

What are my rights?

Your Family Support Worker or Social Worker or Housing Officer will explain your rights. You will also have access to an independent advocate if you agree who can also explain your rights.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has increased duties on local authorities to assess an applicant who is homeless or at risk of homelessness to prevent and relieve homelessness.

Children's Services is responsible for accommodating homeless young people aged 16/17 years under the Children Act 1989.

You can find out more about your rights in the following legislation :

- Children Act 1989
- Housing Act 1996
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Useful contact details

Hampshire Children's Services

Hantsdirect contact number

t 0300 555 1384

Out of Hours

t 0300 555 1373

National Youth Advocacy Service

w www.NYAS.net

t 0808 8081001

e help@nyas.net



Housing advice for 16-17 year olds

Information for 16-17 year olds that are homeless or are at risk of homelessness



Hampshire
County Council

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Housing Gateway

(Risk of homelessness)

If you cannot stay at home or in other suitable accommodation for at least 72 hours, then you can be referred for Housing Gateway.

A Family Support Worker from the Family Support Service will contact you to arrange a suitable time to meet to discuss your housing needs. This may include speaking to your parents or carers if it is safe to do so to get their views.

You and your family may be offered mediation to help you remain at home.

An assessment of need will be completed with you to ensure you have the correct support in place.

However, if you are unable to remain at home and have no other suitable accommodation other alternative housing options will be discussed with you.



Homelessness

If you become homeless you will be contacted by a Social Worker who will complete a full assessment of your needs with you.

You **may** be offered accommodation whilst the assessment takes place.

If Children's Services have a duty to provide you with accommodation you may become "looked after" by Hampshire County Council and provided with care, support and a place to live. Some people call this being "in care".

If you are used to living independently and have minimal needs, you might be provided with supported living.

Your Social Worker will make sure you have all the information you need and that your views are recorded and considered. You can also have an independent advocate if you choose.



If you are offered accommodation:

You will be provided with a Social Worker to support you including support to help you with your accommodation and any other needs that you have such as education/training or work.

If you are offered accommodation this could be:

- Supported lodgings
- Foster placement

You need to know that...

Your parents/carers will be included in your assessment and plan if it is safe to do so.

Accommodation is not free, you will be supported to understand about benefits and budgeting. If you require support to apply for any benefits this will be provided.

If you are accommodated by Children's Services for any period whilst aged 16 or 17 years you will become a qualifying care leaver and will be entitled to support & advice from a leaving care team.

If you are 'looked after' for longer than 13 weeks you will have full care leaver status and may be eligible for support up to your 25th Birthday.