision will be available.

	<p><b>Local connection</b> Someone can have a local connection through residence, employment, family associations or other reasons.</p> <p><b>Homeless provision</b> Housing authorities have a duty to provide ‘interim accommodation’ pending the outcome of those enquiries where they have reason to believe the applicant is eligible for assistance, homeless and in priority need.</p> <p>On completion of those enquiries, housing authorities have a duty to provide ‘temporary accommodation’ to applicants who are eligible, homeless, in priority need, not intentionally homeless and who have a local connection. Such applicants are often referred to as ‘<b>full duty</b>’ cases.</p> <p>Where applicants are eligible and homeless but do not have a priority need, the housing authority has a duty to provide <b>advice and assistance only</b>.</p>
6.8	<p><b>In situations where the young person has rejected an offer of accommodation under section 20 duty and assessed under housing legislation but is not owed a full duty the VAS worker will contact the social worker to ask for a joint discussion with the young person to clarify their current situation and decide whether the young person can reconsider the section 20 offer.</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Review and evaluation</b>
7.1	<p>Suitability of any accommodation provided to 16/17 yr old young people under the Children Act 1989 provisions will be the subject of oversight and review by the placement recourse panel. The panel will be held weekly to evaluate decisions regarding the provision of accommodation and suitability.</p> <p>The panel will also consider young people who are in receipt of services ‘on the edge of care’ who may become homeless in the future. VAS representatives may attend the panel when this is the young person’s best interest.</p>
7.2	<p><b><u>Dispute resolution</u></b> If VAS or Children and Young Peoples staff working under the signatories of this protocol are unable to agree in respect of any referral, assessment, support package or accommodation provision, then the case is to be referred to Service Managers and subsequently Service Directors for resolution.</p>
7.3	<p><b><u>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</u></b> The equality and diversity policies of Children and Young People’s Services, VAS and those of other agencies and organisations providing the services covered within this protocol must underpin the way in which these services are provided.</p> <p>All signatory organisations value diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity and access to suitable accommodation for all young people, regardless</p>

	<p>of age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, culture, faith or disability.</p>
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The implementation of the protocol will seek to promote the participation of young people, families and carers in the decision making process. If any young person is dissatisfied with the manner or outcome of the joint assessment procedure, they have the right to complain /appeal through existing complaints and appeals procedures.

## Preventing Homelessness For Young People With Housing Difficulties



# Accommodating Young People Under Legislative Duties

