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Document Author	Chris Mills, Policy & Commissioning Officer, Children's Services	
Document owner	Children's Services, Bracknell Forest Borough Council Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1JD Telephone: 01344 351582 Email: chris.mills@bracknell-forest.gov.uk	
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Accessibility

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Please contact:

Family Placement Team
Children's Services
Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Time Square
Market Street
Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1JD

Email: family.placement@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Telephone: 01344 351582

Fax: 01344 351521

Minicom: 01344 352045

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Young Persons' Accommodation Scheme

Person _____

Gender _____ Male / Female

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship _____

to Young _____

Person _____

Gender _____ Male / Female

Person _____

Gender _____ Male / Female

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship _____

to Young _____

Person _____

Gender _____ Male / Female

Professionals Involved

Agency	Contact Name	Address	Telephone
GP	_____	_____	_____
School	_____	_____	_____
Health Visitor	_____	_____	_____
School Nurse	_____	_____	_____
Police	_____	_____	_____
Youth Offending Team	_____	_____	_____
Education Welfare Officer	_____	_____	_____
Social Worker	_____	_____	_____
Probation Officer	_____	_____	_____

BASIC DETAILS [Part 4 of 4]

Record of Decision / Action based on the Housing and Needs Assessment

Please indicate the record of decision or action and give details:

Return to family

Referral to Resource Panel for Supported Housing

Referral to Resource Panel for enhanced Supported Lodgings Scheme

Referral to Children's Services as a Child in Need.

Referred to C.M.H.T / C.T.P.L.D. [young people over 18]

Referral to REAP for advice / support

Young Persons' Accommodation Scheme

Referral to Connexions for advice / support

Offer Emergency Accommodation: if emergency place offered must go to next available Resource Panel.

No action Taken / Reason.

Signature

Date

Name

Organisation

(Block Capitals)

Appendix A - LAC Guidance

A series of Court of Appeal judgements (A v. London Borough of Lambeth, followed by W v. London Borough of Lambeth) cast doubt on Local Authorities powers under Section 17 of the Young Person Act 1989 to help young person and families with accommodation.

For the avoidance of future doubt about the use of section 17 of the Young Person Act 1989 in relation to accommodation, and to help with accommodation, amendments were made by the Adoption and Young person Act 2002. Those amendments have the effect of confirming the position which was generally understood to have applied before the judgement of A v. London Borough of Lambeth. That is, that Section 17 of the Young Person Act 1989 included the power of local authorities to provide accommodation for families and young person; and that the provision of accommodation in this way does not make a young person looked after. These amendments came into force on 7th November 2002.

Amendment to Section 17

Section 17 (provision of services for young person in need, their families and others) to the Young person Act now reads:

“17(6) The services provided by the local authority in exercise of functions conferred upon them by this section may include providing accommodation, giving assistance in kind or, in exceptional circumstances, in cash.

Because section 22 of the Young person Act defines a young person as a looked after young person if they are accommodated by the local authority in the pursuit of its duties, and the power of section 17 is not and was not previously intended to provide a route by which a young person should enter the looked after young person system, section 22 has been amended so as to exclude young person provided with accommodation under section 17. Section 22 (general duty of local authority in relation to young person looked after now reads:

“22(1) In this Act, any reference to a young person who is looked after by a local authority is a reference to a young person who is –

- (a) in their care; or
- (b) provided with accommodation by the authority in the exercise of

any functions (in particular those under the Act) which are social services functions within the meaning of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1979, apart from functions under section 17, 23b and 24b”

Appendix B - The Homelessness Act 2002

Summary: Key Implications for agencies working with young people age 16- 17.

Courtesy of Shelter website See www.homelessnessact.org.uk for fuller details

Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 will have far-reaching implications for agencies working with young people in housing need.

Finding and keeping somewhere to live

Young people who leave home at 16 or 17 are far more likely to experience housing problems, and often lack family support to help them make the transition into independent living. Lower incomes and restrictions on benefits make it difficult to find accommodation they can afford.

Yet young people don't just need a place to live. Giving a homeless 16 year old the key to a flat without providing appropriate support is no longer acceptable. 16 and 17 year olds often require help with:

- accessing employment
- training and education
- budgeting
- cooking
- acquiring furniture
- dealing with agencies
- awareness of sources of help.

Accommodation

New duties in the Homelessness Act complement existing social services' duties to provide an important safety net for young people who find themselves homeless.

Priority need

The new priority need order, implemented alongside the Act, effectively strengthens the duties housing departments owe to homeless 16 or 17 year olds. Nearly all homeless 16 or 17 year olds will now be in priority need.

In cases, which do not involve violence, abuse or an irreconcilable breakdown, housing departments may be able to facilitate reconciliation with the family. Some housing departments have taken steps to set up a specialised service for this age group with the assistance of social services. Though as the Code of Guidance points out the process of reconciliation can take time and accommodation may need to be provided in the interim.

Social services

Not all homeless 16 or 17 year olds are covered by the new priority need order. For some the responsibility to accommodate rests with social services. They are:

- 'Relevant young person' under the Young person (Leaving Care) Act 2000

Young Persons' Accommodation Scheme