

Leicestershire Care Leavers Protocol

May 2023

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Signatories

- 1) Blaby District Council
- 2) Charnwood Borough Council
- 3) Harborough District Council
- 4) Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
- 5) Melton Borough Council
- 6) North West Leicestershire District Council
- 7) Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
- 8) Leicestershire County Council - Children and Family Services
- 9) Leicestershire County Council - Youth Offending Service
- 10) Job Centre Plus

1. Scope of the Protocol

The journey out of care is a particularly important and challenging transition; the success or failure of which, impacts on outcomes throughout early adulthood and beyond. Securing suitable accommodation for Care Leavers is much more than just finding them somewhere to stay.

Care Leavers need to be made aware of all the possible options available to them from 'Staying Put' arrangements to living independently or returning to live with their family or extended family network. They need to understand the possible advantages and disadvantages of each option in relation to their own wishes, their own level of skills, competencies and aspirations for the future and the levels of support that they may need to make a success of their choice.

The ability to live independently demands resources, support and skills. Many Care Leavers have difficulty acquiring the necessary practical skills and developing and sustaining positive social networks.

The lives of looked after children are often characterised by disruption, whether by changes in care placements or accommodation, so building a support network can be difficult. Indeed, even when good quality accommodation is found for Care Leavers this may be in communities, they are not familiar with, far from family and peers. There is significant research evidence that tenancies for Care Leavers have a relatively high failure rate in the first few months after leaving care and both Leicestershire County Council and the Leicestershire and District and Borough Councils wish to avoid this happening through good planning and preparation with each Care Leaver.

2. Guiding Principles

Local authorities must have regard to the corporate parenting principles identified in section 1 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 when exercising their function in relation to looked after children and care leavers (former and relevant children). The principles apply to the whole range of local authority functions and not just to children's services functions. The Corporate Parenting of Children in our Care and Care Leavers extends to all agencies involved in their support.

The principles state that to thrive, children and young people have certain key needs that good parents generally meet. The corporate parenting principles are as follows:

- to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people
- to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
- to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work, and
- to prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

In 2019 Leicestershire partners came together to make a commitment and promise to looked after children and care leavers. These underpin the behaviours expected from all partners making this commitment, which are -

- We will support you.
- We will respect your identify.
- We will listen to you
- We believe in you
- We will support you to find a place you can call home
- We will inform you
- We will be a lifelong champion

To fulfil this commitment each district has a local offer to any care leaver within their district. The links to the local offer can be found on each district council's website.

3. Purpose of the Protocol

This Protocol sets out a formal agreement between Leicestershire County Council, Children and Family Services, Blaby District Council, Charnwood Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Melton Borough Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, and partner agencies working with Care Leavers.

This joint working approach is a commitment to Corporate Parenting across the range of agencies that support accommodation and contribute to the 'Local Offer'. The protocol will adopt a consistent process and approach across all 7 districts, however there may be some variation with housing allocation polices.

The Protocol establishes the aims, roles and responsibilities of signatory partners towards accommodation pathways for Care Leavers. It outlines the respective statutory responsibilities of Children and Families Services and the Local Housing Authorities (LHAs) in ensuring Care Leavers are supported to move on to suitable accommodation. The main aims of this protocol are:

- To ensure that Care Leavers are advised clearly about all housing options available to them.
- To best ensure that Care Leavers are appropriately accommodated before leaving the 18+ Service.
- To ensure the possibility of them becoming homeless after this time is mitigated so far as reasonably possible.
- To prevent Care Leavers becoming homeless, entering the homelessness system, and to avoid placements in temporary accommodation.
- To support young Care Leavers to become responsible and successful tenants.
- To ensure that the accommodation needs of Care Leavers entering and discharged from custody are adequately planned for.

- To outline roles and responsibilities of each agency towards the young person

Due to the diverse needs of Care Leavers and the way in which these change over time, a range of accommodation options will be required. These may include the following:

- Staying put arrangements for young people being able to remain living with former foster carers through conversion of these placements to Staying Put
- Other supported lodging placements
- Other transitional accommodation with varying degrees of support such as Hostels/Foyers
- Specialist accommodation for young people with support needs
- Self-contained accommodation with housing related support
- Independent tenancies

4. Overview of Legislative Context

This is explained further in Appendix A but relates to The Children's Act 1989

- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- The Homeless Reduction Act 2017
- The Homeless Code of Guidance
- The Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2025 – Ending Rough Sleeping for Good

5. Eligibility

This Protocol specifically applies to all young people aged 16 to 24 who meet the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 criteria including the following:

- Eligible young people aged 16 or 17 who are either subject to a Care Order or who are accommodated by the Local Authority for at least 13 weeks since their 14th birthday and on or after their 16th birthday;
- Relevant young people aged 16 or 17 who are no longer looked after but for whom Children and Families Services are responsible for maintaining in suitable accommodation and providing financial support. These young people cannot, subject to some exceptions due to a disability or being a parent, claim welfare benefits;
- Former relevant young people aged 18 to 24 who have previously been either eligible or relevant. These young people can access benefits but continue to receive leaving care support services.
- Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children who qualify for a leaving care service and have been granted refugee status or those that have an appropriate leave to remain status (NB if a young person has made an in time appeal on their pre 18 leave to remain status then according to Section 3 of the Immigration Act 1971 they are considered by the Home Office to still have their original leave to remain).

Clause 8 of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduces a measure to amend the definition of 'Local Connection' under Part 7 for young people leaving care. Local Connection will be established in the following situations):

- The young person will have a Local Connection under Part 7 to the Local Housing Authority that owes them a duty under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989
- If the relevant Local Authority is not a Local Housing Authority, the young person will have a Local Connection under Part 7 to every Local Housing Authority within the area of the Local Authority who owes them a duty under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989
- The young person will have a Local Connection under Part 7 to the Local Housing Authority for the area in which they have been accommodated, if they have been accommodated under Section 22a of the Children Act 1989 within the area for at least 2 years (including some time before they turned 16).

All the Borough and District Councils in Leicestershire have agreed to replicate these criteria within their Allocation Policies. This means that Care Leavers will have a qualifying local connection to each of the Borough and District Council Housing Registers.

The Protocol does apply to Qualifying young people who may have been briefly accommodated and then acquired special guardianship orders.

6. Housing Allocation Policies

Each local authority has a different set of rules and guidelines for people wanting accommodation in the social rented sector. Each district and borough council have given a high preference to those people leaving care as part of their “corporate parenting” responsibilities. The level of priority for care leavers is noted in each districts allocation policy. This is documented in Appendix 3.

Care Leavers over the age of 16 can join the Local Housing Authority Housing register, but if under 18 they may not be permitted to bid for properties until they are ready for independent living or there is an agreement in place for a responsible adult or agency to hold the tenancy in trust until they turn 18.

Children’s Services can agree to act as guarantor or hold a tenancy in trust for the young person until it can be transferred to the young person on their 18th birthday. This offer is only available to young people leaving care who are approaching their 18th birthday and Children’s Services will not consider acting as a guarantor for any other young person or Care Leaver. This is a discretionary function based on the young person’s independence skills, cooperation with support services and networks and risk.

If a care leaver is housed in supported accommodation, they should retain their banding on the Housing Register to enable them to bid on suitable properties when they are deemed ready for move-on accommodation by the housing provider or local authority housing options team.

7. Equality and Diversity

This Protocol will be subject to the equality and diversity policies adopted by Leicestershire County Council which are reviewed regularly by the LCC Equalities Board.

Housing, Children and Family Services, and relevant partners value diversity and are committed to equality of opportunity and access to suitable accommodation for all young people, regardless of age, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, sexual orientation, race, religious belief or disability.

Housing, Children and Family Services, and relevant partners seek to promote the participation of young people in the decision-making process. This should be evidenced in the individual Pathway Plan.

8. Resolving Practitioner Differences

Practitioners working with children leaving care who require accommodation are likely to encounter practitioner disagreements from time to time, whilst this is acceptable on occasion it is vital that such differences do not affect the outcomes for children and young people.

The process of resolving practitioner disagreements should first involve workers consulting co-workers to clarify their thinking and practice in the first instance. Where differences on procedure cannot be resolved, these will be referred to respective Team Managers for discussion, resolution, and agreement.

Social care and housing authorities are experts within their own fields. Each service area will have a procedure to follow on disagreements of decision. This should be made available to all officers within their respective departments.

9. Preventing Homelessness

Accommodation options will depend on the circumstance of the young person. To determine appropriate accommodation an assessment will need to take place with the young person, their Personal Advisor and housing authority. A homeless approach to a housing authority will need to be made with the consent of the young person if they are unable to do this themselves. It is vital, this is undertaken as soon as possible to avoid any risk of homelessness. Should this not be possible, both parties will endeavour to work within the principles outlined below.

A care leaver under the care of Leicestershire social care can approach any district within the county for assistance with homelessness. A care leaver also has a local connection to a local authority area in which they were normally resident for a continuous period of two years, at least some of which fell before their 16th birthday, because of being looked after by a local authority. This connection lasts until their 21st birthday.

Approaches to a housing authority should be concerned with planning appropriate housing pathways.

Planned housing pathways

This is a planned approach between the young person, personal advisor and housing authority into appropriate accommodation avoiding the homelessness route. This will discuss types of accommodation, support needs, waiting times and locations of properties. This is to present realistic expectations of what is available. For young people approaching their 18th birthday, this is explained in the 16/17-year-old protocol., The housing authority

should be involved in the pathway plan meetings with the young person and their personal advisor.

If a planned housing approach is not possible then approaches will need to be centred around preventing and relieving homelessness:

- Prevention of homelessness

Section 195 of The Housing act 1996 the 'prevention duty' – places a duty on housing authorities to work with people who are threatened with homelessness within 56 days to help prevent them from becoming homeless.

This relates where a young person is homeless or threatened with homelessness in 56 days. This will include self-presentations, referrals from public bodies under Duty to Refer and presentations via the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland prison leaver protocol. The local authority will provide a personal housing plan in agreement with the young person and personal advisor to provide early intervention and prevent homelessness. The housing authority will work with the Leaving care homeless prevention officer and personal advisor to monitor the personal housing plan and follow the correct statutory duties owed under a homeless prevention duty.

To prevent homelessness an approach to a housing authority does not have to be a physical presentation by the young person.

- Relieving homelessness

Section 189(b) of Housing Act 1996) the 'relief duty' – requires housing authorities to help people who are homeless to secure accommodation.

If a young person, who is owed the requisite leaving care duties, approaches a local authority and a relief duty is owed, emergency accommodation will need to be provided if they do not have any accommodation they can utilise. Whilst this should be an exception, there will be times when a care leaver needs emergency accommodation. The housing authority and personal advisor will work together to identify immediate needs, identify appropriate accommodation, and discuss the longer-term options. The local authority will provide a personal housing plan in agreement with the young person and personal advisor to reduce the time in non-secure or emergency accommodation. The housing authority will work with the personal advisor to monitor the personal housing plan and follow the correct statutory duties owed under a homeless relief duty. To relieve homelessness an approach to a housing authority does not have to be a physical presentation by the young person.

When determining the suitability of accommodation, whether interim or not, Local Housing Authorities will aim to reduce the instances of Care Leavers being accommodated in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and will seek access to more suitable alternatives where these are available. Any care leaver placed in bed and breakfast accommodation will be monitored daily by their personal advisor and the situation reviewed with the housing authority to explore alternative options. This may include financial payments, other temporary accommodation or supported accommodation.

Long term accommodation may be in the form of private rented sector, housing register, supported lettings. Agreement should be reached between the Leaving Care Team, the relevant Housing Team (and other partners as appropriate) regarding complex cases on the suitability of the allocation, considering the young person's individual circumstances, abilities and the level of support required before any allocation/nomination/acceptance is made.

- Care Leavers in prison

The LLR prison leaver protocol ensures that care leavers are identified within the prison setting on entry. They will be asked if they have a personal advisor or would like one and if the answer is positive the leaving care homeless prevention officer will be contacted. This officer will then contact the relevant local authority.

- Care Leavers living out of Leicestershire

If a care leaver wants to live within Leicestershire, has a local connection as outlined in section 5 but is currently living out of the county, they will not be disadvantaged in any approach to housing because of their current location.

- Care leavers aged 21-24

Care leavers in this age group will be owed a priority need if they are deemed vulnerable after careful assessment. If they are owed a statutory duty, then accommodation will need to be carefully sought due to the vulnerability of the person. Joint working between the personal advisor and the local authority will need to take into account specific vulnerabilities, additional needs, mental wellbeing and ability to understand the impact of their actions.

Decisions of Intentionally Homeless

The Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities considers that all attempts should be made by housing authorities to avoid the impact of intentionally homeless decisions in relation to care leavers aged 18 – 25.

The local authority will work with leaving care and the young person to avoid making any intentional homeless decisions. The local authority will need to take an approach when assessing needs and mitigating risks to prevent making a negative decision. They will also need to obtain advice and information as to the young person's emotional and mental wellbeing, maturity and general ability to understand the impact of their actions.

The personal advisor will need to refer to the relevant local housing authority in a timely manner for assistance to fix any issue that may affect sustainable housing. Alternative placements may need to be sought to resolve any potential issues of intentional homelessness

This will need to be documented in any intentionally homeless decision letters.

If after extensive investigation, a young person has been found to have committed deliberate acts or omitted actions which has meant accommodation has been lost, a housing authority will not have a formal duty to provide permanent accommodation.

If a young person has been provided with temporary accommodation by a housing authority but has caused themselves to lose their last settled accommodation and the test for intentionality satisfied, the housing authority may make a negative decision of intentionally homeless. This will mean they will not have a statutory duty to provide permanent accommodation. The housing authority, personal adviser and leaving care homeless prevention officer will however be working together to ensure this only happens in exceptional circumstances, where efforts to relieve homelessness have been exhausted

Should homelessness be unable to be prevented and it is likely an intentionally homeless decision will be made the housing authority will ensure this has had oversight from a senior

manager within the housing authority. The authority would inform the young person and personal advisor of its intentions as soon as possible. This is to allow the personal advisor to work with the housing authority to find alternative accommodation. This will allow the young person to seek assistance from an independent party if needed and respond to the proposed decision made against them.

Support

All young people aged 16 to 21 (or 25 if Personal Advisor support is requested) leaving care who are eligible, relevant or former relevant children will have an assessment of need and Pathway Plan by the Leaving Care Team. These are legal documents and the method by which their needs are identified and addressed. The Pathway Plan is reviewed at least every 6 months, and there is an expectation that housing will contribute to this plan when appropriate.

The Pathway Plan will detail accommodation needs and the type of housing related support that the young person may require to successfully maintain a tenancy. All Pathway Plans must include a contingency plan. This will also include any support required from Adult Social Care if there are any presenting needs. Detailed in Appendix A

The Leaving Care Team will broker extra support, in addition to that offered by the Personal Advisor, for Care Leavers aged 18 - 25 if it is deemed necessary to support the young person into independence and successful tenancy sustainment.

The Leaving Care Team will monitor the success of tenancies closely and potential difficulties involving the young person dealt with promptly. If there is evidence that a tenancy is unlikely to be sustained, prompt communication between the housing authority and other agencies is essential and a review of the Pathway Plan will be undertaken identifying current and future need. Additional tenancy review meetings or 'Stability Meetings' should be arranged if required.

The Housing Team of the Local Housing Authority will notify the Leaving Care Homeless Prevention Officer in the event they become aware that a tenancy is failing. This will allow the Personal Advisor to support the young person appropriately and will ensure a focus on early intervention to prevent tenancy breakdowns. The young person's case will be discussed at the Care Leaver's High-Risk Panel, which occurs monthly.

To support young people, housing authorities may offer the following options:

- Mediation with landlord/housing provider
- Payments to clear rent arrears
- Payments for deposits and rent in advance
- Tenancy training courses
- Accommodation via specific accommodation projects for young people

Each housing authority will be different, but a range of options can be found on each authority's website.

Young people leaving care will have different levels of support needs. This may range from intensive support from several agencies to minimum advice and guidance from a leaving care support worker, and the support offered by good housing management practice.

Personal Advisors will prepare young people for independent living. This will include but not be limited to:

- Work booklets given to care leavers via their personal advisor. This is to work through with their personal advisor around employment, preparing meals, paying bills etc
- Working with foster carers to encourage the young person to develop more independent skills
- Signposting to independent living courses which will include Preparing meals, paying bills, finding employment.

Housing Authorities will also link young people into available support options such as tenancy training, budgeting, employment courses if they are on offer within their area.

Allocation of accommodation

Both the Housing provider and the Leaving Care Team must ensure that young people understand fully what is required of them as a tenant or occupier, who is to support them, and what they should do in a crisis. A 'sign-up' meeting will always be held with the young person, involving the Housing provider and the Leaving Care Team.

The prompt sharing of information between agencies is essential to support young people and address tenancy issues.

The Data Protection Act (1998) requires that young people should give their written consent before any information about them can be shared. Consent to information sharing is covered in the Pathway Plan.

Consultation should take place between agencies, and attempts made to support the young person to resolve any tenancy issues, prior to any formal action being taken to end a tenancy.

10. Financial Implications

Under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000, the Local Authority Children's Services are responsible for the accommodation costs in full for eligible and relevant young people up until their 18th birthday.

Young people over 18 who are full time students will require the completion of a financial assessment by the leaving care services and financial assistance.

When a young person is sentenced to custody a prompt assessment by the leaving care services and financial assistance should take place of their future housing needs and current housing benefit status.

Young people become responsible for paying their own rent after their 18th birthday. They will need to claim Housing Benefit/Universal Credit or make direct payment (if in employment and/or ineligible for housing benefit/Universal Credit).

Under Housing Benefit Regulations all young people who qualify for leaving care services are exempt from the definition of "young individual" and the attendant "shared room rate" restrictions for the purposes of housing benefit. Care Leavers between the age of 18 and 25 can get the 'one bedroomed flat' rate for housing benefit in the private rented sector. (Post 25 it reverts to the shared room rate up to the age of 35).

Care Leavers can prepare their claim for Universal Credit up to 28 days before and including their 18th birthday and can be supported to do so by their local Leaving Care Team. A pre-claim appointment can be booked to confirm the Care Leavers' identity, bank account details and that they are in fact a Care Leaver (written confirmation required from the Local Authority).

The Initial Evidence Interview and Commitment Interview can be booked at the pre-claim appointment providing that they take place on or as soon as possible after the claimant's 18th birthday.

If a young person leaves care after the age of 18, Job Centre Plus will still offer the advanced claim preparation facility to ensure that support is in place as soon as possible.

Additional support is available to claimants of Universal Credit who are Care Leavers, this support includes:

- advance claim preparation (as detailed above)
- option to apply for alternative payment arrangements and personal budgeting support at any point in their claim
- undertaking full-time non-advanced education, up to the age of 21 or the end of the academic year in which they become 21 years old
- access to recoverable hardship payments
- help with accommodation costs if the claimant is under 22 years old
- advance payments for those in short term financial need
- access to the Work and Health Programme

It is possible for a young person aged 16 or 17 to be entitled to Universal Credit but it is ultimately up to a Decision Maker to determine if the claimant is entitled and if their circumstances deem them a Care Leaver at the age of 16 or 17.

Care Leavers across Leicestershire County are exempt from Council Tax and will not be liable to pay any Council Tax until they turn 25 years old.

11. Escalation

Effective joint working relies on open and honest relationships between agencies, which includes professional challenge, problem solving and seeking resolution; this is an integral part of effective working. Team Managers from social care and the housing authority to discuss any cases where an agreement can not be reached. Consent from the young person would have been given during the assessment process. The Data Protection Act (1998) requires that young people should give their written consent before any information about them can be shared.

Children's social care and the housing authority will review cases and findings will be reported to the Homeless Delivery Group for learnings and actions to be disseminated across the individual organisations. This will involve opportunities for joint work across the housing authorities and social care. It would be the responsibility of the leaving care district representative to ensure any actions are logged and completed. Contact details for key people are available in Appendix C

12. Review and Learning of practice

Cases will be reviewed on an annual basis by appropriate personnel within the different organisations. This is to share positive experiences and to share learnings that have been identified over the course of the year. This will be presented to the Homeless Delivery Group and included in the annual report to the Chief Housing Officers Group (CHOG).

13. Review

The operation of the protocol will be monitored at the housing delivery working group at quarterly intervals. The protocol will be reviewed annually or sooner if the legislation or policies underpinning it change.

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Signatories

Blaby District Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Charnwood Borough Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Harborough District Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

North West Leicestershire District Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Melton Borough Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Oadby and Wigston Borough Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Children and Family Services, Leicestershire County Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Youth Offending Service, Leicestershire County Council

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Job Centre Plus

Name	Signature
Position	Date

Appendix A - Legislation

The Children's Act 1989 requires the responsible authority to continue to provide various forms of advice, assistance and guidance to young people over the age of 18 making the transition from care to more independent living arrangements. These requirements apply if they have previously been eligible or relevant children, who are described as former relevant children (and may apply to qualifying children, depending on the Local Authority's assessment of their needs).

Under previous legislation, Local Authorities were required to only provide Care Leavers with Personal Advisor support until they reached the age of 21, and up to the age of 25 only if they were engaged in education or training. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced a new duty on Local Authorities to provide Personal Advisor support to all Care Leavers towards whom the Local Authority had duties under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989, up to the age of 25, if it is wanted. This includes those Care Leavers who return to the Local Authority requesting Personal Advisor support after the age of 21 and up to the age of 25. This new duty commenced on 1st April 2018.

The Children (Leaving Care) Act (2000) Regulations and Guidance detail how the Local Authority strategy for Care Leavers should where possible consider:

- The diverse accommodation and support needs of Care Leavers
- The capacity to offer young people a degree of choice of accommodation
- Existing and planned provision of safe and affordable accommodation
- Gaps in provision
- Priority setting
- The need for contingency arrangement

The Local Housing Authority must have due regard to Chapter 22: Care Leavers of the Homelessness Code of Guidance, updated to reflect the new measures set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, in reference to the following:

- Corporate parenting principles
- Joint working arrangements
- The prevention and relief of homelessness
- Assessing priority need

Section 179(2) Homeless Reduction Act 2017 states that "housing authorities must design advice and information services to meet the needs of people within their district" and has specific mention to care leavers.

Looked After Children aged 16 and 17 are not in the priority need category for accommodation where there is reason to believe that they may be homeless. The responsibility for accommodating children in this category falls to children services, not the housing authority.

Young people under 21 who were Looked After Children between the ages of 16 and 18, and young people aged 21 or more who are vulnerable because of having been looked after, accommodated, or fostered are in the homeless priority need category only after careful assessment. Both these categories exclude relevant students who are owed accommodation and support duties under the Children (Leaving Care) Act.

The Rough Sleeping Strategy “Ending Rough sleeping for Good” 2022 calls for effective multi agency arrangements for managing complex cases and arrangements in place to support young people leaving care and prevent homelessness. This also asks that young people leaving care should not be faced with homelessness and measures need to be in place to prevent this happening.

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Appendix B
Care Leaver Joint working with Adult social Care

Senior Managers (adults/children's) and or Managers must consult with each other to consider whether any additional resource, provision or joint assessment is required.

Adult social care will conduct assessment of needs to ascertain the level of support required. The assessment will be informed by the District Managers (Adults/children's Managers must consult with each other to whether any additional resource provision or joint assessment is required).

Both adult and Children's services should consider their corporate parenting responsibilities. The social worker, adult social care and PA will contribute to pathway planning for those leaving care and becoming care leavers

For UASC these will also include Specific immigration issues

The Leaving Care Homelessness Prevention officer will Liaise with both services to support. This will ensure the transition pathway into housing is smooth.

Appendix C

Local Housing Authority	Link to Housing allocation policies and banding criteria for care leavers	Local Connection	Housing Advice and Local offers
Blaby DC	<p>Priority banding - Emergency welfare need</p> <p>Care leavers and other vulnerable Homeseekers who will have difficulty securing settled accommodation. The Homeseeker will have been through their housing options with the Council and all other options will have been exhausted</p>		Support
Charnwood BC	<p>Policy</p> <p>Band 2</p> <p>Applicants who are residing in accommodation provided by a Local Authority under Section 20 or Section 22A of the Children Act 1989 and are ready to move to independent accommodation.</p> <p>Applicants who are residing in supported or semi-independent accommodation and are ready to move to independent accommodation (this will only apply where Charnwood Borough Council has a “move-on” agreement in place for the accommodation scheme)</p>	<p>Care Leavers who are owed a duty under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989 by Leicestershire County Council</p> <p>Care Leavers who are owed a duty under Section 23C of the Children Act 1989 by another Local Authority and who were accommodated within Charnwood under Section 22A of the Children Act 1989 for a continuous period of at least 2 years (including some time before they were 16 years of age).</p>	<p>Tenancy Support</p> <p>Housing Advice (general)</p> <p>Housing advice (care leavers)</p>
Harborough DC	<p>Policy</p> <p>Band 1 – emergency welfare need</p> <p>Care leavers and other vulnerable Applicants whose social or economic circumstances are such that they have difficulty in securing settled accommodation. The Applicant will have been through their housing options with Harborough Homes and all other options will have been exhausted.</p>		Advice
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	<p>Policy</p> <p>Priority band</p> <p>Young people leaving care and other vulnerable households whose social or economic circumstances are such that they have difficulty in securing settled accommodation. The home seeker will have been through their housing options with the council and all other options will have been exhausted</p>	<p>Care leavers who are owed a leaving care duty by Leicestershire County Council will be awarded a special connection to the borough if they have been placed in the Borough during their period of care, are placed in education or have an evidenced support need. Usual family connections as stated previously stated will also apply</p>	Support
Melton BC	<p>Band 2- High</p> <p>Accepted applications from care leavers who, if after 8 weeks on band 2 have not secured a property, will have their priority</p>	<p>Have been placed in care as a child outside the area, but wish to return to Melton (and previously lived in Melton)</p>	<p>Options</p> <p>Support</p>

	increased to band 1 and directly matched to properties.	and are still classed as a care leaver Be a former care leaver aged 25 or younger who has been placed in care as a child in the Leicestershire County Council area, and wish to live in Melton	
NWL	Priority - Emergency Welfare Need Young people leaving Care. The home seeker will have been through their housing options with the Council and all other options will have been exhausted.	Care Leavers who were accommodated by Leicestershire County Council where LCC owes them duties as a former relevant child regardless of the locality in which they were placed will be deemed to have a local connection to NWLDC. This local connection category will apply until the care leaver's 21st birthday or they are pursuing a course of education set out in their pathway plan, until that course of education is finished	Advice
Oadby & Wigston	Emergency welfare Care leavers and other vulnerable home seekers whose social or economic circumstances are such that they have difficulty in securing settled accommodation. The home seeker will be through their housing options with the Council and all other options will have been exhausted.		Housing advice and offer page

Contacts

Housing Authority	First point of escalation	Second point of escalation
Blaby DC	Vijay Jethwa Vijay.jethwa@blaby.gov.uk	Ian Jones ian.jones@blaby.gov.uk 0116 272 7516
Charnwood	Mitchell Powell – Housing Needs Manager Mitchell.powell@charnwood.gov.uk 01509 634567	Katie Moore – Head of Strategic Housing Katie.moore@charnwood.gov.uk 01509 634761
Harborough BC	Steve Nash – Housing Services Manager s.nash@harborough.gov.uk 07590 863 757	

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Glossary

Leaving Care homeless prevention officer – Situated in the leaving care team in Leicestershire county council

Housing authority – This includes the district and borough councils within Leicestershire. In this protocol this refers to the specific officers dealing with cases of homelessness and housing register applications.

Personal Advisor – Based in the leaving care team and is the young person's contact, support. The personal advisor will be the main link between the young person and housing authority.

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