

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

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| Committee: | Corporate Parenting Board |
| Date: | 26 March 2020 |
| Title: | Hampshire's Joint Working Protocol for those aged 16 & 17 in Housing Need |
| Report From: | Director of Children's Services |

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Corporate Parenting Board Hampshire joint working protocol and guidance between housing & children's services.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Corporate Parenting Board note the updates to the Hampshire joint working protocol and guidance between housing & children's services.

Executive Summary

3. The Hampshire joint working protocol and guidance between housing & children's services for 16 & 17 year olds in housing need was reviewed and updated in May 2019. The revised protocol clarifies the roles and responsibilities as well as the legislation, process and procedure for supporting young people who at risk or are homeless.
4. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 made significant changes to part 7 of the Housing Act 1996. Its main effect is to place increased duties on local authorities to assess an applicant's needs and to prevent and relieve homelessness. The joint working housing protocol promotes information sharing planning and a joined-up response in supporting young people who at risk or are homeless. The revised joint working housing protocol will ensure that there is a collaborative approach in supporting young people from Children's Social Care and the District Housing Authority.

5. The revised joint working housing protocol clarifies the process and procedure for managing young people who are at risk or are homeless. A fundamental principle of the Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Joint Working Housing Protocol is that all 16 and 17 year olds who approach either the local Housing or Children's Services Department, and where there is a reason to believe they may be homeless, should be assessed by Children's Services under the Children Act 1989 to determine whether they are a child in need and, if so, whether a duty exists to offer accommodation under s20 of that Act.
6. This protocol recognises that homelessness is damaging to young people's personal, social and economic development and well-being. Where possible, homelessness should be prevented, and young people supported to remain at home (where it is safe to do so) or leave in a planned and supported manner. The primary objective of agencies is to respond to all young people's enquiries with the aim of preventing homelessness and supporting the young person to remain in the parental home, where it is safe and reasonable to do so.
7. Children's Services is the lead agency regarding assessing and meeting the needs of 16/17 year olds who seek help because of homelessness. Although the Children Act 1989 is the primary legislation over the Housing Act 1996, Part 7 (as amended), both services are responsible for meeting the needs of these young people. Current legislation and practice requirements are included in the joint working housing protocol and emphasises the complementary roles of Children's Services and the District Housing Authorities.
8. Members of the Strategic Housing Group, the Housing and Local Welfare Assistance Lead and the Commissioning Service have checked that the procedure is correct. The revised joint working housing protocol has been checked for current terminology and current practice this includes an updated flow chart to support professionals in ensuring that their roles and responsibilities are clearly understood.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

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| Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity: | No |
| People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives: | Yes |
| People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment: | No |
| People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities: | Yes |
| OR | |
| This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: | |

Other Significant Links

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| Links to previous Member decisions: | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives | |
| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> |
| Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 | |
| Children Act 1989 | |

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| Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents | |
| The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.) | |
| <u>Document</u> | <u>Location</u> |
| None | |

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-Impact-Assessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*