

Young people who become homeless aged 16 and 17 are protected by and entitled to support from different pieces of legislation. Which legislation you are housed under will affect your path in and out of homelessness. It also affects the support you are entitled to in the short and long term. In order to assess which path is right for you a Child in Need Assessment will be carried out by Children's Services, if this is what you want.

what happens next:

01

If you are 16 or 17 and need housing, or you are already living in a property, you have the right to receive support from Children's Services.



02

As part of our housing advice and support, we will complete a form that lets Children's Services know about your situation.

03

A social worker will contact you and explain your options. They will ask you if you want to be supported up until the age of 18. Some young people may become a looked after child and receive support after turning 18.



04

If you want the support, a Child in Need assessment will be carried out by a social worker. This will explore and decide which part of the Children Act or Housing Act you should be housed under.



05

Doorstep, Children's Services and the Homeless Team will all work together to provide the housing and support that you need.



different options explained:

When housed under section 20 of the Children Act

- After 24 hours, you will become a **looked after child**.
- You will be given a social worker and all of your needs will be taken care of by the local authority.
- Your accommodation is paid for by children's services until you turn 18.
- You should receive money for birthdays and other occasions.
- You will be entitled to get advocacy support for any complaints and representation.
- If your housing breaks down, children's services must find you a new place to live.
- When you leave care at 18 and until you turn 21, you will automatically have priority need if you become homeless, meaning you will be much more likely to get help.
- Depending on how long you were looked after, you may be entitled to support until you turn 25

When housed under section 17 of the Children Act

- You will be a **child in need** and receive support from children's services based on your needs.
- You will have a social worker assigned to you to make sure your needs are met.
- You will not be entitled to any support once you turn 18.
- Your accommodation should be paid for by children's services until you turn 18.
- Any extra money you need is decided by children's services
- You will be entitled to get advocacy support for any complaints and representation.
- If you are housed under section 17 and it breaks down, children's services will find you a new place to live.
- Once you turn 18, you will not be a care leaver and will not automatically have priority need if you become homeless
- After you turn 18, you will not legally be entitled to any support.

When housed under Part 7 of the Housing Act

- You will be legally entitled to minimal support
- There is no legal requirement for you to have a social worker
- You will be responsible for working and/ or claiming benefits and paying for your housing and all other expenses.
- There is no entitlement to any extra money.
- You are not entitled to get advocacy support for any complaints and representation but can request it.
- If you are housed under part 7 of the Housing Act and are at risk of eviction, the reasons why will determine if you are entitled to having alternative housing provided for you.
- Once you turn 18 you will not automatically have priority need
- After you turn 18, you will not legally be entitled to any support