

## Your Rights

Your social worker will explain your rights. You can also speak with an independent advocate from NYAS.

Children's Social Care is responsible for accommodating young people aged 16 or 17 who are homeless under the Children's Act 1989.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has increased local authority's duties to assess an applicant, who is homeless or at risk of homelessness with 56 days, to prevent or relieve homelessness.

You can find out more about your rights by speaking with NYAS and by looking at the following legislation:

- Children's Act 1989;
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017;
- Housing Act 1996.

## Who to Contact

**Youth Homelessness & Housing Officers for Cumberland:**

**Allerdale & Copeland Localities:**

Helen Walker

Contact number: 07825 340628

Email: [helen.walker@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:helen.walker@cumberland.gov.uk)

**Carlisle Locality:**

Lisa Williams

Contact number: 07825 097991

Email: [lisa.williams@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.williams@cumberland.gov.uk)

**Safeguarding Hub**

*(for emergencies and out of hours contacts e.g. weekends and evening)*

0333 240 1727

**National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)**

Tel: 0808 808 1001

[www.nyas.net/](http://www.nyas.net/)

# Cumberland Young People's Positive Housing Pathway

## Housing support for 16 and 17 year olds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

## Do you have nowhere to stay?

If you are 16 or 17 years of age, with nowhere to stay and in need of some help to look at your options. The agency you ask for advice will complete a First Contact Script with you and discuss your options as part of this. There is also a Youth Homeless and Housing Officer who can offer further advice and support:

### Allerdale & Copeland Localities:

Helen Walker

Contact number: 07825 340628

Email: [helen.walker@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:helen.walker@cumberland.gov.uk)

### Carlisle Locality:

Lisa Williams

Contact number: 07825 097991

Email: [lisa.williams@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.williams@cumberland.gov.uk)

There are certain processes we need to follow to make sure you are getting the right support; this could include talking to your family and friends before making any big decisions about where you are going to live.

We are interested in hearing about your story and understanding whether you need additional support outside of your family and friends. In order to do this, we will need to complete some assessments to get to know you better.

One of these assessments may be completed by a social worker, throughout this process you can be supported by a Youth Homeless and Housing Officer.

## Your options

One of the first things you will be asked is whether you have anywhere to stay tonight, if you don't we are responsible by law to ensure you have a safe place to sleep. If you do have somewhere to stay tonight but you are worried about where you are living or that it might not be for the long-term, we can still offer you support and this will be when a social worker will do an assessment to help make sure you have a safe place to live.

You will be given the option to come into local authority care. Your social worker will explain more about this to you when they meet with you and they will answer any of your questions.

If you don't wish to come into local authority care, we will still make sure you have somewhere to stay. This might mean you stay in supported accommodation and this would mean living in one of the schemes run by Riverside. We will work with you to ensure that you have somewhere to live in the longer term and help you develop the skills you need to succeed at living independently.

## You need to know that...

At all times, your social worker or Youth Homeless & Housing Officer 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.

Your family will be included in your assessments and plan, if it is safe to do so.

Some accommodation is not free and you will be supported to understand about benefits and develop your budgeting skills. If you need support to apply for any benefits, this will be provided.

## What does "being in care" mean?

"Being in care" (sometimes called "looked after") means that Children's Social Care are responsible for making sure that you have somewhere safe to live.

Every young person who is in care will have their own social worker; they will get to know you and listen to your wishes and feelings.

You will be invited to regular meetings with professionals to discuss your care and future plans.

## What happens next...

Once the First Contact Script has been completed with you to apply for supported accommodation, the accommodation provider will get in touch with you to arrange a "Getting to Know You" meeting. This will be arranged as a telephone or face-to-face appointment. This meeting is a chance for the accommodation provider (Riverside) to get to know you and for you to get to know them and tell them what you are good at. There will be a series of questions, these are to help them find out what you might need support with so they know how best to work with you. The Getting To Know You can be done over a number of appointments but this will be agreed between you and the accommodation provider. This will also be a chance for you to ask any questions.