## **Lancashire Joint Protocol Flowchart 2017-20 Joint Working Arrangements** Meeting Needs of Homeless 16/17 year olds (31st January 2017 - updated April 2018)

#### **Early Intervention / Prevention Support** Provide mediation / advocacy if required

The CFW offer will be Targeted Youth Support with young people through 1:1 key worker support to address their needs, looking primarily at issues such as family and relationships, personal safety, emotional health and wellbeing, rights and responsibilities and structure. Workers will provide intensive support over a period of time and will be focus on building resilience and self-help strategies.

**Group based** programmes operating from neighbourhood centres.

One to One and group based outreach and detached work on the streets enabling relationships in particular with those young people least likely to be accessing services, having a presence in the community and building knowledge of young people's issues/experiences.

Talk Zone information, advice and guidance service via telephone (0800 51 11 11), web chat or texting (<a href="http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone.aspx">http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone.aspx</a>), available 2pm-10pm 365 days per year. This provides support for young people on any issue including homeless/housing related questions and concerns. Commissioned Services evidence based support and intervention programmes addressing emotional health and wellbeing, domestic abuse and family support. CFW services can offer CAF support to 18/19 year old vulnerable young people.

VCFS offers a range of services, commissioned by District Councils or grant-funded.

#### a) Young Person approaches **District Housing Services**

## b) Young person approaches **Children's Services**

#### a) District Housing services

Will undertake a Housing Homeless Application Interview and make an urgent referral to MASH/EDT. Every young person referred will receive a statutory S17 Assessment. If accommodation is required, temporary accommodation will be arranged by housing services (unless B&B, when Children's Services will take the lead) (S188). If homelessness is prevented, and the young person has additional needs, a CAF is completed and a referral made in to the CFW for appropriate support if this not available from other local agencies.

Checks should be made with regards to possible care leaver status via Leaving Care Team

#### b) Children's Services

CFW/Talkzone

CFW/Talkzone will determine if the young person is in immediate housing need and will make referral for section 17 assessment to MASH if necessary.

If homelessness is prevented, and the young person has additional needs, a RfS may be provided for allocation in to the locality CFW team.

Checks should be made with regards to possible care leaver status via Leaving Care Team

#### c) Children's Services

Childrens services will determine if a young person is in immediate housing need. The young person will not be eligible for housing benefit and should be placed by childrens services under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. If the young person refuses to become looked after they should be supported to access suitable accommodation until the joint assessment has been completed. In either circumstance childrens services will fund the suitable accommodation initially for up to 10 days whilst the Joint Statutory Assessment is taking place. Checks should be made with regards to possible care leaver status via Leaving Care Team

### d) VCFS

Provides local support as required, including mediation/ advocacy. If identify homelessness, make a referral to MASH/EDT.

**Escalation Process** 

Should there be any

disagreement around the care

planning process the district

housing officer / social worker / provider / advocate should escalate via the relevant line management structure.

Heads of service will be made

aware if resolution is not agreea.

The county housing lead will

become involved in

exceptional circumstances.

## Joint S17 Statutory Assessment to be started by Children's Services within 5 working days

Local district arrangements will be developed linked to demand and provision

Joint assessment, with standard agenda, to include the young person, advocate, parents or person with parental responsibility, district housing representative, provider and social worker. Ongoing proactive and preventative work will be undertaken alongside the assessment process. The young person will be assessed and advised of the options available and be able to access independent advocacy where necessary and available. The young person should be made fully aware of the benefits of remaining or becoming looked after under section 20 of the Children Act 1989. Equally they should be made aware of the local authority's commitment to continue to support them until aged 18/19 under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 if they do not wish to be looked after. Checks should be made with regards to possible care leaver status via Leaving Care Team

## Outcome of assessment

All attempts should be made to reunify young people with their parents, carers or family where it is safe to do so.

If it is not safe to do so, by virtue of their age they are deemed vulnerable and only 2 options are available.

Young person Agrees to be looked after by Children's Services.

#### Young person looked after

Adherence to section 20 processes and procedures.

Notify housing that a section 20 duty has arisen. Housing authorities can then make a 'not homeless' decision.

> **Children's Services** meets financial costs.

Young person **Refuses** to be looked after by Children's Services, and is judged to have the capacity/competent to make that decision.

#### Section 17 Child in Need Plan

the housing authority must make decision based on the 5 Homelessness Tests. young person refuses all levels of support a risk management meeting chaired by a childrens services manager should be convened and develop the next steps to support vulnerability issues.

# When a young person refuses to be looked after, a homelessness application is taken and Housing benefit should be claimed for accommodation costs and childrens services should develop a section 17 plan and meet support costs. (Note: in these circumstances childrens services are not placing the young person, they are facilitating suitable accommodation.) If a

Click on this link for further information on the **Continuum of Need and Thresholds Guidance** (hosted by the LSCB).

#### Key to abbreviations

CAF: Common Assessment Framework; MASH: Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub; EDT: Emergency Duty Team;

**CFW:** Children and Family Wellbeing Service; **VCFS:** Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector.

ision, it is the responsibility of Children's Services to arrange suitable accommodation with the support of If there is no provision, it is the responsibility of Children's Services to arrange suitable accommodation witn tne support district housing colleagues. Crisis payments for personal day-to-day living may be required through Children's Services.

To speak to Children's Social Care please call MASH on 0300 123 6720 or EDT on 0300 123 6722.			