

# ➤ 16+ Vulnerable and in Need Young People

## Finances

Your entitlement to finances will depend on your circumstances. If you are being Looked After by the Young People's Service you will receive financial assistance from the service and this will include:

- weekly income maintenance;
- accommodation costs.

If you are not being Looked After by the Local Authority and are not living with a parent or carer then you will be entitled to make a claim for benefits, however your parents may need to be contacted to confirm you are not able to live at home.

You will also be entitled to make a claim to help with your accommodation costs via local housing allowance/housing benefit. However, this may not meet the full amount of your rent charge.

Agencies will support you to make the necessary claim for benefits.

Under the Children Act 1989, the Young People's Service has a duty to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of young people that are identified as being in need.

## What does being "In Need" mean?

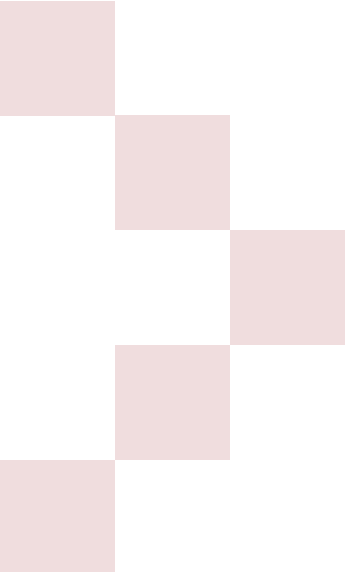
Being "in need" can cover a lot of different situations, however this may include:

- being homeless;
- at risk of harm; or
- experiencing difficult family relationships.

As a young person who is in need, you are entitled to a single assessment that will assess your circumstances and look at how best to meet your needs. This may include talking to:

- you;
- your family;
- other agencies that may be involved with you, for example college.





After the assessment is completed an agreement will be reached with you about the level of support you may need. The assessment may identify that you need:

- no further involvement with services;
- continued support from the Young People's Service or other agencies.

If you become homeless, then you may become Looked After by the Young People's Service. This means that we will provide you with accommodation whilst your needs are being assessed.

When you are accommodated by the Young People's Service, you will become a "looked after" young person, however this does not mean you need to be placed in a children's home or foster care.

You may also be invited to attend a joint protocol meeting to discuss your accommodation and support needs.



## The Joint Protocol Process

A joint protocol meeting involves a number of agencies including Housing Solutions and support services.

The meeting will look at your accommodation and support needs and produce an action plan to address these needs. The meeting may also consider whether there is a need for you to become accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act as a looked after young person.



## Accommodation

We will work with you to identify the most appropriate accommodation options for you. This can include:

- supported accommodation;
- supported lodgings;
- own tenancy with floating support.