

Young people at the risk of homelessness



Are you 16 or 17 and homeless?
Do you have nowhere to live?
Or have you been told to leave home?
Know your rights



Homeless or worried about where you are going to live?

Being aged 16 – 17 and facing the possibility of having nowhere to live or having to leave home suddenly can be very stressful and a 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 social worker/ Early Help Worker or Youth Offending Worker, you should 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 Early Help, Social Care and Derby Homes can offer you support.

The support and possible accommodation you can expect will vary and will depend on your own unique set of circumstances. This leaflet aims to explain how it all works. However, children's services will often seek accommodation through foster carers or supported lodgings.

The priority for everyone will be to work with you and your family through offering interventions such as family group conferencing and the goal will be to assist you to return home or with family where it is safe to do so.

We can help, please call on:

Childrens Social Care and First Contact Team Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.
Telephone: 01332 641172.

Derby City Care Line – Social Care out-of-hours support weekdays after 5pm and 24hrs service during weekends and bank holidays. Telephone 01332 956606.



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 and 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 family arrangement. This may only be for a short period of time, to allow staff from Early Help and Social Care services 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.

Single Assessment

The law has an expectation that departments within Local Authority (Early Help and Social Care and Housing) should meet with you to complete a "Single Assessment" if it is determined that you are homeless or are at risk of being homeless.

The meeting is important, and it gives you the opportunity to talk to a social worker and a homelessness advisor to work together about what is happening and then agree on who will support you both now and in the future. Your single assessment is 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 single assessment there may be some things that are difficult for you to talk about however, it is important you give the social worker and the homelessness advisor as much information as possible about why you are homeless or threatened with homeless and the reasons why you feel you can't return home. Discussions may take place 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.

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 or level of need.

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

During and after your single assessment Early Help and Social care will continue to explore the possibility of you returning home, where safe to do so. However, if it becomes absolutely clear you cannot return home and there are no other family members that can accommodate you, then Early Help and Social Care will make sure 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.

If you are unable to go back home with support offered, then you will be assessed by Social Care, who will complete a Single Assessment. A social worker will discuss with you about becoming accommodated by Derby City Council under Section 20 of the Childrens Act 1989 when you will be known as a "Looked After Child" or becoming a "Child in Need" under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

This accommodation is 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 will arrange a meeting between you and your wider family to look at immediate/ wider family who may be able to support you.

If there are no other options, you may be able to stay accommodated by Derby City Council until you reach 18 and possibly receive support past this age.

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

You may decide that you do not wish to be supported by Derby City Council as a Looked After Child. If you are homeless or threatened with homelessness you will be entitled to a Homelessness Assessment under the 1996 Housing Act which will also include a personalised housing plan. However, the type of accommodation offered will still be the same as if you decided to become a Looked After Child or a Child in Need.

Whilst you are being supported by Derby City Council living in supported or shared accommodation you can request a change in your supported status. The Single Assessment can be reviewed, and your status can change from Child in Need to Looked After Child and vice versa.

Need help to have your say?

An independent advocate will be made available to help you have your say. This is someone who doesn't work for Early Help, Social Care or Housing and whose job it is to make sure your views are listened to and considered, help you to understand information and support you at meetings. They can also support you to make a complaint.

Derby City Council's advocacy service is the Change Grow Live.. Ask your allocated worker for more information which is also available on the Derby City Council website. Request that your allocated worker support you in accessing this service by making a referral or you can contact them on 07809 587007.

What is the difference between being a Looked After Child, a Child in Need and being supported under Part 7 of the Housing Act?

Looked After Child

If you become a Looked After Child, you will have an allocated social worker who will oversee your care as Derby 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. A Pathway Plan is written to plan how Children's Services are going to support you to live independently.

A pathway plan is like a contract between you and Children's Services, which you both must agree on. It is an opportunity for you to have your say about how you want Children's Services to support you, until you feel confident to live independently.

This will include and support with any parts of your life you need help with, such as:

- Education
- Regular Health Checks, including checks on height, weight, a general chat about how you are feeling and any health issues or any worries you may have and help to register with a Doctor and Dentist
- Identity and emotional well-being
- Finances
- Relationships with family and friends
- Transition and Preparation into adulthood

You and your social worker will attend Looked After Child meetings which will review your care and pathway plan. This will be overseen by an Independent Reviewing Officer who will make sure that your voice is heard.

You will not be able to claim benefits if accommodated by Derby City Council. However, your rent for accommodation will be paid and a weekly allowance, at the same rate as welfare benefits. You will be able and entitled to claim benefits once you turn 18 years.

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). This could be support up until 25 years and include:

- A personal adviser allocated.
- The continuation of the Pathway Plan, including regular reviews.
- Living expenses associated with living near the place where they work/plan to work.
- Assistance with education and training needs/ Higher Education bursary
- Help with accommodation

See Derby City's Local Offer to Care Leavers, go to derby.gov.uk and search for 'Local Offer to Care Leavers'.

Child in Need

As a Child in need, you will be supported by a social worker, or a member of the Early Help team and they will support you in maintaining your supported accommodation and transitioning into adulthood.

Your social worker/ Early Help Worker will visit you regularly and work with you towards living independently, this is known as a Child in Need Plan. A Child in Need Plan is written to plan how Children's Services are going to support you to live independently and will be in place till your turn 18 years.

A Child in Need Plan is like a contract between you and Children's Services, which you both must agree on. It is an opportunity for you to have your say about how you want Children's Services to support you, until you feel confident to live independently.

This will include and support with any parts of your life you need help with, such as:

- Education
- Regular Health Checks, including checks on height, weight, a general chat about how you are feeling and any health issues or any worries you may have and help to register with a Doctor and Dentist
- Identity and emotional well-being
- Finances
- Relationships with family and friends
- Transition and preparation for adulthood

You and your worker will attend Child in Need meetings which will review your plan. This will be overseen by an Independent Reviewing Officer who will make sure that your voice is heard.

Accommodation when you turn 18 years will be varied. Your worker will attempt to ensure you remain in your supported accommodation post 18 years. There will be an independent living assessment carried out by Derby Homes, and you will receive an allocated housing advisor to explore your independent living skills. Your housing advisor will be invited to your Child in Need Review around 17 and a half years.

As you are 16 or over, you will be entitled to receive certain benefits, such as Housing Benefit. Being accommodated as Child in Need means you may be responsible for some service charges; this is at the providers discretion. Any additional financial support will be determined by Early Help and Social Services as and when required.

Part 7 of the Housing Act

When housed under Part 7 of the Housing Act:

A member of Derby Homes will work with you to provide assistance to prevent homelessness this will be through a housing assessment and creation of a personalised housing plan which you will be required to be part of and work towards the objectives set to ensure that you are provided the right support to maintain your accommodation placement.

You will be responsible for working and/ or claiming benefits and paying for your housing and all other expenses.

If you are housed under part 7 of the Housing Act and are at risk of eviction, the reasons why will determine if you are entitled to having alternative housing provided for you.

Once you turn 18 you will not automatically have priority need. However, through the personalised housing plan Derby Homes will assist in supporting you in finding your own accommodation.

Useful contacts and where to get help:

Useful Local Contacts

Housing Options, Derby Homes

Monday to Friday - 8.30am to 5pm. 01332 888777
(choose option 4 for homeless and option 5 for threatened with homelessness).

Childrens Social Care and First Contact Team

Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm. 01332 641172.

Derby City Care Line – Social Care out-of-hours support

Weekdays after 5pm and 24hrs service during weekends and bank holidays.
01332 956606

Change Grow Live

Monday to Friday - 8am-8pm & Sat 10am-4pm).
Telephone Change Grow Live: 07809 587007. Email: dcrs.advocacy@cgl.org.uk

Useful National Contacts

Shelter	0808 800 4444	www.shelter.org.uk
Just for Kids Law	020 3174 2279	www.justforkidslaw.org
Citizens Advice Bureau	www.citizensadvice.org.uk	
Runaway Helpline	116 000	www.runawayhelpline.org.uk
Get Connected	0808 808 4994	www.getconnected.org.uk

We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on **01332 640000** or **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਇੱਥੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ: **01332 640000** ਜਾਂ **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku. Prosimy o kontakt: **01332 640000** lub **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Slovak

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Prosím, kontaktujte nás na tel. č.: **01332 640000** alebo na stránke **derby.gov.uk/signing-service**

Urdu

یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرم **01332 640000** یا **derby.gov.uk/signing-service** پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں

