

Homeless or worried
about your housing?
Are you 16 or 17 years old?



Hull
City Council



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Being aged 16-17 and facing the possibility of having nowhere to live or having to leave home suddenly can be a very stressful and confusing time, it is important you receive the right support and advice so you fully understand what your options are so you can make the right decisions.

If you already have a worker helping you such as a Social Worker/Targeted Youth Support Officer you should to talk to him/her straight away.

If you do not have anyone supporting you and you find yourself homeless, or you are sofa surfing or at risk of being homeless, then there are 2 teams that have a legal duty to help you.

These teams are part of Hull City Council and are Children and Young People's Services (EHASH – Early Help and Safeguarding Hub) and the Targeted Youth Support Team (TYS). You can contact either of these services to request support.

The support and possible accommodation you can expect from the two agencies will vary and will depend on your own unique set of circumstances. This leaflet aims to explain how this all works.

The priority for both agencies will be to support you to return home, where safe to do so, or find alternative options for you so you can be settled and live safely.

We can help, call or visit us on:

- Targeted Youth Support Team, Kenworthy House, Hull, HU1 3DT or 01482 615 602
- Early Help and Safeguarding Hub, Kenworthy House, Hull, HU1 3DT or 01482 448 879
- Immediate Help (out of hours 4pm-9am) 01482 300 304



What happens next?

Nobody wants to see you sleeping rough, so whoever you speak to first will want to ask you some questions about why you feel you cannot live at home. They will want to talk to somebody in your family to find out how you have got into this situation and to carry out a home visit to see what support they can offer you in the short-term and possibly in the long term. They will work with you and your family to try to overcome these problems.

If you are unable to return home, your family will be asked to try and resolve your homelessness themselves by identifying who else may be able to support you in the short term and/or long term. This is called Parental Responsibility, and any arrangements made by your parent(s)/ carer(s) are known as a family arrangement. This may only be for a short time, to allow staff from EHASH and TYS to meet with you and find out more information and to agree a plan with

you. During this time you will be listened to and your wishes and feelings considered along with ensuring you are as safe as possible.

Joint Housing Assessment:

The law has an expectation that departments within the Local Authority (Childrens Social Care and Housing) should meet with you together to carry out what is called a 'Joint Housing Assessment.'

This meeting is really important and it gives you the opportunity to talk to a Social Worker and a Housing Options/Targeted Youth Support Officer together about what is happening and then agree on who will support you both now and in the future. Your assessment is really important and without it you may not get all the help you need, therefore it is crucial you do not turn one down.

Make sure you keep any appointments that are made for you.

During your assessment there may be some things that are difficult for you to talk about however, it is really important you give the Social Worker and the Housing Options/Targeted Youth Support Officer as much information as possible about why you are homeless and the reasons you can't return home, as well as talking about the areas where you do not feel safe or do not want to live, for example, if you have been experiencing violence or abuse at home or from gangs and need to be in an area away from this.

You may want a friend, or someone you trust, with you during the assessment and this is absolutely fine.

Your views are important and will be taken into consideration but you won't necessarily have the final say in any choices that are made about your accommodation and support as your options are dependent on your individual circumstances and level of need;

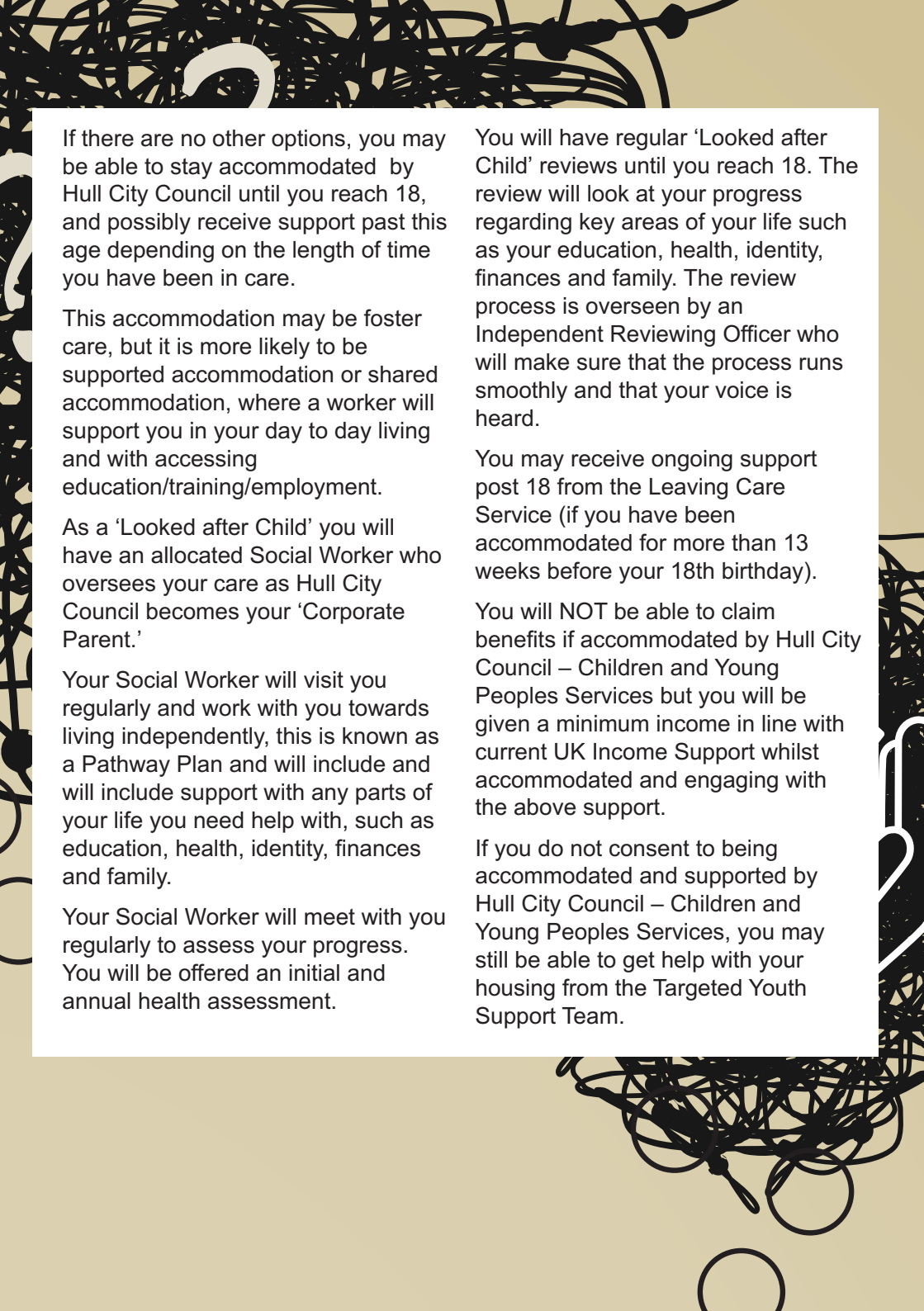
Age/ family relationships/ educational employment needs/ social networks/ ability to live on your own and your consent and/ or ability to consent.

During and after your assessment EHASH and TYS will continue to explore the possibility of you returning home, where safe to do so. However, if it becomes absolutely clear you can't return home and there are no other family members that can accommodate you, either or both agencies should make sure that you have a suitable and safe place to stay. This may be temporary accommodation or longer term depending on your own set of unique circumstances at the time.

During the assessment if it becomes clear that we can support you to get back home support will still be offered from either or both agencies.

If we are unable to achieve this, and you are assessed as a Child in Need, a Social Worker will talk to you about being 'accommodated' by Hull City Council under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 then you will be known as a 'Looked After Child.'

This accommodation is often provided as an emergency, and is often for a short period of time whilst other support is looked at with you and your family. During this time your Social Worker and/or Targeted Youth Support Worker will arrange a meeting between you and your family to look at your immediate/wider family may be able to do to support you.



If there are no other options, you may be able to stay accommodated by Hull City Council until you reach 18, and possibly receive support past this age depending on the length of time you have been in care.

This accommodation may be foster care, but it is more likely to be supported accommodation or shared accommodation, where a worker will support you in your day to day living and with accessing education/training/employment.

As a 'Looked after Child' you will have an allocated Social Worker who oversees your care as Hull City Council becomes your 'Corporate Parent.'

Your Social Worker will visit you regularly and work with you towards living independently, this is known as a Pathway Plan and will include and will include support with any parts of your life you need help with, such as education, health, identity, finances and family.

Your Social Worker will meet with you regularly to assess your progress. You will be offered an initial and annual health assessment.

You will have regular 'Looked after Child' reviews until you reach 18. The review will look at your progress regarding key areas of your life such as your education, health, identity, finances and family. The review process is overseen by an Independent Reviewing Officer who will make sure that the process runs smoothly and that your voice is heard.

You may receive ongoing support post 18 from the Leaving Care Service (if you have been accommodated for more than 13 weeks before your 18th birthday).

You will NOT be able to claim benefits if accommodated by Hull City Council – Children and Young Peoples Services but you will be given a minimum income in line with current UK Income Support whilst accommodated and engaging with the above support.

If you do not consent to being accommodated and supported by Hull City Council – Children and Young Peoples Services, you may still be able to get help with your housing from the Targeted Youth Support Team.

In order to get help with accommodation from the Targeted Youth Support Team you will need to make a homeless application. This will be discussed at the Joint Housing Assessment.

If you are accommodated by the Hull City Council – Children and Young People’s Services then you may well be placed in supported accommodation, or in a room in a shared house.

Being accommodated by the Targeted Youth Support Team means you are responsible for paying your own rent, bills and any service

charges. If you are eligible then you should make an application for benefits. Recent changes to benefits means allowances towards housing costs may not cover your full rent so you may need to top this up from other benefits, however, TYM will carry out an affordability assessment with you. You will also need to pay for any other bills such as electricity, gas, food, phone and so on. Your Support Worker should support you with any financial/benefit questions you may have. Your worker can discuss what post 18 support you will receive depending on your status.



Useful contacts/Where to get help

Targeted Youth Support Team

Kenworthy House
98-104 George Street
Hull
HU1 3DT
T: 01482 615 602
E: targetedyouthsupport@hullcc.gov.uk

Early Help and Safeguarding Hub

Kenworthy House
98-104 George Street
Hull
HU1 3DT
T: 01482 448 879
E: EHASH@hullcc.gov.uk

Immediate Help (out of hours)

T: 01482 300 304

Law Centres Network

www.lawcentres.org.uk

Shelter

T: 0800 800 4444
www.shelter.org.uk

Just for Kids Law

T: 020 3174 2279
www.justforkidslaw.org

Citizens Advice Bureau

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

No Second Night Out

T: 0870 383 3333
www.nonsecondnightout.org.uk

Runaway Helpline

T: 116 000
www.runawayhelpline.org.uk

A national, 24-hour free helpline for anyone aged 17 or under who has run away or been forced to leave home. They give you confidential advice and can help a child or young person get to a place of safety. They can also pass a message home.

Get Connected

T: 0808 808 4994
www.getconnected.org.uk

A free, confidential helpline that gives young people in difficult situations in support, information and advice. Open 7 days a week 1pm-11pm.



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