

Local Challenge 9: “To not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation”

Area of Assessment	Key Elements	Areas to Consider
We do not place any 16 or 17 year olds in B&B accommodation	A. No 16 or 17 year olds who apply to the authority as homeless are being placed into B&B at the point of the Local Challenge application and for the previous 12 months.	<p><i>Please note: This section is concerned with new homeless cases within this age range and where a 1st tier (county/unitary) authority is not already subject to duties to the 16/17 year old as a ‘corporate parent’</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Recent performance demonstrates that no 16/17 year olds who applied to the authority as homeless were placed into B&B accommodation in the last 12 months The local authority has appropriate measures in place to ensure that no 16/17 year olds have been placed in B&B in the last twelve months and plans do you have to maintain this in the future?
	B. Joint Protocol between Housing and Children’s Services which focuses on prevention, highlights safeguarding issues, includes a clear dispute resolution process and encourages joint assessment with a clear lead agency.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A joint protocol between Housing and Children’s Services which reflects the 2010 Statutory Guidance Protocol focuses on prevention through home visits, family mediation and support The protocol highlights safeguarding as a key consideration and utilises suitable short stay/emergency accommodation where needed The protocol includes a clear dispute resolution and escalation process with senior management involvement. The protocol is reviewed and updated through a joint meeting on at least an annual basis Relevant staff from Housing, Children’s services and other departments/agencies have had training on the joint protocol and how it works in practice Joint assessments between Children’s Services and Housing are undertaken with 16/17 year olds who are homeless or threatened with homelessness Effective use of s17 Children Act 1989 payments via Social Services Department protocols and joint assessments
	C. An early intervention and prevention service for young people in housing need (Under 25s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority (or partner agency) undertakes home visits in all cases of family eviction within 48 hours where possible There is age appropriate information and advice available to young people regarding the realities of leaving home at a young age, homelessness, the law, housing options and support available Use of local data to target particular schools and carry out awareness raising/education work Staff working with young people at risk of homelessness are trained in mediation and family work Agencies working with young people are signed up to local strategic aims and objectives around tackling youth homelessness

	<p>D. Positive pathway approach to preventing youth homelessness and promoting good outcomes has been developed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A positive pathway to prevent youth homelessness and supporting, where necessary, young people's planned moves to independence. This may be evidenced through a Joint Protocol. 2. Provision of a range of young person's accommodation options to meet different housing and support needs 3. Provision of seamless, easy to use services, making better use of resources through joining up and co-ordinating of services, including pooling budgets of all agencies where it is effective to do so
	<p>E. Appropriate, supportive accommodation options available for young people</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single access point/gateway into all supported accommodation services where practicable 2. Established move-on process with local young person's supported accommodation providers 3. Access to Private Rented Sector housing options for young people where appropriate (Link to Local Challenge 6)