

Priority 3

Enabling Independent Living

3.4 Children and Young People

Access to quality housing and effective housing interventions make an important contribution to Leeds being a 'child friendly' city where children are safe from harm and live in safe and supportive families. A number of housing commitments are set out in the C&YP Housing Plan. For example, a cross Council commitment to fully fund adaptation schemes so that disabled children can thrive with their families rather than families struggling to cope or a child going into care. There is much to do, with a top priority being to consider how child related priorities are responded to in all housing decisions.

The housing needs of young people who are homeless or vulnerably housed is a top priority. There is a commitment to help YP to return home so that they can move onto independence in a sustainable way. If this is not possible then a commitment is made that placements in B&B and 'adult' hostels are not made. All YP are to be offered assistance to help them prepare and sustain independent housing options. A particular focus will be made on YP who secure a council tenancy. The Council has reconfigured its housing support services for YP and care leavers with Flagship (see case study) being the core service.

Targets

- No YP placed in B&B or 'adult' hostel
- 400 YP helped through mediation
- All YP have offer of housing support
- Council to fully fund adaptations for children

Actions

- 1 C&YP Housing Plan updated to cover housing management offer
- 2 All homeless 16/17 year olds have 'child in need' assessment
- 3 Review supported housing services for YP and care leavers
- 4 Roll out youth mediation service to YP in foster care
- 5 Look at adopting 'social contract' council tenancies with YP
- 6 Re-establish peer experience initiative to tell YP about homelessness



Case Study Flagship

Flagship is a consortium comprising three 'local' third sector organisations, GIPSIL, Leeds Housing Concern and Foundation Housing, offering housing support to young people and care leavers. The service is commissioned by Children's Services, Housing Leeds and Public Health. The service offers 'floating support' to up to 225 young people and 150 'trainer flats'. Both the floating support and trainer flats prepare young people for independent living and help the Council to fulfil its legal duties to 'children in need' and homeless young people. Representatives from Flagship meet with Council officers from Children's Services, Housing Leeds and other third sector housing support services to plan and prioritise placements and/or to put in place other housing and support options.