

**Other useful numbers:**

**Children's Services: 01905 845613**

**Axis Youth HUB: 01562 743 336**

*Central Youth HUB providing support to young people such as, help with housing applications, financial and wellbeing advice to arranging short term accommodation with family hosts.*

**St Basils: 01562 746304**

*Provide supported shared housing and Foyer accommodation for young people aged 16-24.*

**Turn2us: 0808 802 2000**

*Provide advice to young people on benefits they may be entitled to.*

**Shelter: 0808 800 400**

*A national charity providing tailored and specific advice for young people.*



**For further information please contact:**

Housing Needs Team  
Wyre Forest District Council  
The Hub  
Vicar Street  
Kidderminster

Tel: 01562 732928  
Out of Hours: 01562 850053  
Email: [housingservices@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:housingservices@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

# Help and Housing for 16-17 Year Olds

**Are you aged 16-17 and homeless or  
threatened with homelessness?**

**We can help you...**

# Key Advice

## Get help now by:

- Contacting either the Housing Needs Team or Children's Services if you think you might be homeless or potentially homeless.
- The help you receive will depend on who you approach first but both will jointly work to help resolve your housing problem.

Generally, Children's services will have the main responsibility for you if you are under 18 and are homeless or potentially homeless. They should offer you advice, support and accommodation if you are homeless.

If you approach housing, we will have a duty to assess your circumstances and may provide you with emergency accommodation if needed but in all cases will refer you to Children's Services for them to carry out an assessment of your needs, this will be completed in 10 days.

## If you are at immediate risk of homelessness?

Despite who you approach first, both the Housing Needs Team and Children's services will always attempt to get you back in the family home if this is a safe option for you.

an emergency family host.

## If you need help to remain living in your current home?

The Housing Needs Team, Children's Services and our Young Persons Pathway Work can work with you and your family to try and keep you in the family home. Both services can also refer you to mediation services

## If you need to move in the longer term?

If you are able to stay where you are but over for a short period, Children's services or the Housing Needs Team can discuss longer term options with you.

The type of accommodation available to you as a 16-17 year old will vary. For example, Children's Services may arrange for you to live in supported foster or residential care. If you refuse this, then the Housing Needs Team can look for other options such as Foyer type accommodation where you have adequate support.

As you are under 18, this means you cannot legally hold a tenancy so you are unlikely to be offered social or private housing.

## If you have no/low income?

If you are 16 or 17, you are not eligible for benefits but Children's Services may help you with subsistence allowance to cover your living costs.

There are exceptions to this rule for example if you have dependent children or are unable to work due to poor health.

## Support

Under Children's Services you will be allocated a personal advisor whose job it is to make sure you claim everything you are entitled to. They can help you with application forms for housing, benefits, education and training courses, they can also help with life skills such as budgeting. Personal advisors should stay in contact with you and provide ongoing help and support until your turn 21 or until 25 if you are studying full time. They will offer this support even if you do not accept accommodation from them.

The Council also has a designated Young Persons Pathway Worker who can work in partnership with your PA to help you find a pathway into housing and ensure all the relevant support is in place.