**Housing Pathway - Young Persons Leaving Local Authority Care**

Personal Advisors will discuss and help plan housing and accommodation needs as part of young persons Pathway Plan. At 18 the Care Leavers’ Service are no longer responsible for providing accommodation and therefore the below flow chart should be used to form a pathway into housing for Care Leavers. Local Authority Officers, Young People Pathway Worker’s and/or senior staff should attend panels to intervene early with cases. PA’s should work closely with Housing Officers to ensure actions in PHP’s are being completed by Care Leavers.

Young Person in Care System

Self approach/ with PA or family member

Must ensure attendance from Housing Advice team

Left Care in crisis. (Breakdown)

Care Leavers Panel. ***North/South***

Care Leaver Homeless?

Approaching 18

Yes

Proceed to relief duties. Personalised Housing Plan completed with following options;

*Consider Interim Duty*

No

Local Authority/Agent to begin prevention work within 56 Days OR before – PHP to be completed to include the following options...

Supported Housing Options

Where Care Leavers have continued support needs, supported housing could be a suitable option . This usually comes in the form of training flats, shared houses, Foyers etc and officers should make referrals to available schemes where necessary.

Staying Put Arrangements

Staying put arrangements can be made with placement hosts. These can prevent homelessness and be more independent than supported lodgings; young people should be advised they would be expected to contribute towards living costs.

If Care Leaver is 16 or 17, LA should advise that the law specifies that they can not legally hold a tenancy and are unlikely to be housed by a social or private landlord. Instead focus should being accommodated with family member / under s20 or being placed into a safe base, crash pad or foyer.

Homelessness Prevented or Relieved

Ready for Independent Living

If the Care Leaver is deemed ready for independent living by CS / Supported Housing provider / Local Authority – consider the following housing options;

Renting Privately

The private rented sector should be used as a quicker option to accessing housing for the Care Leaver. LA’s should utilise private sector housing liaisons officers to assist with rent bonds where possible. Care leaver should be made aware that they are exempt from the Shared Accommodation Rate but only until 22nd Birthday where they may face shortfall if not working. This should be factored into PHP’s completed by Housing Advice Officers

Socially Rented

LA to register Care Leavers onto waiting list as soon as they are ready for independent living to increase the chances of successfully bidding on a property.

It is important to note that if ‘looked after’ by County Council, they will have a connection to all districts within County when applying for assistance.

**Local Authority Housing Options Teams – housing advice and assistance**

**Wychavon District Council Redditch Borough Council**

[www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk) [www.redditchbc.gov.uk](http://www.redditchbc.gov.uk)

**Malvern Hills District Council Worcester City Council**

[www.malvernhills.gov.uk](http://www.malvernhills.gov.uk) [www.worcester.gov.uk](http://www.worcester.gov.uk)

**Bromsgrove District Council Wyre Forest District Council**

[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk) [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

Local Support /Accommodation Services

**Axis delivers a centralised youth hub that will provide holistic support to young people (up to the age of 25) in crisis. This will include Care Leavers and the support ranges from assistance in making housing applications, financial and well being advice to breakdown of family relations and employment.**

**Tel: 01562 743 336**

**Website:** [**https://www.axisyouthhub.org/about-axis**](https://www.axisyouthhub.org/about-axis)

**St Basils provides housing for young people aged 16-24 who are homeless or threatened with. It is particular useful in offering affordable suitable housing for care leavers and also operates a floating support service.**

**Tel: 01562 746304**

**Website:** [**http://www.stbasils.org.uk/st-basils-in-your-area/wyre-forest**](http://www.stbasils.org.uk/st-basils-in-your-area/wyre-forest)

**Care Leavers are entitled to receive support from a personal advisor (care leavers team) who can work closely with housing teams to find suitable accommodation.**

**They can continue to support Care Leavers up until the age of 21 or 25 if in full time education even after accommodation is found.**

**Tel: 01905 845613**

**Website:** [**https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careleavers**](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/careleavers)

National Support/Accommodation Services

**Turn2us is a charity which provides advice to care leavers on the benefits they may be entitled to.**

**Tel: 0808 802 2000**

**Website:** [**https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/a-young-person-(aged-16-17)/Young-People-and-benefits/Care-leavers**](https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Your-Situation/a-young-person-%28aged-16-17%29/Young-People-and-benefits/Care-leavers)

**Shelter is a national charity that provides specific advice for people leaving care on housing and homelessness.**

**Tel: 0808 800 4444**

**Website:** [**https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing\_advice/housing\_for\_young\_people/help\_and\_housing\_for\_care\_leavers**](https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/housing_for_young_people/help_and_housing_for_care_leavers)

**Tel:**

**Website:**