



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

MHCLG

Youth Homelessness Update

Homelessness Advice and Support Team



Update to Cover...

- Activity and funding to support Government priorities, to **eradicate rough sleeping by the end of this parliament** and to **fully enforce** the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA)
- HRA implications for young people at risk of homelessness
- HRA and 16-17s Guidance
- MHCLG and DfE Data
- Government focus on youth homelessness
- Some thoughts on implementing positive pathways



Ending Rough Sleeping

- March 2018 Government launched the **Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)**, providing funding to areas with highest numbers sleeping rough - £76 million funding to LAs 2018-2020
- August 2018 the cross-government **Rough Sleeping Strategy** launched with three core pillars: preventing rough sleeping before it happens, intervening at crisis points, and helping people to recover with flexible support that meets their needs – 61 commitments across government departments .
- **Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP) funding** was first announced in December 2018, 137 areas receiving £41 million – the funding has provided 31 Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs, around 260 Navigator posts, 260 supported lettings staff delivering schemes in 82 areas, 42 dedicated Local Lettings Agencies
- **The Cold Weather Fund** -£13million – for more accommodation and support during winter months
- **2020-21 RSI and RRP funding** is combined and to be announced soon
- **Impact- 2018 Rough Sleeping Count – 2 % reduction in people sleeping rough, 19% in the RSI funded areas**



Ending Rough Sleeping

Department for Education (DfE) funded 47 local authority areas with highest need (£3.2m in 2019-20) to prevent care leavers becoming homeless and sleeping rough. Initiatives include:

- Specialist Personal Adviser support – non case holding targeted support
- Accommodation coordinator posts to improve pathways out of care and developing improved approaches to corporate parenting across services.
- Care Leaver Navigators
- Street based outreach for care leavers who are sleeping rough or at high risk of doing so
- Intensive Trauma informed support for care leavers with complex needs.
- Out of hours support to care leavers at high risk of homelessness
- Dedicated support for older care leavers who are at risk of homelessness

Achievements to date include:

- More focus on joint working between Children's services and Housing. 95% of LAs now either have a joint housing protocol for care leavers or are working on one.
- A reduction in the use of Bed and Breakfast in some funded areas.



Homelessness Reduction Act

- **Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) commenced on April 3rd 2018** – aimed to increase activity to prevent homelessness and ensure help is provided to all eligible applicants and not just the most vulnerable
- Government provided **£73m in new burdens funding** for the first 2 years of the new duties, and committed to completing an **HRA review** by March 2020
- MHCLG set up an **HRA working group, commissioned an independent review and had a call for evidence**, considering the delivery of the HRA and costs for local authorities
- In December 2019 **£263 million funding** for local authority homelessness service for 2020-21 was announced – this is in addition to £80m homelessness prevention line in the local government finance settlement and the rough sleeping funding – an **increase of £38m** on the FHSG and new burdens funding allocated this year



HRA – the key changes to the homelessness legislation

Duty to provide free advice to all residents, and targeted advice to vulnerable groups – including care leavers

Duty to take a homelessness application for anyone who may be homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and if they are....

Duty to assess:

- ✓ What are the **circumstances** that have caused their homelessness/risk of homelessness?
- ✓ What are their **housing needs**?
- ✓ What, if any, are their other **support needs** to be addressed to enable them to keep and/or obtain and sustain accommodation?

Duty to provide a Personalised Housing Plan(PHP) which sets out the ‘**reasonable steps**’ the authority will take to try and **prevent** or **relieve** homelessness. The PHP will also include steps the applicant will take, and can identify the support from other agencies



The flow of Housing Act duties post HRA

Prevention Duty S195

- 'Reasonable steps' to prevent homelessness occurring – lasts up to 56 days
- Focus to help to retain current accommodation or find suitable alternative, for 6 months
- **Priority need, intentionality and local connection are NOT relevant**

Relief Duty S189B

- 'Reasonable steps' to relieve homelessness - lasts for up to 56 days
- Help to find suitable accommodation for 6 months
- **Priority need and intentionality are NOT tests**
- Local connection may be applied - a referral can be made to another authority
- If the applicant is or may be priority need, a duty to provide temporary accommodation under S188

'Main' Duty S193 (2)

- Applies when relief of homelessness is not successful
- Priority need and intentionality tests are applied at this point
- Duty is to provide temporary accommodation until the duty is ended



HRA and Young People

- **Increase in duties to all homeless households**, including young single people who do not have priority need
- From October 2018 specified public bodies had a new '**Duty to Refer**' with consent, their service users who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local authority of their choice
- **Care leavers aged 18 - 20** have more choice on **local connection**. They will have a connection with the authority which has looked after them and with another area if they have lived there for 2 years, including some time before their 16th birthday
- NOTE: Local connection change applies to homelessness duties only and NOT to allocation of social housing. Eligibility and priorities for allocations are decided locally but we encourage LAS to consider flexible/reciprocal arrangements to support care leavers living in their area



These Public Bodies have a Duty to Refer, from October 1st 2018:

- (a) prisons;
- (b) **youth offender institutions;**
- (c) **secure training centres;**
- (d) **secure colleges;**
- (e) **youth offending teams;**
- (f) probation services (including community rehabilitation companies);
- (g) Jobcentre Plus;
- (h) **social service authorities;**
- (i) emergency departments;
- (j) urgent treatment centres; and,
- (k) hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care.
- (l) Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the armed forces

Local authorities and partners are encouraged to build referral protocols and procedures with ALL service providers that can help identify and support people threatened with homelessness



MHCLG and DfE Joint Guidance on homeless 16 /17 year olds

- **The HRA adds to the complexity of duties** to 16 – 17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness – **it is essential that housing and children's services teams with responsibility for 16-17 year olds have read and understood the guidance**
- New guidance reflects the HRA and incorporates relevant updates, including '*Working Together to Safeguard Children*'
- **Children Act still takes precedence over Housing Act 1996 for homeless 16/17 year olds**
- Strong emphasis on **joint working** between Housing and Children Services, through **early intervention, joint assessment and planning** to prevent and relieve homelessness, meeting needs of YP and better sustained outcomes.
- Focus on suitable accommodation, **B&B is always unsuitable**
- Includes guidance on Young People in custody
- Guidance on operational **Protocols for working together** to meet the needs of YP to prevent homelessness, including process of referral and possible outcomes.

- **Have you updated your joint protocol for 16-17 year olds? If not, please do it now and contact us if you need help**



MHCLG and DfE Joint Guidance on homeless 16 /17 year olds

Key points in the revised guidance

- **Homelessness applications** must be taken for all 16/17 year olds who approach housing authorities if homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days
- **Homeless 16/17 year olds must be referred to Children's Services, to complete a Child in need assessment.** Trigger points and timescales for a child in need assessment changed
- HRA placed a **Duty to Refer on Children's Services** to notify a housing authority, with consent, people who may be homeless within 56 days. The DtR is not an alternative to a Child in Need or early help assessment, and may be made alongside Children Act assessments.
- Young peoples **options and choices** must be clearly explained, including providing clear information on S20 offer and Part 7 Housing Act duties
- Young people should have **access to an advocacy services** to assist them in making the right choice for them
- **Child in need plans** should be in place for all 16 and 17 year olds who are assessed as being children in need, including those who are homeless but do not want to be looked after
- Section 17 cannot be used as a substitute for the Section 20 duty



HRA – First Year Data

Local housing authorities must now submit to the MHCLG **Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC)**

HCLIC data has ‘experimental’ status, but as quality improves will provide much richer information about homelessness, causes and outcomes

In 2018-19 – the first year of the HRA – local authorities accepted a **prevention or relief duty** to 263720 applicants of which:

- 2750 16-17 year olds
- 53670 young people aged 18-24 (20%)

Support needs identified amongst those owed a homelessness duty

Care leaver aged 18-20 = 2700

Care leaver aged 21+ = 2850

Young parent = 2760

The number of 16-17 year olds in B&B was down to 10 at June 30th 2019- we are determined to reach zero



Young people and rough sleeping

Date	Source	U18s	18 – 25s	U25s	Total rough sleeping
Autumn 2016	Government annual Rough Sleeping Count	Not counted separately	288	288(7%)	4,134
Autumn 2017	Government annual Rough Sleeping Count	3	370	373(8%)	4,751
Autumn 2018	Government annual Rough Sleeping count	1	295	296 (6%)	4,677

**CHAIN data (London only) 2018-19:
692 (8%) people sleeping rough were under 25.
11% had previous experience of living in care**



DfE published data for care leavers in 2018-19 indicated that

- Of those aged 19-21, 85% were in suitable accommodation (from 84% in 2017-18)
- 6% in unsuitable accommodation – including 360 homeless/no fixed abode, 200 in emergency/ B&B accommodation
- 9% the LA did not know whether the young person had accommodation
- 20% of all newly looked after children were 16/17 years old, up from 18% in previous year (This will include those accommodated under s20 due to homelessness and UASC).



The Government focus on youth homelessness

- **Fair Chance Fund** – Social Impact Bond pilot programme focussed on young people most at risk of long term poor life outcomes. Final evaluation published <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fair-chance-fund-evaluation-final-report>
- Rough Sleeping Strategy commitment to develop a new Social Impact Bond, **the ‘Young Futures Fund’**, taking learning from the FCF and targeted at 18-24-year olds who are at the highest risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.
- MHCLG is **working with other government departments** to develop the best programme we can in order to tackle many of the issues facing young people.
The programmes overarching outcomes will focus on:
 - ✓ Accommodation
 - ✓ Mental health and substance misuse
 - ✓ Employment



The Government Focus on Youth Homelessness

In October 2019 DfE announced a further £19m in 2020/21, including:

- £10m to expand Staying Put, so more care leavers can continue to live with their former foster carers until age 21;
- £6m to begin rolling out Staying Close, which provides extra support for young people leaving residential care; and
- £3m to improve support for care leavers in further education.

- A cross-Government Ministerial Board is being established to drive improved support for care leavers; and a target to secure 1,000 public sector internships for care leavers by 2022.

- Manifesto commitment to ‘review the care system to make sure that all care placements and settings are providing children and young adults with the support they need’



Implementing A Positive Pathway Approach

- ✓ The Rough Sleeping Strategy and HRA embody the principles of **working together to PREVENT, to RELIEVE** and to provide accommodation and support to **RECOVER** and move on from homelessness
- ✓ **The Duty to Refer** requires key partners to take responsibility for identifying homelessness and making a referral – build on this locally to ensure referrals are effective, and to build cooperation and joint working
- ✓ Use the **Assessment and Personalised Housing Plan** – (with consent) to **involve other professionals** in assessment of needs and providing support to meet those needs
- ✓ HRA and new funding should encourage **co-designing pathways and options for different groups**
- ✓ Work to increase the **supply and range of suitable accommodation for young people**, to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping
- ✓ Focus on those **at risk of rough sleeping** and repeat homelessness – better prevention and clear pathways for young people leaving custody and leaving care
- ✓ **Improve strategic planning together** -use better data and learning from what works, to include youth focus within homelessness strategies, children's services and youth justice plans



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The HAST Youth Homelessness Team are here to help!

Contact email for enquiries

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