16/17 Year Old Young Person presents to…

Housing services

Children's services

Where a 16 or 17 year old seeks help from Housing, and it appears he or she has nowhere safe to stay that night, then housing services must secure suitable emergency accommodation for them pending a decision whether any substantive duty is owed.

If the young person has been accommodated previously by housing and has lost that accommodation due to their actions then a referral may be made to children's services.

Where a 16 or 17 year old seeks help or is referred, and it appears he or she has nowhere safe to stay that night, then children's services must secure suitable emergency accommodation for them.

If the young person is homeless or may be likely to become homeless within 28 days, housing services should make an immediate referral to children's services for an assessment. This applies to all 16 and 17 year old applicants without exception, for example including those who are pregnant and/or a parent.

Where a 16 or 17 year old approaches children's services or is referred to children's services by some other person or agency including housing as appearing to be homeless or at risk of homelessness, then children's services must assess whether the young person is a child in need, and determine whether any duty is owed under section 20 of the 1989 Act to provide the young person with accommodation. This assessment must be carried out within 10 working days of receiving the referral

If the assessment identifies that a duty is owed under section 20 of the 1989 act then the duty to accommodate lies with children's services. The wishes of the child need to be taken into consideration; however they must be made aware of options available to them.

Duty is owed under the Housing Act 1996 and the housing authority will continue with their enquires

Is the young person eligible for assistance, homeless of threatened with homelessness within 28 days and has not become homeless intentionally

Yes - duty to secure accommodation

No - If not homeless or threatened with homelessness - No duty to accommodate

No – If Intentional - No duty to accommodate - advice and assistance only.

No – If not eligible for assistance - No duty to accommodate - refer to Children's Services

If the Child in need assessment identifies that the only need is housing, Children's services notifies housing services of this decision and sends through a copy of the initial assessment so that the young person does not have to provide the information more than once.

Duty under section 20. Accommodation provided by Children's Services and young person will become looked after