

Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers

Guidance for Corporate Parents: Improving housing and accommodation outcomes for Scotland's care leavers

October 2013

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Ministerial Foreword

The importance of providing appropriate accommodation to care leavers cannot be underestimated. Finding these young people the right accommodation option, at the right time, is critical to helping them build sustainable and successful futures in our communities.

Which is why I welcome the publication of this guidance on the development of Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers, designed to help corporate parents and Community Planning Partners in their efforts to plan and deliver services which meet the needs of looked after children and care leavers.

The need for local authorities and their partners to develop strong housing options protocols for care leavers follows a number of significant policy developments for Scotland. The Children and Young People Bill, for instance, seeks to extend the age by which care leavers can receive support from corporate parents. Staying Put Scotland, being published alongside this guidance, sets out some new expectations around post-care support, and offers corporate parents practical strategies for realising them. In recent years we have also seen the development of the 'housing options' approach, through the work of five regional hubs. This approach focuses on the needs of the individual and recognises that allocating and sustaining accommodation is about more than just providing housing. This approach has led to falls in homelessness applications and offers clear opportunities for addressing the particular needs of care leavers.

Young people leaving care will have the same hopes for the future as other young people. All of them will want somewhere they can call home. I would like to extend my thanks to the local authorities and members of the Looked After Children Strategic Implementation Group (LACSIG) who helped draft this guidance. I sincerely hope it will help corporate parents across Scotland as they work to secure positive outcomes for their care leavers.

Aileen Campbell MSP

Minister for Children and Young People

AIMS OF 'HOUSING OPTIONS PROTOCOL' GUIDANCE

- To ensure that all community planning partnerships have a 'Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers' in place, which comprehensively address the housing and accommodation needs of care leavers.
- To assist corporate parents and community planning partnerships in the development of local Housing Option Protocols for Care Leavers. These protocols will detail the community planning partnership's' plans for ensuring all care leavers have access to appropriate and sustainable accommodation options.
- To help ensure consistency in the development and implementation of housing options protocols for care leavers in Scotland.
- To ensure that care leavers are regarded as a priority group by all corporate parents and their partners.
- To promote current practice that enables care leavers to make successful and sustainable transitions out of care and into adulthood (in respect to housing and accommodation).

INTRODUCTION

1. This guidance has been published to assist local authorities and their community planning partners in the development and implementation of local 'Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers'. These protocols should detail the processes by which young people are supported through their transition out of care and provided with a range of appropriate and sustainable accommodation options. For the purposes of this guidance 'care leavers' are defined as young people who have been 'looked after' by a local authority for a specified period of time up to their school leaving age.¹ This includes young people looked after at home, not just those provided with accommodation by the local authority (i.e. residential or foster care). The term 'community planning partnership' (CPP) is used throughout the guidance to refer to the various organisations responsible for planning services in a local area. All organisations involved in community planning are considered to have corporate parenting responsibilities towards care leavers, and so the term CPP can also read as 'corporate parenting partners'.²

2. Securing suitable accommodation options for care leavers is about much more than finding them a place to stay. Care leavers should be made aware of the full range of options available to them; including having the opportunity to remain in their care setting until they are ready to move. (For more details on this specific option, please see *Staying Put Scotland*.)³ For those care leavers who do choose a move towards independence, all parts of a CPP should satisfy themselves - as responsible corporate parents⁴ - that the individual has both the skills and support needed to make a success of their choice; be it a solo tenancy or a return to their biological family. The journey out of care is a particularly important and challenging transition. The success or failure of which impacts on outcomes throughout early adulthood and beyond.

¹ Scottish Executive (2004) [Supporting Young People Leaving Care in Scotland: Regulations and Guidance on Services for Young People Ceasing to be Looked After by Local Authorities](#), Edinburgh

² Scottish Government (2008) [These Are Our Bairns: A guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent](#), Edinburgh

³ Scottish Government (2013) *Staying Put Scotland*:

⁴ Scottish Government (2008) [These Are Our Bairns: A guide for community planning partnerships on being a good corporate parent](#), Edinburgh

3. Official guidance on the responsibilities of corporate parents, *These Are Our Bairns*, states that being a good corporate parent means organisations should:

- accept responsibility for the council's looked after children and young people;
- make their [the care leaver's] needs a priority;
- seek for them the same outcome any good parent would want for their own children"⁵

4. By focusing on the needs of individual care leavers – following the model set out in *Getting it Right for Every Child*⁶ and *Housing Options*⁷ - the corporate parents within a CPP can begin to close the outcomes gap between their care leavers and non-looked after young people. How a CPP go about that task will depend on local circumstances. This guidance does not, therefore, dictate a single approach. Instead it sets out the principles that should underpin both the development and content of a Housing Protocol for Care Leavers, and provides practical examples of how good leadership and creative practice have already helped to improve young people's experience of leaving care in Scotland.

5. This guidance has been developed in full awareness of the current pressures on public resources, as well as the extraordinary work that many practitioners already undertake with young people in their care. This guidance aims to promote that excellent practice, helping to embed a culture and processes that ensure care leavers are safe, healthy, active, nurtured, achieving, respected, responsible and included.

6. The guidance is divided into three sections. The **first section provides background** to the issues often faced by care leavers, and summarises the legislative and policy context. The **second section sets out the six core principles which should underpin the development of Housing Options Protocols for Care Leavers**. All relevant organisations will want to ensure that these principles are

⁵ Ibid, p.3

⁶ Scottish Government (2012) [A guide to Getting it Right For Every Child](#), Edinburgh

⁷ Scottish Government website: [Housing Options](#)

understood and implemented by their staff and partners. The **third section provides a comprehensive overview of the steps local authorities and their community planning partners should take when developing (or updating) their Housing Options Protocol for Care Leavers**. It also provides examples of existing practice, highlighting important issues for local authorities and their community planning partners to consider.

7. Please note that implementation of this guidance will be monitored by the Scottish Government and relevant inspection authorities.

SECTION 1: CONTEXT

LEGISLATION & REGULATION

8. The [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) provides the legislative underpinning for the duties and powers of those public authorities responsible for supporting care leavers. Although many of the specific provisions have been amended by subsequent legislation and regulation, the principles set out in the Act's [accompanying guidance](#) continue to be relevant for local authorities and other corporate parents. For example, the guidance states clearly that local authorities (and their corporate parenting partners) have a responsibility for preparing all looked after children for their lives after care, regardless of their placement type.⁸ It also notes that young people should not be moved on to independence too quickly: 'the age of sixteen for most young people is too young to make a successful transition'.⁹

9. The [Supporting Young People Leaving Care in Scotland: Regulations and Guidance on Services for Young People Ceasing to be Looked After by Local Authorities](#) (published in 2004) built on or amended the provisions laid out in the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, setting out in detail the procedures to be followed by agencies providing throughcare and aftercare services to care leavers. The regulations (and statutory guidance) also reflected changes established through the [Regulation of Care \(Scotland\) Act 2001](#).

10. The '*Supporting Young People*' guidance re-states that local authorities and their corporate parenting partners have a duty to provide assistance to care leavers, and that this may be in form of accommodation support. The guidance states:

"Not all young people will be looking to move from their current placements and these young people should be encouraged to remain where they are until the time to move is right for them. The pathways assessment and plan will have set out what kind of accommodation best meets the needs of the young person and

⁸ Scottish Executive (1997) [Scotland's Children: The Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995 Regulations and Guidance](#), Throughcare and Aftercare (Para. 12 - 14), p.108

⁹ Ibid. p.109

how this is to be obtained. Moving to new accommodation can be stressful and authorities will want to make sure that the levels of support they provide meet the needs of each individual. Some young people will need more support than others and authorities should have a range of services which addresses these differences.”¹⁰

11. The ‘*Supporting Young People*’ guidance also encourages relevant authorities to take into account a young person's health needs, and the location of the accommodation; ‘It may be important for a young person to be close to support networks or to have easy transport links to their place of study or employment’.¹¹ The guidance states clearly that young people should not be placed in unsuitable bed and breakfast or hostel accommodation.¹²

12. The issue of appropriate and effective support for care leavers is also highlighted in official guidance on preventing homelessness. In the Scottish Government’s [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#) (published 2005) it states that: “in no circumstances should children leave the care of a local authority without alternative accommodation appropriate to the assessed needs of the young person being in place”.¹³

13. This statement was elaborated on further in the [Prevention of Homelessness Guidance](#) (published 2009), which informed local authorities that: “care leavers should never leave the looked after system without careful advance joint planning to ensure that they do not enter the homelessness system at all. Appropriate accommodation and any required support should be in place prior to any looked after child leaving care”.¹⁴

¹⁰ Scottish Executive (2004) [Supporting Young People Leaving Care in Scotland: Regulations and Guidance on Services for Young People Ceasing to be Looked After by Local Authorities](#), p.24

¹¹ Ibid. p.24

¹² Ibid. p.24

¹³ Scottish Executive (2005) [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#), Edinburgh

¹⁴ Scottish Government (2009) [Prevention of Homelessness Guidance](#), Edinburgh

POLICY

14. Despite this extensive guidance and calls for action from Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People¹⁵, many care leavers are still unable to make successful transitions to suitable, sustainable accommodation. Due to this fact, this guidance on Housing Protocols comes at a time of significant change in the wider policy landscape for looked after children and care leavers. For example the Children and Young Bill (as introduced to the Scottish Parliament in 2013) proposes to extend the right of care leavers to request support from local authorities up to the age of 26, as well as refining the duties of corporate parents. Together with other proposals in the Bill, these changes emphasise the responsibility of CPPs to jointly plan and deliver services which meet the needs of all care leavers.¹⁶

15. This guidance should also be read in conjunction with *Staying Put Scotland: Supporting Young People through a Staged Transition out of Care*.¹⁷ The central tenets of this new policy are:

- **Staying Put:** Looked after young people are encouraged, enabled & empowered to remain in positive care placement until they are ready to move on.
- **Extended & Graduated Transitions:** Looked after young people are supported to (1) move on from their care placement in a gradual and phased manner, over a period of time; (2) to test out their independence; and (3) return to an appropriate care setting which takes account of their age, maturity and ability (if and when such a move is in their interests).
- **Post Care Accommodation and Housing Options** (which this guidance document specifically addresses).

16. Corporate parents will also want to consider the recommendations of the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee Report '[Having and Keeping a](#)

¹⁵ SCCYP (2008) [Sweet 16: The Age of Leaving Care in Scotland](#), Edinburgh

¹⁶ Scottish Government (July 2012) [Children and Young People Bill](#), Edinburgh,

¹⁷ Scottish Government (October 2013) *Staying Put Scotland: Guidance for Corporate Parents*

[Home: Preventing Homelessness amongst Young People](#) (published October 2012), which made specific reference to care leaver protocols.

“We are encouraged to hear that some councils’ ‘care-leaver protocols’ engage with looked-after children a year in advance of their leaving care. We are greatly concerned, however, by evidence to us indicating that looked-after children were still being routinely discharged through the homeless route.

We recommend that the Scottish Government establish which local authorities do not operate effective care-leaver protocols appropriate to the young person and that it take action as necessary to address the situation.”

17. The Scottish Government’s Minister for Housing and Welfare welcomed the report and indicated that the recommendations would be considered by the national Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group.

RESEARCH

18. The reasons why children and young people become ‘looked after’ will vary, but for the majority it will be because their parents were unable to care for them. Many will have experienced abuse, neglect, disruption and loss; experiences which may have had a damaging impact on their emotional and social development. Some need specialist help with physical disabilities or mental health problems.

19. Research has consistently shown that the success of these young people’s journey to ‘independence’ is strongly influenced by the nature of their transition from care, and the support they receive afterwards.¹⁸ But many continue to experience a more accelerated, compressed and abrupt transition than their non-looked after peers. As Professor Stein has noted, “in contrast to the extended transitions made

¹⁸ See: Stein, M (2005) *Resilience & Young People Leaving Care: Overcoming the Odds*; Wade & Dixon (2006) Making a home, finding a job, *Child & Family Social Work*, 11,3,199-208

by most young people, the journey to adulthood for many care leavers is shorter, steeper and often more hazardous.”¹⁹

20. Whilst the national average age for leaving home is now approximately 25 years old, the average age at which young people leave their care placements in Scotland is 16-18 years old.²⁰ Many are ill-prepared for the realities of independent living, as their subsequent poor outcomes attest.²¹ Accommodation instability is common (with tenancies breaking down), and this directly affects other critical areas of their lives, such as their engagement with education, employment or training.

*“[Care leavers] are more likely ...to have poorer educational qualifications, lower levels of participation in post-16 education, be young parents, be homeless, and have higher levels of unemployment, offending behaviour and mental health problems.”*²²

21. The stress of unstable, unsuitable accommodation (such as B&Bs and homeless hostels) can also impact on their physical and mental health, creating, exacerbating and compounding pre-existing vulnerability and disadvantage.²³

*“[...] hostel accommodation could have a negative effect on young people confidence and self-esteem and may not provide a suitable supportive environment.”*²⁴

22. The ability to live independently (in accommodation of your own) demands resources, support and skills. For many care leavers the acquisition of practical skills is challenging, due to the lack of extended opportunities to develop and practice these skills. But perhaps an even greater challenge is in developing and sustaining positive social networks. The lives of looked after children and care leavers are so often characterised by disruption, whether in changes to their care placement or

¹⁹ Stein, M (2005) *Resilience & Young People Leaving Care: Overcoming the Odds*

²⁰ Hill, L, Duncalf, Z & McGhee, K (2013) *Still Caring: Leaving Care in Scotland*, CELCIS

²¹ Broad, B (2007) *Care Leavers in Transition*, de Montford University

²² *ibid*

²³ Wade & Dixon (2006) *Making a home, finding a job*, Child & Family Social Work, 11,3,199-208,

²⁴ Harris, J & Broad, B (2005) *In My Own Time: Achieving Positive Outcomes for Young People Leaving Care*, De Montford University, Children & Families Research Unit Monograph No.6, Leicester

accommodation, that building a support network can be difficult. Indeed even when good quality accommodation is found for care leavers, this may be in communities they are not familiar with, distant from family and peers.

23. UK wide studies tell us that young people with a care history are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionately represented in the homeless population. It has been estimated that between 20%-33% of young people leaving care can experience homelessness in the first year after leaving care.²⁵ The charity Shelter estimates that 20% of care leavers experience homelessness within two years of leaving care.²⁶

“..about one-third of young people experience homelessness at some stage between 6 and 24 months after leaving care.”²⁷

24. In line with falls of homelessness applications across Scotland in recent years – and against the background of the introduction of housing options approaches – Scottish Government statistics suggest that of the approximately 1,000 young people who leave a care setting each year, there has been a steady fall in the numbers who apply as homeless directly from care. Indeed the falls have been at a faster rate than applications more generally. Applications by individuals ‘under 25 and previously looked after and accommodated by the local authority’ (a population group of approximately 9,000) have also fallen in absolute terms (1,624 applications in 2012/13, compared to 1,931 in 2011/12 and 2,338 in 2010/11). However as a percentage of all homelessness applications (approx. 4%), this group has stayed relatively consistent for a number of years. It also continues to represent just over 18% of the total under 25 looked after and accommodated care leaver population.²⁸

25. Statistics for 2012-13 also indicate that around 20% of this group spent some time in Bed & Breakfast accommodation during their homelessness, and a relatively

²⁵ Stein, M (2012) *Young People Leaving Care* & Baillie, T (2005) *Young People Leaving Care and Homelessness Legislation*

²⁶ Baillie, T (2005) *Young People Leaving Care and Homelessness Legislation*, Practitioner Article, Barnardo’s & Shelter Joint Publication

²⁷ Stein, M (2012) *Young People Leaving Care*

²⁸ Calculations made on the basis figures provided in: Scottish Government (July 2013) [Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 2012-13](#) (Statistics), Edinburgh; and, Scottish Government (2013) [Children Social Work Statistics 2011-12](#), Edinburgh

high percentage of these applications are recorded by local authorities as 'lost contact'.²⁹ Moreover, figures on homelessness applications collected by local authorities only reflect those who actually apply for homelessness assistance and may omit a significant proportion of young people who may experience many different forms of homelessness.

²⁹ Scottish Government (July 2013) [Operation of the Homeless Persons Legislation in Scotland 2012-13](#) (Statistics), Edinburgh

PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

Principle 1 – Connection and Belonging

26. In planning an individual's transition from a care setting corporate parents will want to ensure that the provision of appropriate, person-centred and sustained support is central. There should be an emphasis on assisting the individual to develop personal and professional support networks. The support made available by corporate parents should reflect the notion that to survive and thrive individuals need to be 'interdependent', part of a network of positive relationships. This interdependency is even more important for young people who, as a result of earlier life experiences, may have limited or damaged relationships with their families and communities.

Principle 2 – Readiness of Care Leavers

27. "Readiness" is the ability of a care leaver to effectively care for themselves. Agencies involved in supporting a care leaver through the transition out of a care setting will want ensure that the individual is properly assessed, their needs identified and support organised before they move. This will be particularly relevant when a looked after young person or care leaver is not fully able to make this assessment by themselves. As highlighted in the "Staying Put Scotland" guidance, it is essential that looked after young people are encouraged, enabled and empowered to remain in positive, supportive care settings until they are ready to move on.³⁰

Principle 3 – Corporate Parenting

28. 'Corporate parenting' relates to the partnerships forged between relevant agencies in the interests of looked after children and care leavers, but being a good corporate parent is about much more than working together to fulfil statutory duties. As these young people's corporate parents we have a moral obligation to provide the

³⁰ Scottish Government (2013) Staying Put Scotland: Guidance for corporate parents

opportunities and supports that any good family would provide. Indeed corporate parents will need to dedicate time, resources and perseverance to addressing the legacies of significant early disadvantage.

29. Like most extended families, the corporate family consists of many parts – local authorities as a whole (including – but not restricted to – housing, leisure and finance departments); health services, both universal and specialist; independent sector providers; the police and all those parts of the system which support service delivery agencies. Supporting a young person into adulthood depends very much on all family members playing their parts. It may be at a particular point in a child’s life, or it may be constant, but together all of those parts are a powerful force for good.

30. As responsible corporate parents all parts of a CPP will want to ensure that no care leaver has to present as homeless to access accommodation or housing. This commitment should apply to all current and previous care leavers, regardless of whether they were looked after away from home or not.

Principle 4 – Care Leavers’ Views

31. Children and young people are entitled to express their views freely, without discrimination related to gender, age, social background and special needs.³¹ Care leavers must be actively involved in all decision making processes that directly affect them. Services must ensure that individuals have all relevant information, and opportunities to share their views.

32. The advantages of engaging young people in decision-making can be far-reaching. When children and young people have the opportunity to identify problems and solutions, they are more likely to own the decision, take responsibility for its success or failure. Changes become things done by a young person, rather than to them. Inclusion in decision making also helps to build up their self-confidence, encouraging them to engage more with the services and support available.³²

³¹ Articles 12 & 13: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

³² Alliance of Youth Executive Officers and UNICEF (2009) [*Children and Young People: Participation in Decision Making*](#)

Principle 5 – Information Sharing

33. In order to provide the most effective service for care leavers, information may have to be shared among different service providers. Community Planning Partners should have in place procedures for ensuring information is shared timeously and proportionally; ‘the right information at the right time’. The [Data Protection Act 1998](#) does not prevent information sharing where this is ‘reasonable and expected’, in the interests of the individual concerned. (For more details about information sharing under a GIRFEC model, please see the [guidance provided by the UK’s Information Commissioner Office](#).)³³

Principle 6 - Equality and Diversity

34. Support for care leavers should aim to address the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage, as per the aspirations and provision of the [Equality Act 2010](#) (Part 1 (1)). Corporate parents and Community Planning Partners will also want to ensure that there is an appropriate range of accommodation and housing options for care leavers, including those with additional needs (such as a disability) or those who are parents.

³³ [Guidance provided to CPP managers](#) by the Assistant Commissioner for Scotland, Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). [Letter from the Scottish Government](#) (08 April 2013) highlighting the ICO guidance.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

35. This third section takes local authorities and their corporate parenting partners through the steps of developing and implementing a housing protocol for care leavers. It includes examples from local authorities who have been involved in developing the 'housing options' approach across Scotland in recent years.³⁴ It highlights a range of different procedures, and explains how these may be carried out to meet care leavers needs, in accordance with the six principles that should underpin all 'Housing Protocols for Care Leavers' (as set out in Section 2 above).

36. The guidance in this section has been grouped under specific themes, each relating to a specific discussion and / or process that CPPs will need to undertake to develop – and effectively implement – a Housing Protocol. These themes do not have to be worked through in a particular order, but due consideration must be given to each. The themes are:

- Housing Allocation - Care Leavers as a Priority Group
- Identifying Accommodation Options (including 'Prevention of Homelessness')
- Supporting Care Leavers into Sustainable Accommodation
- Partnership Working
- Monitoring & Recording

HOUSING ALLOCATIONS – CARE LEAVERS AS A PRIORITY GROUP

37. Community Planning Partnerships will want to ensure that individual care leavers are prioritised in their housing allocations. This is in response to care leavers' particular vulnerability and need, and in line with authorities' corporate parenting duties. The priority status afforded to care leavers should help ensure that the risk of homelessness is reduced or avoided; indeed it is recommended that such an aim is made explicit in all housing protocols for care leavers. The example below illustrates the aims of an existing local authority strategy / protocol. CPPs will note that the

³⁴ Please note that the practice examples highlighted within this guidance, are not intended to be read as either prescriptive or exhaustive. They are provided to illustrate the Housing Options approach, as it relates to looked after young people and care leavers.

aims reflect the underpinning principles of *connection and belonging* and *readiness*, (outlined above in this guidance).

Young people leaving care settings

West Dunbartonshire

West Dunbartonshire council has developed a strategy for securing appropriate accommodation options for care leavers. The strategy's explicit aims are:

- No young person should have to become homeless on leaving care;
- A range of accommodation and support solutions will be made available to young care leavers on discharge from care and until their 21st birthday, if involved with the Throughcare Team;
- The above provision will be based on the best interests of the young person, taking their views into account;
- In the long term, sustainability of suitable housing is the goal;
- This agreement reflects the aim of each party to strengthen existing services and joint working arrangements detailing the duties and responsibilities of each department;
- All parties are committed to working together to improve outcomes for young people who have been looked after and accommodated;
- Housing, Environment and Economic Development Department will ensure the provision of appropriate advice and assistance to young people leaving care in order to prevent homelessness and ensure transition to suitable accommodation, e.g. supported lodgings, temporary flat, or own tenancy.

38. Access to social housing lists in Scotland is open to all individuals aged 16 or over, but the allocation of a home is based on an assessment of an applicant's need. Those who are to be given reasonable preference for being allocated housing include applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, amongst others. The Scottish Government's Social Housing Allocations Practice Guide advises social landlords that there are certain examples where it would be good practice to accept applications before an applicant is 16 years old, for example, to help with the transition of a young person from care to independent living.³⁵ The practice guide discusses that one of the protocols landlords may wish to set up with

³⁵ Scottish Government, [Social Housing Allocations Practice Guide](#)

their partners is in relation to young people leaving care, to ensure their needs and vulnerabilities are assessed and addressed and to ensure that forward planning prevents housing crisis in the future.

Extract from Care Leaver Protocol

North Ayrshire Council

The overarching aim of this Protocol is to ensure a co-ordinated response to the accommodation needs of care leavers. It outlines the legal and operational frameworks agreed between the departments for providing assessment, planning and appropriate accommodation for young people leaving care. It also provides for care leavers who have found themselves unexpectedly homeless or in significant housing difficulty. This will be achieved by ensuring:

- No young person will become homeless on leaving residential care
- A range of accommodation and support solutions will be made available to young care leavers on discharge from care and until their 21st birthday if involved with the Throughcare service
- Provision will be based on the best interest of the young person taking their views into account
- A joint approach involving all relevant partners will be adopted to maximise tenancy sustainment
- The protocol reflects the commitment of each party to strengthen existing services and joint working arrangements detailing the duties and responsibilities of each department
- Both parties are committed to working together to improve outcomes for young people who have been looked after and accommodated
- Housing services will ensure the provision of appropriate advice and assistance to young people leaving care in order to prevent homelessness and ensure transition to suitable accommodation.

[In respect to] **outcomes**, Housing and Social services will ensure that a care leaver receives:

- a consistent integrated service
- a completed Pathway Assessment and Plan which identifies the views of the care leaver
- access to accommodation which considers the young person's needs and choice

- access to an appeals and resolution service which is described and understood by them
- appropriate support during their transition to independence within the community

IDENTIFYING ACCOMODATION OPTIONS

39. The type of accommodation made available to a care leaver can make an enormous difference to the success of their transition to adult living. The allocation of the appropriate accommodation (and support) from the outset reduces the chance of repeated breakdown and homelessness. It also facilitates sustained engagement in education, training or employment. CPPs will want to ensure they have a range of housing options available to care leavers, from supported lodgings through to independent tenancies. The [pathways assessment and plan](#) should set out what kind of accommodation best meets the needs (and wishes) of the young person, and should detail how this is to be obtained and supported. However not all young people will be looking to move from their current placements, and CPPs should both encourage and support young people to remain in their care placements until they are ready to move on (see *Staying Put Scotland: Guidance for Corporate Parents*, 2013).

40. Strategic planning and partnerships are essential to the supply of suitable accommodation. In the particular case of housing, these partnerships will include all Registered Social Landlords providing accommodation within a local authority area. They will also include private landlords who form part of any local authority strategic housing plan, particularly where a management consortium has been formed to address local need. A useful example of this is the [City of Edinburgh's Private Sector Leasing Scheme](#).

41. A permanent, single person tenancy may not be the best option for a young care leaver. Some young people will need a more graduated transition towards such an option. This does not mean, however, that care leavers should experience multiple moves (from one accommodation to another). Instead, CPPs will – in some cases – need to provide a high level of practical and emotional support at the outset

of young person's transition from care, which can be tapered off over time. The example below describes how one local authority secures and manages a supply of 'starter flats' for their care leavers and other vulnerable young people.

Starter Flats

East Lothian Council

The Area Housing Teams will identify these properties (starter flats) as they become available and advise the Accommodation Team. The Accommodation Team then liaises with the Throughcare & Aftercare Team (TACT). Area Teams are notified of a decision within 2 working days.

Starter flats are provided as temporary accommodation, and the occupant receives an occupancy agreement provided by the Homeless Accommodation Team. The Throughcare & Aftercare Team (TACT) provide support to the individual, and review the requirements for "move-on" accommodation (in respect to on-going support).

The occupancy is reviewed on a 6-month basis. The review group include appropriate representatives from TACT, Community Housing and the Homelessness Team. Additional accommodation reviews are dependent on the requirements of the individual.

When it is established that the tenant is able to sustain a tenancy then the TACT will process an application for a housing priority under the re-settlement panel system. The resettlement panel will have the following options when considering an application:

- a) To continue the existing Occupancy Agreement, and to specify the reasons as to why the move to a SSST or SST was declined.
- b) To agree to the creation of an SST or SSST for the tenancy of the starter flat.
- c) To agree to award of social points to secure alternative accommodation either on the basis of a SST or SSST.
- d) Any other agreement reached with the tenant.

42. Where a CPP has committed to assisting a care leaver by providing them with accommodation, they must ensure that the accommodation is suitable. This means that a young person's wishes must be taken into account, alongside their assessed needs. Consideration should be given to the individual's physical and health needs,

as well as where the accommodation is located. It may be important, for example, for a young person to be close to support networks or to have easy transport links to their place of study or employment

43. It is recognised that some young people may express a preference for accommodation that is not considered appropriate by the local authority. On an individual basis these issues should be explored in the [Pathway Plan](#), the young person's wishes taken into account, and the discussions (and decisions) properly recorded.

Extract from Care Leaver Protocol

North Ayrshire Council

The Pathway Co-ordinator from Social Services will be responsible for convening a planning meeting to which Housing will be invited. The coordinator will also ensure that the relevant people required to attend as identified by the young person are notified. This meeting should be convened at the earliest stage possible, usually six months before the young person leaves care.

Pre-determination

A care leaver's housing and support needs will be identified as part of the Pathway Planning Process. Throughcare will, in partnership with others, provide a detailed assessment of the young person's needs in both the short and longer term by way of accommodation. A planning meeting will be called 6 weeks prior to a young person's discharge. The Homeless Assessment Prevention and Advice Officer (HAPA) will attend this meeting to discuss and identify housing options and will complete the necessary paperwork.

Throughcare and HAPA will have weekly contact prior to discharge to ensure the transition from care is seamless. Throughcare will have responsibility for ensuring the identified support package is in place before the young person leaves care.

The HAPA officer should record summary information within the Housing Services advice and information database which should be updated and maintained through to final resettlement.

44. While accommodation options should be identified and discussed prior to a young person leaving care, CPPs may also wish to address certain issues explicitly in their local care leaver protocol. The extract below - from an existing housing strategy for care leavers - illustrates how this can be done.

Managing care leaver expectations

South Lanarkshire Council

“A suitable offer should be made within a reasonable time period of the application being made. It should be noted that it will take much longer to be housed in some areas than others and young people will be encouraged to make a reasonable choice of areas. It will be important to make the young person aware that housing can take a long time in some areas.”

45. CPPs should put in place appropriate mechanisms for handling tensions between the wishes of the young person and the outcomes of the readiness assessment. Such mechanisms include peer support groups, mediation and/or advocacy. Access to these types of supports should be available to care leavers throughout their journey into adulthood.

46. One approach to identifying a joint way forward is the use of ‘joint interviews and mediation’. This highlights the priority given to early and effective intervention, being proactive and aiming to prevent crises.

Joint Interviews & Mediation

South Ayrshire Council

All young people receive a ‘**joint interview**’. This is a needs led assessment completed jointly by the Throughcare and Housing Teams. This process identifies the needs of the young person and triggers contacts with our partner agencies to ensure that the young person’s needs are met promptly and adequately. The process is slightly different for Care Leavers and is coordinated by the young people’s individual Throughcare Workers.

The benefits of this approach have been:

- Facilitates early Intervention;
- Allows us to jointly assess young person’s needs;

- Young person is less likely to feel unsupported and isolated;
- Allows us to prepare individual packages of support that reflect young person's needs;
- Where appropriate, it allows us to establish and promote contact between a young person and their family/friends.

Used as an early intervention tool, the process of '**mediation**' can prevent young people becoming homeless and therefore assist them to avoid other social problems that can follow. It empowers individuals and promotes positive self-esteem, builds confidence and enhances social skills. The focus is on improving communication, allowing the young person to address their relationship difficulties in a mutually agreeable way. The role of the mediator is to promote, facilitate and manage contact between the individuals concerned. The mediator must remain impartial and not make judgements or take sides.

Mediation is for care leavers in a range of situations including:

- Risk of homelessness due to family relationship breakdown
- Presents to the council as homeless but does not meet the criteria for homeless accommodation;
- Where parents / carers require support in improving or sustaining their relationships with the young people they look after.

Prevention of homelessness

47. As outlined in the Principles above (Section 2) young people who have been looked after should not have to present as 'homeless' to be provided with accommodation. This principle should guide the development of all CPP Housing Options Protocols. Using the "homelessness route" to secure a care leaver accommodation often means the transition is insufficiently planned and supported, and therefore with a low likelihood of success. Similarly, CPPs should consider whether B&B or certain hostel accommodation is suitable accommodation for care leavers, in the light of their vulnerability. In allocating accommodation to homeless households, local authorities in Scotland must already give proper consideration to the suitability of B&B and hostel accommodation to certain vulnerable groups, including families with children.

“Sometimes a young person may make their own homelessness application to a housing office while they are supported under this partnership agreement. In this case, the housing Team Leader or officer should explain to the young person that their request for accommodation can be dealt with under the partnership agreement arrangements. [...] The Housing Team Leader or officer should contact the Social Worker, with the young person’s prior consent.”

48. In Scotland all those assessed as unintentionally homeless by local authorities are (since the end of 2012) entitled to ‘settled accommodation’, and from June 2013 they have also had the right to be assessed as to whether they require housing support (if the local authority has reason to believe they require it). Both of these developments have implications for the prevention of homelessness among care leavers.

49. Guidance relating to the housing support duty makes specific reference to addressing the needs of young people - including care leavers. All CPPs are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the guidance.³⁶ It includes a local authority example relating to the provision of supported lodgings for care leavers, and information on the National Co-ordinators funded by the Scottish Government to address the areas of service user involvement, re-building social networks, furniture re-use and employability; all of which can be crucial for preventing homelessness amongst young people. (For more details on this guidance, please follow the link in the footnote below.)

50. The vulnerability to homelessness of care leavers has also been addressed in the Scottish Government / COSLA [Prevention of Homelessness Guidance](#) issued to local authorities in 2009.³⁷

³⁶ Scottish Government (2013) [Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households: Guidance for Local Authorities](#), Edinburgh

³⁷ Scottish Government & COSLA (2009) [Prevention of Homelessness Guidance](#), Edinburgh

Extract from Housing strategy

Highland Council

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 states that the welfare of the child is paramount. This legislation covers young people up to the age of 18 but the principles must be observed for all care leavers under this protocol.

Consequently, any placement in emergency accommodation must take into account the need for protection from exploitation and abuse. A risk assessment of the accommodation will be carried out by Housing and Property Services and where possible will consider the individual needs of the care leaver and appropriate arrangements put in place to ensure that care leavers are offered protection.

51. Corporate Parents and Community Planning Partners will also want to ensure that any placement in emergency accommodation is preceded by a full assessment of the individual's circumstances and the potential impact the placement may have on their health and wellbeing.

Extract from Housing protocol

Perth & Kinross Council

The panel operates on a monthly basis and is chaired by the Housing Options & Support Co-ordinator. The panel will identify gaps in service provision and promote effective communication to work with young people, who are homeless, in an integrated and responsive approach. The panel will focus on three areas:

Access to Accommodation and Support for Young People – presentations contained within the [Chair's] report [to the panel] will be discussed to identify any young person at risk, those requiring additional support and those in unsuitable accommodation.

Young People at Risk of Losing their Current Placement - A discussion will be held to identify the best course of action to prevent the placement and / or accommodation being lost such as additional support, face to face meetings with the young person etc. The reasons that young people could be at risk of losing their placement are due to some of the following reasons:

- Non-engagement

- Police involvement
- Not working with services or dedicated workers
- Drug and / or alcohol issues
- Mental Health issues

A discussion will be held to identify the best course of action to prevent the placement and / or accommodation being lost such as additional support, face to face meetings with the young person etc.

Move Arrangements for Young People - The Housing Options & Support Co-ordinator and members of the panel will present cases of young people who are ready to move from their current temporary or permanent placement / accommodation using the agreed risk assessment tool and care plan. A discussion will be held to ensure the young person is ready to move on and that appropriate support is in place.

SUPPORTING CARE LEAVERS INTO SUSTAINABLE ACCOMMODATION

52. Moving to new accommodation can be stressful and CPPs will want to make sure that the levels of support they provide meet the needs of each individual. Some young people will need more support than others and authorities should have a range of services which cater for these differences.³⁸ In planning and developing services, local authorities and their corporate parenting / community planning partners may wish to refer to the [Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households: Guidance for Local Authorities](#) (issued in June 2013) which states that: 'authorities should consider needs around health, employability and social networks. Local authorities could also adopt a holistic approach to ensure issues such as addictions, self-esteem, ability to 'gate keep own front door', loneliness and isolation are considered.

53. CPPs may also wish to take into account the recommendations of the [Supported Accommodation Implementation Group](#)³⁹. Its final report, published in November 2012, highlighted the importance of developing appropriate, person

³⁸ Supporting Young People Leaving care in Scotland: Regulations & Guidance on Services for Young People Ceasing to be Looked After by Local Authorities, Scottish Executive (2004)

³⁹ Scottish Government (2012) [Supported Accommodation Implementation Group: Final Report and Proposals](#), Edinburgh

centred support services with a focus on employability and service user involvement. It also emphasised the importance of providing support to those in their own tenancies, and those in short term accommodation preparing for their own tenancies.

Blue Triangle

South Lanarkshire Council

The Blue Triangle Tenancy Preparation and Sustainment programme has been designed to prepare young people for moving on into their own place and covers the full range of topics required for young people to be prepared, e.g. budgeting, making your house a home, tenancy management, social networks etc. Regular programmes of 10 sessions over 10 weeks are made available to all looked after young people. A maximum of 8 young people per programme. The best stage for referrals is six months prior to the moving on date.

54. The Scottish Government's [Social Housing Allocations Practice](#) also highlights the importance of supporting new tenants, from getting them settled in, through to maintaining their tenancy. CPPs should carefully consider the advice and support they make available to young people; especially those setting up their first tenancy. CPP managers will want to ensure positive relationships exist between housing staff and care leavers, at both a corporate and frontline level. Managers in housing services may wish to ensure that a group of designated housing staff are trained to fully understand the needs of care leavers, and are able to advise other staff or take on lead roles (in respect to care leavers). Similarly, managers in social work services (in particular throughcare and aftercare teams) should ensure that some staff have an understanding of housing options and accommodation allocation protocols.

Extract from Housing strategy

South Lanarkshire Council

Having and keeping a home: On-going support is needed to ensure that young people can successfully maintain living arrangements. Accommodation needs to be of good quality with sufficient furnishings. Fundamentally, care leavers need to feel safe and secure and access to 24 hours support may be necessary.

Involving young people in care planning: Continuously seeking the views of young people

and involving them in the pathway planning processes at all times is crucial for successful assessment of needs and preparing the pathway plan. There are a number of ways in which this can be achieved. Positive working relationships with young people are key to successful Pathway planning. We also have other forums where views can be sought, e.g. The Young Voice Group and themed events in which young people participate through individual and group conversations. All of these help to ensure that young people's views are embedded throughout the moving on journey. Each young person will have different needs and therefore the focus and pace of work needs to be individually set.

55. Whatever accommodation options is allocated to a care leaver, its success will depend on the planning that precedes it, and the support that runs alongside it. In preparing for a transition out of care (and into a housing option), corporate parents will want to ensure that the following issues have been considered.

56. *Emotional support:* Care leavers frequently identify emotional support as a key concern.⁴⁰ Feeling lonely, depressed, worried and anxious is commonly reported. In respect to solutions, care leavers maintain it is the 'small things' that can matter most; having someone who will listen to them; access to 'out of hours' support (when they are mostly likely to need it); access to mental health services.

57. *Developing skills:* Budgeting, cooking, cleaning are all skills that may need to be developed before certain accommodation options become viable. Pathway planning should identify the opportunities that will be made available for young people to develop these skills.

58. *Financial support:* Providing care leavers with access to appropriate (and timeous) financial support is imperative to making certain accommodation options successful. While there has been confusion about eligibility to aftercare services (as highlighted in Barnardo's Scotland submission to the Equal Opportunities Committee Inquiry⁴¹) the various corporate parents that make up a CPP should consider their moral and social responsibility to these young people. Financial stress and strain for

⁴⁰ The Debate Project: [Conversations with Care Leavers](#)

⁴¹ [Equal Opportunities Commission: Barnardo's submission](#)

care leavers can quickly escalate into a multitude of problems, including homelessness.

59. *Opportunities to return and make mistakes:* Young people should be encouraged to visit former carers (be it residential or foster care) and maintain relationships. Moreover, wherever possible care leavers should be able to return to their original care placements. Where that is not possible, local authorities and their corporate parenting partners should have alternative emergency options in place, which properly take account – and seek to address – care leavers’ vulnerability. All young people make mistakes, and care leavers (lacking both skills and support networks) are more likely than most to encounter difficulties with their accommodation. Families provide a safety net for other young people, so the corporate family (through the services they provide or purchase) must offer something equivalent for care leavers. Securing accommodation for a care leaver does not constitute a discharge of a CPPs duty towards these young people; CPPs, as corporate parents, must repeatedly do what they can to make positive outcomes achievable.

“Moving into independence is about more than simply finding a roof. Corporate parents will want to satisfy themselves that young people leaving care have the necessary life skills and confidence to cope with independent living and the supports they need to sustain the move must be in place.”⁴²

60. All Housing Protocols for Care Leavers should recognise that care leavers represent a complex and vulnerable group. However some care leavers will require a significant level of support, and this must be planned for and included in the Protocol. Young people with complex needs, for instance, or those who have experienced periods in secure settings, will need to be fully assessed in relation to their presenting and future needs.⁴³

⁴² These Are Our Bairns: Scottish Government (2008)

⁴³ Children (Scotland) Act 1995, Regulations & Guidance, Scottish Government (1995)

A small number of young people find it difficult to engage with social work and other agency staff and present challenging behaviour which makes it difficult to assess need and source appropriate temporary accommodation. Young people with this profile need to be referred to housing at a much earlier stage than those who are able to embrace the pathways processes. The Social Worker should be in regular contact with the housing Team Leader to enable proper planning and supports to be put in place. A planning meeting should be convened between social work and housing and could involve others, e.g. residential workers, to discuss specific needs and any areas of concern and look at all options and supports that can be accessed for young people with complex needs. Sometimes there are mental health issues and young people require to be fully supported and any self-harm issues need to be included in the assessment, v planning and support.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

61. CPPs will want to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of each corporate parenting partner – as well as the processes and procedures for working together – are explicit, understood and agreed. More specifically, corporate parents should make sure that their specific involvement in preparing or supporting a care leaver (into an accommodation option) is clear to both the young person and staff at all levels of the organisation.

62. The Housing Protocol should also be explicit about which organisation (or department) is financially responsible for providing a service to a care leaver. Clear agreement among all parties (evidenced in the protocol) should avoid the unnecessary delays (in providing a service) which can impact negatively on care leavers.

Rent costs for Care leavers under the age of 18 will be provided by Throughcare. This is paid via Inter departmental transfer. Throughcare will advise appropriate personnel within Housing Finance of those clients to whom this applies. For young people to which Throughcare have no statutory responsibility, assistance will be given to completing Housing Benefit application forms.

Initial resettlement support will be provided by the Throughcare team to assist the young person set up their tenancy and develop their independent living skills. Any requirement for on-going or additional support identified will be provided or sourced by Throughcare services.

Where issues arise within the tenancy, Throughcare will liaise with the Local Housing Office/RSL to try to resolve these issues.

63. CPPs may wish to establish a formal joint-agency group, to facilitate more effective and efficient partnership working. An example of one such group is illustrated in the example below.

Youth Housing Support Group**South Ayrshire Council**

The Youth Housing Support Group (YHSA) provides the opportunity for professionals to share information, highlight concerns and issues, monitor changes in circumstances, respond to crisis situations and identify gaps in service delivery which informs future strategic planning.

The YHSA is a multi-disciplinary group which meets fortnightly to assess, monitor and review young people in housing need. Attendees Include:

- Throughcare Staff
- Children & Family SW's
- Homeless Strategy Officer
- Housing Service
- Quarriers Housing Project & Support
- Skills Towards Employment Project (STEP)
- Youth Support Team

64. Effective partnership working is based on clarity of role, responsibilities and expectations. All organisations involved in a CPP will want to ensure that their staff are aware of the potential issues and complexities involved in supporting care leavers in their transition to adulthood; and the importance of providing that support.

Extract from Housing & Accommodation strategy* **West Dunbartonshire Council*

Social work responsibilities:

- Pathway Plan preparation for all care leavers.
- Thorough preparation prior to allocation of appropriate accommodation.
- Pathway plan identifies who will provide aftercare support
- Following pathway plan review accommodation providers will be advised of the end date of aftercare support.

Accommodation provider responsibilities

- The provision of good quality advice on housing options
- The provision of the best possible accommodation in terms of suitability, locality, availability and quality, with the option to refuse an offer for legitimate reasons.
- Consider care leavers' needs preference. Wherever possible, provision of a Scottish Secure Tenancy
- Clear and consistent information procedures, tenancy and occupancy agreement, referrals, assessments, support, care planning and management arrangements

65. As important as it is for partner agencies to have clarity over their individual responsibilities, it is important that the young person remains at the centre of planning and support arrangements. This priority should be reflected explicitly in the Housing Protocol. Further details about how to involve service users in planning housing options is available from [Scottish Homelessness Involvement and Empowerment Network](#).

66. CPPs will also want to ensure that all corporate parenting partners continue to work together throughout the transition, and for as long as is needed after the transition has been made. Frequent consultation with the young person – and

between relevant agencies – will help determine if the needs of their care leaver are being met.

Extract from Housing strategy

North Lanarkshire Council

It is important to recognise that the young person will require support from all agencies throughout this transition and regular reviews must take place within Housing and Social Work Services. Reviews should take place at six weekly intervals or more frequently if required.

67. As placements of looked after children and young people by one local authority into another local authority area has been highlighted as an issue of particular difficulty – especially when the placement is coming to a close – corporate parents must ensure that effective cross-local authority arrangements are in place, which take into account access to local accommodation and housing options.

68. The relevant organisations involved in planning and implementing a Housing Protocols for Care Leavers are: local authority departments, health services, educational establishments, criminal justice services (including the Scottish Prison Service), third sector and voluntary organisations, and Registered Social Landlords. It is proposed that further information on the responsibilities and duties of corporate parents will be contained within the Children and Young People (Scotland) Bill.⁴⁴

Extract from Protocol

Perth and Kinross Council

Lead officers from each service with responsibility for implementation of this protocol have a collective responsibility to ensure that staff within each service are aware of the protocol, its operation and intended outcomes. In addition lead officers have a responsibility to ensure that staff delivering services to young persons through the protocol receive the required training to ensure its effective implementation. This will be achieved through:

- Staff briefings
- Awareness raising sessions

⁴⁴ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

- Staff training
- Staff feedback

Information sharing

69. Critical to effective partnership working is efficient and proportionate information sharing. CPPs will want to ensure that systems, processes and procedures are in place to support the sharing of information between relevant corporate parenting partners. These procedures should be detailed in the Housing Protocol.

Extracts from Protocol

Perth and Kinross Council

An essential element of the successful implementation of the protocol is ensuring that information is shared by partners to enable the young person's housing or homelessness issue to be resolved as quickly as possible. Information will be shared with the joint aims of assisting the young person to obtain the most appropriate services to meet their needs but whilst doing so preserving their dignity and privacy.

Each of the agencies involved in the protocol have existing confidentiality and data protection policies and will adhere to data protection legislation when carrying out tasks relating to the protocol.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

70. Community Planning Partners will want to ensure that this guidance is implemented correctly and consistently by establishing appropriate procedures for monitoring and recording progress across a range of relevant outcome indicators. This should not necessitate significant changes in existing systems; statistical information to inform the development of housing options protocols is already provided through the recording by local authorities of the care background of those

applying as homeless. New statistical recording of those found to be unintentionally homeless and assessed as needing housing support was introduced during 2013.⁴⁵

71. As corporate parents, CPPs will also want to ensure that they record and report on key accommodation and housing outcomes for their care leavers, such as: the age at which young people seek to access accommodation and housing; their initial and subsequent housing outcomes; and accommodation and housing sustainment outcomes.

Extract from Protocol

Perth and Kinross Council

In order to establish if the main objectives and outcomes of the protocol are being met its outcomes will be measured through the following:

- The numbers of young persons seeking assistance @Scott Street
- Levels of homeless presentations from young persons
- Levels and numbers of instances where homelessness was prevented for young persons
- Levels of repeat homelessness for young persons
- Levels of tenancy sustainment in settled accommodation for young persons
- Tenancy breakdown by landlord and tenure type for young persons
- Service user feedback
- Final housing outcomes for young people

Extract from Protocol

Orkney Council

It is vital that both the Department of Community Social Services and the Housing Division monitor key aspects of this protocol to determine the effectiveness of this approach. This information will be used to identify any areas where the service could be improved and to determine whether this approach assists young people leaving care to sustain a tenancy in the future.

⁴⁵ Scottish Government (2013) [Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households: Guidance for Local Authorities](#), Edinburgh

- No of young people leaving care by age and housing outcome;
- The above in relation to equalities criteria;
- No of young people leaving care who are housed in permanent accommodation from outset, by age
- No of young people leaving care who are housed in Camoran's Independent Living Flat temporarily, by age and housing outcome
- No of young people leaving care who are housed in Young Person's Supported Accommodation Project by age and housing outcome
- No of support packages successfully delivered;
- No of young people who have previously been looked after who have difficulty in sustaining a tenancy (e.g. rent arrears, ASB) by age and housing history

Extract from Care Leaver Protocol

North Ayrshire Council

The protocol development group will have responsibility for monitoring its operation. The group should meet quarterly for the first year, then six monthly thereafter. Membership of the group includes the Throughcare Team Leader, Temporary Accommodation Manager, Local Area Housing Manager, Homeless Assessment Prevention and Advice Officer (HAPA), and the Common Housing Register Manager. The group will consider:

- Progress of protocol
- Temporary Accommodation and support options outcomes
- Mainstream accommodation sustainability outcomes
- Development of a performance management framework to monitor protocol effectiveness

A review of the protocol will be undertaken at the end of the first year of implementation and amendments will be made as necessary depending on issues arising.

72. Local authorities and their corporate parenting / community planning partners will want to ensure that the principles and procedures outlined within this guidance are reflected in their Housing Protocol for Care Leavers. All agencies will also want to demonstrate that that their approach effectively facilitates and supports care leavers' transition to adulthood and interdependent living.

Further Reading

Young Peoples Homeless Pathways (Mayock, Carr & O'Sullivan 2008)

http://www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre/assets/pdf/Publications/Homeless_Pathways.pdf

Young People Leaving Care: Supporting Pathways to Adulthood (Mike Stein, 2012)

<http://www.psychotherapy.com.au/shop/book-store/children-and-adolescents/c-a-child-protection/young-people-leaving-care.html>

Leaving Care: Throughcare & Aftercare in Scotland (Dixon & Stein 2005)

<http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/103/>

Young Peoples Transitions from Care To Adulthood: International research & practice: (Stein & Munro eds. 2008) <http://php.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/145/>

Making Not Breaking: Findings and Recommendations of the Care Inquiry (2013)

<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/Care%20Inquiry%20-%20Full%20Report%20April%202013.pdf>

Housing Support Duty to Those Found to Be Homeless or Threatened With Homelessness (Scottish Govt 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00423606.pdf>

Resilience & Young People Leaving Care: Overcoming The Odds (Mike Stein 2005)

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/185935369x.pdf>

Access All Areas Report (National Care Advisory Service 2012)

<http://www.catch-22.org.uk/Files/Access-all-Areas.pdf?id=80522775-6a97-4332-a5d1-a03600a26f8e>

Children (Scotland) Act 1995

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/36/contents>

Sweet 16: The Age of Leaving Care in Scotland (SCCYP, 2008)

http://www.sccyp.org.uk/uploaded_docs/leaving%20care%20young%20persons%20for%20web%20200803.pdf

Still Caring: Supporting Care Leavers in Scotland (Duncalf, Hill & McGhee 2013)
http://www.celcis.org/resources/entry/still_caring_supporting_care_leavers_in_scotland

These Are Our Bairns (Scottish Government 2008)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/236882/0064989.pdf>

Listen Up: Adult Care Leavers Speak Out (Duncalf, 2010)
<http://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/27410/1>

Staying Put: DfE, DWP & HMRC Guidance (HM Govt 2013)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-put-arrangements-for-care-leavers-aged-18-years-and-above>

CELCIS, Submission to the Equal Opportunities Committee (2012)
http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EqualOpportunitiesCommittee/Inquiries/CELCIS_SUBMISSION.pdf

Statistical Briefing on Care Leavers 2010-11, National Care Advisory Service
<http://resources.leavingcare.org/uploads/e7186fad64003f1f923d30a80243e38f.pdf>

Transitions to Independence, National Care Advisory Service
<http://www.rip.org.uk/files/prompts/p5/NCAS%20transitions%20to%20independence%202008.pdf>

Guide to the Equality Act 2010 (UK), Equality and Human Rights Commission
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/service_users_healthcare_and_social_care.pdf

In easy read for service users:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/EqualityAct/equality_act_2010_services_easyread.pdf

The UK Government Equalities Office also has useful guidance about the Act outlining key changes:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-guidance>

For voluntary and community sector:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85028/vcs-service-providers.pdf

For the public sector

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85021/public-sector.pdf

The Office for Disability Issues has also produced guidance about the Equality Act 2010 in particular focusing on what constitutes a disability and should be covered under the Act.

Guidance on matters to be taken into account in determining questions relating to the definition of disability (ODI 2010) can be found here: <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/docs/wor/new/ea-guide.pdf>

www.lgbtyouth.org.uk - a source for advice about service provision for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people.



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