

Brighton & Hove

Youth Homelessness Strategy 2007-10

Brighton & Hove Strategy for
Tackling Youth Homelessness



NHS

children and
young people's trust


Brighton & Hove

Contents

Foreword	Page 1
Part 1 – Youth Homelessness in Context	Page 2
Introduction	
What do we know about youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove?	
Developing the strategy	
Findings from the review of youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove	
What young people said	
Our Vision	
Our five core objectives	
Our Priorities	
Part 2 – The Strategy	Page 8
Objective 1. Intervene early to prevent homelessness	
Objective 2. Provide support to vulnerable young people	
Objective 3. Address the underlying causes of youth homelessness	
Objective 4. Prevent a new generation of rough sleepers	
Objective 5. Provide a wider range of housing options for young people	
Part 3 – Delivering the Strategy	
Measuring success – Youth Homeless Working Group	Page 27
Participation and communication with young people	
Appendix	
National policy	Page 29
Local policy and strategic links	

Foreword

This strategy has been developed in recognition of the fact that the housing needs of young people are distinct from those of their elders, and that therefore specific responses are required. Young people are particularly vulnerable to homelessness and its consequences. This strategy forms an integral part of our wider Homelessness Strategy and responds to a key priority of our Children & Young People's Plan. It builds upon our recent achievements in preventing homelessness and proposes to develop Brighton & Hove's strategic role within the region and sub-region.

Early intervention and the prevention of homeless are key components of this strategy. Generally staying at home is the most suitable option for young people under 18, unless it would be unsafe or unsuitable for them to do so because they would be at risk of violence or abuse. When homelessness is unavoidable, offering a young person a roof over their head is just the start. Through our Supporting People programme we are strengthening our partnerships to help young people to find a pathway out of homelessness and achieve independent living. This strategy also extends into areas like helping young people to access primary health care; develop skills; engage in vocational training; and address issues which impact upon their ability to live independently, such as substance misuse or alcohol dependency. Importantly, the strategy recognises that young people respond best to flexible services that are specifically designed for them.

The strategy has three parts. Part 1 places youth homelessness in context and sets out our vision and key objectives for tackling youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove. Part 2 sets out our priorities for the next three years, the

actions we will take to achieve these and success criteria we shall use to judge how well we have achieved them. Part 3 summarises the roles of some of the key partners, sets the entire strategy in the context of other strategic plans for the city and considers how we will measure our progress.

This plan will be used by managers and partner organisations as a reference point for their work. It is a living document and is not intended to sit on a shelf gathering dust. Finally, we would value your feedback on the plan. Please let us know which bits work for you and which bits are unsuccessful, and we shall make sure we respond appropriately to what you say.



Don Turner
Chair,
Housing Committee



Pat Hawkes
Chair,
Children & Young People's Trust Board

Part 1

Youth Homelessness in Context

Introduction

Brighton & Hove City Council's sets out four priorities, one of which is to **ensure that all children and young people have the best possible start in life**. Brighton & Hove Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) sets out how we are seeking to make that vision a reality by creating the **Children and Young People's Trust** (CYPT), focusing on 25 shared priorities and working together as a partnership. Tackling youth homelessness has been identified as a priority in Brighton & Hove's **Children & Young People's Plan 2006-2009** and will form a key focus of the revised **Homeless Strategy**. This document sets out our plans for tackling youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove.

Preventing homelessness among young people is vital for the cross-Government Every Child Matters outcomes:

- Being Healthy
- Staying Safe
- Enjoying and Achieving
- Making a Positive Contribution
- Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Preventing homelessness can have a huge influence on a young person's life chances – good housing and support will mean that they are more likely to enter training, get a job, have a good standard of health, and be able to take advantage of any opportunities they are offered.

This strategy for tackling youth homelessness aims to promote joint working with young people, key partners and agencies, to formulate an integrated and proactive approach to the housing problems of young people aged 13 to 25 in Brighton & Hove.

A strategic approach to the housing of young people is now a government requirement, but this should only be one consideration in the development of a strategy. Consideration has also been given to maximising resources, promoting joint working and ensuring a proactive rather than reactive approach to the housing problems of young people.

The results of the **Housing Needs Survey 2005** show high levels of housing need for young people in Brighton & Hove. The city's buoyant housing market means that many young people from Brighton & Hove are living at home longer, unable to afford market rented accommodation. Families with children are finding it difficult to enter the owner-occupied market, instead preferring to buy outside the city. Some young homeless people face extremely difficult economic and social circumstances, including history of abuse; problems with alcohol and drugs; having a criminal record; health problems; severe poverty and chaotic lifestyles. Young in-migrants are among the most vulnerable populations of the city, often encountering great difficulty in finding housing solutions.

New cases of youth homelessness have fallen by over 12% in Brighton & Hove over the past year as a result of prevention initiatives. However, young people in Brighton & Hove face a disproportionate risk of homelessness compared to their elders and rates of homelessness amongst 16 and 17 year olds during 2005/06 remained at 13%, higher than the national (8%) and regional (11%) average.

In most cases, the family home is the most appropriate living environment for children and young people but eviction from the family home remains the main cause of homelessness in Brighton & Hove. There will always be cases

where the family home is not an appropriate living environment and a young person is forced to leave in an unplanned way. The strategy will aim to ensure that, wherever possible, additional support is available to young people and their families to help reduce pressure on family relationships. Where a young person does have to leave the family home, the strategy will aim to provide the young person with a range of housing options that will enable a planned move with the appropriate level of support.

Identifying young people at risk of homelessness is key to early intervention. Just as the causes of youth homelessness are complex, identifying young people at risk of homelessness is challenging. Recent research by Dr Joan Smith looks at common factors in the life histories of homeless young people to identify key risk factors for becoming homeless.

By comparing two samples of young people it was possible to identify nine independent risk factors.

These were:

- Didn't get on with mother
- Moved house more than twice
- Mother aged 24 years or below at birth of first child
- Living with foster parent or in care, with a step parent or a relative at age 12 years
- Badly off as a child
- Hit frequently in the course of an argument
- Shared a room at 12 years
- Excluded from School
- Young person staying away from home before aged 16

The strategy will also respond to the particular needs and experiences of young minority groups in Brighton & Hove who can be

particularly at risk of becoming homeless, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and young unaccompanied asylum seekers.

The success of the strategy will depend on our partners in the city working together to prevent homelessness, and to meet the needs of young people through the development of integrated services rather than looking at housing need in isolation. Partnership is at the heart of the strategy to tackle youth homelessness – including housing services, the services of the new Children & Young People's Trust, community and voluntary organisations, and, most importantly of all, young people and their families.

What do we know about youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove?

- There are 32,000 young people in Brighton & Hove aged between 16 and 24, representing 12.9% of the population
- 45% of all homeless acceptances in 2005/06 were for aged 16-24. 13% (65) of all homeless acceptances were 16-17 year olds
- Brighton & Hove has a varied portfolio of supported housing for vulnerable young people which provides additional support to maintain their tenancies and progress towards independent living. However some young people are spending periods in unsuitable temporary accommodation while they are waiting to be allocated appropriate supported accommodation
- The Shared Room Rate of Local Housing Allowance (Housing Benefit) of £75 per week does not cover the rent in 37% of claimants who live in shared accommodation.

¹Dr Joan Smith, 'Identifying Young People at Risk of Homelessness, Centre for Housing & Community Research, Staffordshire University

The Housing Needs Survey 2005 found:

- 45% of young people said their accommodation was inadequate, with overcrowding the most common reason for this
- 40% of young people said that they had at one time been homeless
- 75 % of young people indicated an intention to move within the next 3 years
- 66.2% of young people who intended to move hoped to get a flat, with the private rented sector the preferred option
- 92.7% of young people said they were willing to share with friends
- 81.1% of young people had a income of under £10,000 per year

Developing the strategy

The strategy is being developed with the help of young people themselves. A series of stakeholder events and subgroups is developing priority actions around early intervention, accommodation options and care pathways.

Review of Youth Homelessness

Nov 2005 – March 2006

Understanding levels of housing need, causes of homelessness, and current service provision

Engagement & Participation

Mar – Aug 2006

Focus groups with young people; Stakeholder Events; Youth Homelessness Working Group



Strategy for Tackling Youth Homelessness

2007 - 2010

five core objectives
18 priorities and action plan
implementation, monitoring
and evaluation

²Housing Needs Survey 2005, results of dedicated interview work with a small sample of young people from across the City.

Findings from the review of youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove

A strategy group formed of members of the Youth Homeless Working Group undertook a review of youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove. The review considered the current levels and causes of youth homelessness locally. Two stakeholder consultation events focused on early intervention, care pathways, housing options and the needs of vulnerable groups,

- The need for emergency crisis-intervention accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds
- The need to develop a referral pathway linked to the common assessment framework
- The need to for a single point of access for 16 and 17 year olds seeking housing advice
- That young people prefer to seek advice from agencies that specialise in dealing with young people, such as the Hove YMCA Youth advice centre
- The need to develop a specialist housing & support needs assessment for young people
- The importance of visiting the family home as part of a strategy to reduce parental evictions
- The need for advice and information on leaving home for both young people and parents
- That a significant proportion of young homeless people are NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- That LGBT young people are over-represented in the homeless population in Brighton & Hove
- The need for greater involvement of young people in the design and delivery of homeless prevention services

What young people said

Children and young people were consulted on the priorities laid out in the Youth Homeless Strategy. 42% of the responses received from the Youth Homeless Strategy Questionnaire were from young people. Here are some of the things children and young people have told us:

"We need the rules in hostels to be regulated to prevent people being unfairly evicted"

"help and provide more support for those who are leaving supported housing"

"There needs to be more places for young people to live"

"We need specialist LGBT services for young people"

"A lot more help should be provided to young people to help them find somewhere to live and prevent homelessness"

"I believe young people should be given the opportunity and help to be able to afford to live in a warm and trusting environment"

"Opportunities should also be given to young people who work, rather than making it more difficult for them to find somewhere to live because they are on a low income"

Defining the scope of the Youth Homelessness Strategy

Homelessness prevention is defined as activities that enable a young person to remain in their current home, where appropriate, or that provide options to enable a planned and timely move and help sustain independent living. The Youth Homelessness Strategy aims to promote joint working with all key partners and strategies, to formulate an integrated approach towards preventing youth homelessness for young people aged 13 to 25 years resident in Brighton & Hove.

This strategy aims to achieve the following:

- To prevent homelessness wherever possible.
- To ensure sufficient accommodation is available for young people who are, or may become homeless.
- To ensure the provision of appropriate support for homeless and insecurely housed young people

Managing resources

The Housing & City Support directorate and the Children and Young People's Trust operates according to the principles set out in the council's corporate statement on resource management. The financial strategy for the Youth Homeless Strategy is also based upon the following principles:

- Investment decisions are targeted at the extent to which work contributes to the prevention of youth homelessness and better outcomes for young people
- Resource decisions are based on agreed priorities and need, as outlined in the specific commissioning strategies and service reviews
- Reducing budget pressures arising out of high cost services through more effective early intervention and prevention, and by taking a whole systems approach to planning and commissioning and the management of risk.

What do we want to achieve?

Our Vision

To reduce and, if possible, eliminate youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove, by ensuring that all young people have the opportunity for a decent and affordable home as well as a range of support services most appropriate to their needs and circumstances

Our Plan

The strategy aims to ensure that young people and their families have the information, advice and support they need, when they need it. We plan to prevent youth homelessness by identifying the triggers of homelessness at an early stage and providing appropriate support interventions wherever possible. When homelessness, is unavoidable we plan to ensure that the young person is able to access appropriate housing and support, with a clear pathway to independence. To achieve our vision, we have identified five core objectives.

Our five core objectives:

- intervene early to prevent homelessness
- provide support to vulnerable young people
- address the underlying causes of youth homelessness
- prevent a new generation of rough sleepers
- provide a wider range of housing options for young people

Our Priorities

Through a series of stakeholder consultation events, sub-groups and discussions with young people, the Youth Homelessness working group considered the things we do well and the things we want to do better. With our partners we've drawn up a list of 18 priorities that will sit at the heart of our strategy to tackle youth homelessness and ensure we achieve our five core objectives:

Intervene early to prevent homelessness

1. Provide access to timely housing options and advice tailored specifically to young people
2. Develop integrated approaches to prevent family breakdown
3. Reduce the levels of repeat homelessness amongst young people
4. Provide advice and information in schools for young people and parents

Provide support to vulnerable young people

5. Develop new housing and care pathways for vulnerable groups (including teenage parents, young people with learning disabilities, young people with mental health problems, and young substance users)
6. Respond to youth homelessness among minority groups
7. Provide support to help young people move on to their own accommodation and sustain independent living
8. Respond appropriately to LGBT youth homelessness

Address the underlying causes of youth homelessness

9. Improve access to learning, training and employment for young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
10. Promote financial inclusion among young people
11. Develop targeted interventions to prevent youth homelessness due to anti-social behaviour
12. Promote the take up of primary health services among homeless young people

Prevent a new generation of rough sleepers

13. Ensure that, wherever possible, no young person sleeps rough in Brighton & Hove
14. Improve sub-regional housing advice and information to relieve pressure of inward migration
15. Develop cross-authority housing solutions to help young in-migrant reconnect safely with their local area

Provide a wider range of housing options for young people

16. Reduce the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for families and young people
17. Provide greater housing choice by increasing young people's access to decent homes in the private rented sector and social housing
18. Develop appropriate, supportive housing options for young people in crisis



Part 2

The Strategy

OBJECTIVE 1: Early intervention to prevent homelessness

What we know:

- **Early intervention** is crucial to enable to homeless prevention or a planned move into alternative accommodation. **Identifying risk factors** through our assessment processes is key to early intervention. Successful early intervention schemes are multi-disciplinary because homelessness is caused by multiple factors which cannot be addressed by Housing services alone. Joint working and a strategic approach is vital to homelessness prevention in the long term.
- **Eviction from family or friends remains the main cause of homelessness** in Brighton & Hove, accounting for well over a third of all homelessness acceptances. Some young people are forced to leave the family home in an unplanned way.
- Generally, **it is in the best interests of 16 and 17 year olds to live in the family home**, unless it would be unsafe or unsuitable for them to do so because they would be at risk of violence or abuse. Where a young person becomes homeless, possibility of reconciliation with the young person's immediate family is considered, or the possibility of him or her residing with another member of the wider family. In all cases involving a young person who is 16 or 17 years old, a careful assessment of the young person's circumstances and any risk to them of remaining in the home is made as the first response.
- **Providing advice on housing options** is a crucial component of homeless prevention work. This involves young people participating in an initial interview to review their housing circumstances and prospects. Providing a range of housing options enables a planned move into alternative accommodation before actual homelessness occurs.
- Many young people prefer to seek housing advice from **services that specialise in young people**, such as Hove YMCA's Youth Advice Centre (YAC). The YAC's Young People's Housing Advice & Tenancy Support Team, is located in the City Centre offices alongside the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (RUOK?)
- **Home Visits** are particularly appropriate when a young person has been asked to leave by family or friends because of the timely provision of housing advice and the possibility of reconciliation between the young person and the other party. A home visit by a Housing Options Officer provides an opportunity to negotiate with the host household to allow a young person to remain in the property until a planned and sustainable move can be made.
- **Mediation** and **Parenting Support** should be routinely used in an attempt to reconcile the parties in 'parental exclusion' cases (other than where there is a judged risk of abuse or violence). Mediation can also help potentially homeless young people by creating a period of respite during which a planned move can be made. There is a need to link the Youth Homeless Strategy with the **Parenting Strategy**, to ensure that Professional working in the Children & Young People's Trust should identify families where there is a risk of

parental eviction and prioritise these families for parenting support programmes funding that is coming into the city.

- **Children's Centres** locally, with their multi-agency approach, provide an ideal setting for early intervention work with children and young people and their families, with tailor made provision to meet the individual needs of local areas and the young people and families who live within those areas.
- The **Common Assessment Framework** has been developed for professionals in all agencies to communicate and work more effectively together, standardising the approach to the assessment of the needs of children and young people. As part of a wider programme to deliver more integrated services the Common Assessment Framework aims to Support earlier intervention, Improve

multi-agency working and Reduce bureaucracy for families

- There is a need for homeless prevention programmes through **information and advice in schools** to both parents and young people. Young people have identified that they would benefit from advice about avoiding homelessness whilst they are still in School, to manage their expectations and give realistic options. Teachers are often the first to know when a young person is at risk of homelessness but are not aware of where to seek advice and support
- The **Housing Benefit Homeless Prevention Team** has been innovative in developing measures to prevent homelessness for young people under the age of 25, with an emphasis on early intervention to sustain accommodation.

What we are going to do:

Priority 1

Prevent homelessness through the provision of timely housing options and advice

strategic actions

- Develop single point of access to deliver housing advice and homelessness service to young people
- Ensure inclusion of the Housing Options Service in the on-line directory of the Children's Information Service
- Develop young person specialists with Housing Options Team
- Develop specialist Housing and Support Needs Assessment for 16 / 17 year olds
- Train specialist Housing Options Officers in working with vulnerable young people (Brighton University Course)
- Improve information on preventing youth homelessness available on Brighton & Hove Council & Sussex Connexions websites
- Provide access to homeless prevention and advice at appropriate young people's advice centres across the City (e.g. YAC, Safe & Sorted, YPC)

success criteria

- Reduce levels of homelessness amongst 16 & 17 year olds to below national level (< than 8 % of total homeless acceptances)
- Prevent homelessness in 50% of cases where 16 and 17 year olds seek advice through Youth Advice Centre
- Ensure home visits take place within 5 days for all young people, and 48 hours for 16 & 17 year olds, who are threatened with eviction from the family home
- Increase in the number of hits to the Housing Options areas of the Brighton & Hove Council and Connexions website

Priority 2

Develop integrated approaches to prevent family breakdown

strategic actions

- Develop referral protocol within Common Assessment Framework for young people and families who require housing advice
- Identify families where there is a risk of family breakdown (through Common Assessment Framework)
- Provide a programme of support, information and advice to parents
- Deliver joint training programmes for professionals between Housing Options Teams and area teams of the Children & young People's Trust
- Provide tailor made interventions for young people and their families through involvement with extended school Cluster Schemes and family support programmes

success criteria

- Ensure protocols are in place for partnership working between Housing Options Teams and area Teams of CYPT
- Ensure that all young people and families who require housing advice are referred to housing options for a specialist housing and support needs assessment with 10 working days of Common Assessment
- Provide housing solutions / interventions to five families per cluster scheme per annum
- Ensure that that the CYPT Parent Strategy and Positive Parenting Programme considers the prevention of youth homelessness

Priority 3

Reduce levels of repeat homelessness amongst young people

strategic actions

- Monitor and report on the levels and causes of repeat homelessness amongst 16 and 17 year olds
- Develop a co-ordinated response to eviction rules re: drug use and anti-social behaviour for supported housing providers (reviewed against the drugscope guidance document)
- Undertake feasibility study and seek funding to establish a Peer Mentoring Scheme delivered through Supported Housing Projects

success criteria

- Reduce repeat homelessness amongst 16 and 17 year olds to below 4%
- Ensure reducing eviction protocols are in place for all young persons supported housing providers
- Study presented by Youth Homeless Working Group to Homeless Steering Group by end March 2007

Priority 4

Provide advice and information in schools for you people and parents

strategic actions

- Intensive Connexions PA's to pilot module of housing need in 6th Form colleges
- Include information on leaving home as part of financial and student support package delivered to year 10 & 11
- Deliver training on preventing youth homelessness to Educational Welfare Officers and Teachers
- Improve awareness of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools and develop guidance for schools
- Link Housing Options Service with anti-bullying programmes in schools
- Expand and develop information and advice sessions in schools on leaving home

success criteria

- Increase in referrals to housing options from Connexions PA's and Educational Welfare Officers*
- Reduce levels of homelessness amongst 16 & 17 year olds to below national level (< than 8 % of total homeless acceptances)
- Reduce levels of homelessness amongst under 25s to < 45 % of total homeless acceptances
- Reduction in LGBT Youth Homelessness*

Early Intervention to prevent homelessness - supporting strategies and improvement plans

Children & Young People Plan 2006-2009
Housing Strategy 2007-2012 (in development)
Youth Justice Plan 2005-06
Youth and Connexions Service Commissioning Strategy 2006

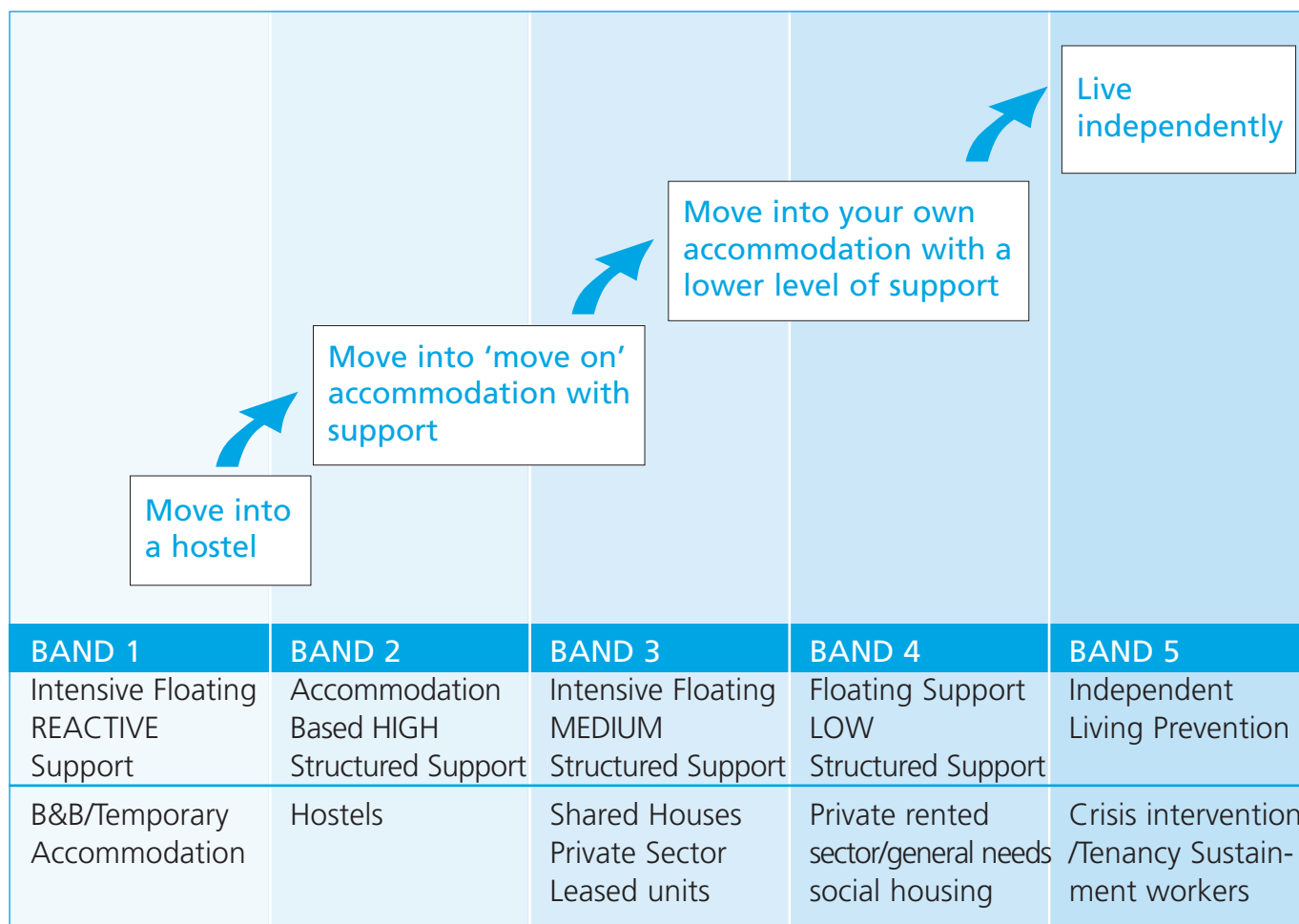
Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008
Supporting People Strategy 2005-10
LAC Bullying Action Plan
Anti-bullying policy

OBJECTIVE 2: Provide support to vulnerable young people

What we know:

- Brighton & Hove City Council has a varied portfolio of **supported housing for young people**. There are at present 113 units of supported accommodation in Brighton & Hove for young people and 79 units of floating support. This includes three high need 24 hour hostels which provide an alternative to temporary accommodation. One of these hostels is specifically for young women. Brighton & Hove also have a range of low level supported housing which provides transitional support for young people moving on from Hostels prior to entering independent housing. The Foyer provides 50 units and a fully integrated education and training support service.

- A key commissioning priority of the Supporting People (SP) 5 year strategy is to establish an **integrated support pathway** for the following client groups:
 - Single homeless people
 - Rough sleepers
 - Young people at risk
 - People at risk of offending
 - Teenage parents and homeless families.
- The aim of the integrated support pathway is to enable people to move through services in a structured way, with move on to the next tier a key part of support planning. Better co-ordination of services will enable service users to move through to different stages of independence. The Pathway also aims to achieve an appropriate **balance between low level preventative floating and high level accommodation based services**



- There is a need to develop best practice around evictions to **prevent unplanned moves from young persons supported housing**. The level of planned moves from young persons supported housing in Brighton & Hove is 54.5%, the regional average is 63% and the national average is 71%.
- Recent local research has found that **lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people** are over-represented in the homeless population. Young LGBT people are particularly at risk of family breakdown. Once LGBT young people had become homeless they reported negative experiences of local authority homeless applications and feeling isolated and unsafe in temporary or supported accommodation. The 'out on my own³' report recommends:
 - earlier preventive work in schools and through mental health services could reduce the incidence of homelessness
 - training and awareness for housing services and providers to understand the needs of LGBT young people and support them more effectively
 - sensitive monitoring of sexual and gender identity
 - specialist support for LGBT young people in housing projects
 - Anti-bullying programmes to address homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools
- There is a strong link between **youth offending and homelessness**. Many studies show that an involvement with the criminal justice system can lead to housing problems for young people, and it is increasingly being recognised as a serious issue for juvenile prisoners leaving custody. Research suggests that secure accommodation on release can reduce re-offending by over 20 per cent.
- Performance Measure 12 of the Youth Justice Plan states that all young offenders must have a named **Youth Offending Team (YOT) Housing Worker** and that all young people subject to YOT intervention should have suitable accommodation. The YOT housing worker supported 95 % of young offenders to secure and maintain satisfactory housing in 2005/06.
- The **Youth Inclusion Project** in Brighton & Hove works with 50 young people thought to be the most at risk of re-offending aged between 13 and 16 years old, and **Youth Inclusion Project +** works with young people aged between 8 to 18 years of age. This project is aiming to concentrate preventative work with 8 to 12 years in the coming year
- The needs and service gap analysis: "responding to the needs of **under19s substance users and misusers**" by the Brighton & Hove DAAT (February 2006), concluded that "Of all the specific groups of young people examined in this Report, it is the homeless where action should be prioritised. Analysis of this data identified a need for a **care pathway for substance misusers** who are homeless was identified by the analysis.
- Home Office⁴ research suggests that **95% of young homeless people have taken drugs** (compared with 51% of young people generally), 95% of young homeless people had committed an offence at some point in their lives, and - a quarter of young people linked these offences with alcohol abuse and half with drug use
- The 15 recommendations of the needs and service gap analysis: "responding to the under19s substance users and misusers" by

³ Out On My Own: Understanding the Experiences and Needs of Homeless Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, Mark Cull, Hazel Paltzer and Sue Balloch, 2006

⁴ Home Office Research Study 258 - 'Youth homelessness and substance use: report to the drugs and alcohol research unit' - February 2003

the Brighton & Hove DAAT (February 2006) which relate to youth homelessness and drug use include:

- DAAT Aim 1 sub group should support the development of an integrated care pathway for young substance misusers who may become or are homeless
- BHCC Housing Department and YAC should utilise the expertise of ru-ok?, the city's youth substance misuse service, to develop an under 19 drug evaluation tool to use in their assessments
- Ru-ok? and hostels should continue to develop joint working protocols, including making level 1 & 2 training a core skill for hostel staff.
- All hostels accommodating under 19's should develop joint working protocols with ru-ok? regarding care planning for residents with substance misuse problems.
- The DAAT Aim 1 sub-group, to consider implementing a three-step substance misuse intervention model, in local hostels and foyers, in order to reduce residents' substance misuse, and their subsequent unplanned discharge.
- **Black and minority ethnic (BME) households** are more than six times more likely to live in overcrowded conditions than white households. Studies have shown that overcrowding was one of the risk factors that can lead to young people becoming homeless. Young people who have to share a room by the age of 12 are three times more likely to become homeless.
- Brighton & Hove has 16 units of accommodation based support and 16 units of floating support for teenage parents. In 2005 the Brighton & Hove **Young Parent's Task Group** commissioned a **Teenage Parents and Pregnant Teenager Housing Group** to oversee the development of best practice guidance and implementation plan drawn from the recommendations of the Leicester Report.
- **Care leavers** are over-represented in some of our most vulnerable groups of adults including young parents, prisoners, and the homeless. The Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities, states that housing authorities must recognise that young people leaving care may need support and close liaison from a range of services including children's services. To complement this, the Green Paper '**Child Matters: Transforming the lives of children and Young People in Care**' (DFES 2006) proposes to issue good practice guidance for children's services and housing authorities on co-operation to support young people and families with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness
- Locally **CYPT⁶ & Housing Liaison Group** seeks to find housing interventions which can help to prevent children needing to come into care in the first place, and to resettle them with their families after being in care where that is the best option for the child.
- At present there are 400 children who are looked after children for whom the Council is responsible. This remains a high number relative to many other local authorities. The **Joint protocol for Young People leaving Care** has been developed between the Leaving Care Team and the Housing Options Service to meet the accommodation needs of care leavers. The protocol was highlighted as an example of positive practice during recent Audit Commission Inspection of Supporting People. Under the protocol, a wider range of options are now possible: for example, care leavers can now access supported accommodation anytime between 18 and 21

⁵ Meeting the Housing Related Needs of pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in Brighton & Hove, (DRAFT)

⁶ CYPT – Children's & Young People's Trust

years of age. The aim is to Increase the percentage of care leavers at age 19 living in suitable accommodation to 90% by 2008/9

- The Valuing People programme emphasises the importance of widening the range of housing an support choices that are available to people with learning disabilities. Future accommodation needs of **young people with learning disabilities** are addressed by the transitions team. Transition assessments and advice provided on the options available that would be suitable for a young persons

needs. There is a need to ensure that all housing options are considered when exploring the future housing, care and support needs of young people with learning disabilities and their families

- **Mental health issues for young people**, as with their elders, can be a key trigger for homelessness. Mental Health issues, can be exacerbated by sleeping rough, and without adequate access to health professionals, the young person’s health may quickly deteriorate.

What we are going to do:

Priority 5

Develop housing and care pathways for vulnerable groups

strategic actions

- Establish an integrated housing support pathway for single homeless young people, young offenders and care leavers
- Integrate YOT housing worker within Housing Options Service
- Develop joint assessment between Housing and Social Services (CYPT) of young person’s needs, whether the application is made initially to the housing department of social services department
- Implement and monitor the action plan developed to meet the housing related needs of pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in Brighton & Hove
- Ensure that young people presenting as homeless who have a substance misuse problem are fast tracked for assessment by RUOK
- Improve the response to young homeless substance misusers by responding to 15 cost neutral recommendations⁷ via the Aim [1] Group
- Develop Housing Strategy for People with learning disabilities

success criteria

- Evictions from supported housing <10%. Abandonment’s from supported housing <15% (Integrated pathway Bands 2 & 3)*
- Ensure all young offenders requiring specialist housing and support needs assessment receive one within 5 working days
- Increase the percentage of care leavers at age 19 living in suitable accommodation to 90% by 2008/9
- Reduction in average length of time spent by teenage parents in B&B

⁷ DAAT “Needs Assessment and Gaps Analysis finding that “of all the specific groups of young people examined, it is the homeless where action should be prioritised” [p7]

Priority 6

Respond to youth homelessness among minority groups

strategic actions

- Develop private rented sector housing solutions for young asylum seekers in temporary accommodation
- Ensure that young homeless people have fair access to housing and support services through providing information and interpretation in community languages
- Ensure that young BME homeless people are considered in the development of the BME Housing Strategy
- Improve monitoring of ethnicity and nationality of young homeless and young rough sleepers

success criteria

- reduction in the number of young asylum seekers in Bed & Breakfast accommodation
- Ethnicity reported in 98% of homeless applications

Priority 7

Provide support to help young people move on to their own accommodation and sustain independent living

strategic actions

- Establish buddy scheme for young people to meet and be supported to move-on into shared accommodation in the private rented sector
- Develop a move-on toolkit for supported housing providers
- Work with the Credit Union to develop 'year-bond' deposit scheme to assist young people to move from supported housing into the private rented sector
- Ensure that all young people who move-on into independent housing have a re-engagement plan

success criteria

- 55 % successfully moved on to less supported accommodation (from Band 2). 85% successfully moved-on to less supported accommodation (from Band 3)
- All young people have move-on plan with 3 weeks of entering supported housing
- Launch 'year bond' scheme in 2006/07, targets to be set in 2007/08
- 100 % exit interviews including re-engagement plan for all young people leaving supported housing (planned moves)

Priority 8

Respond appropriately to LGBT youth homelessness

strategic actions

- Establish specialist LGBT Housing Options Officer
- Introduce sensitive monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity
- Review housing and support needs assessment forms to ensure that young LGBT people are appropriately assessed
- Develop an 'LGBT safe space' compact to be used in all young person's housing services
- Deliver LGBT awareness training to all housing options staff and managers
- Ensure support providers tackle racist, homophobic, trans-phobic harassment
- Deliver LGBT awareness training for Supported housing and temporary accommodation providers

success criteria

* = first reported in 2006/07 targets to be set in April 2007

- Monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identity in 80% of housing options cases in 2007/08; 85% in 2008/09; 90% in 2009/10
- Reduction in LGBT Youth Homelessness*

Provide support to vulnerable people - supporting strategies and improvement plans

Supporting People Strategy 2005-10

Housing Strategy 2007 -2012 (in development)

Youth Justice Plan 2005-06

Anti-bullying Policy

Homelessness Strategy 2003-2008

Young Carers Strategy & Statement of Intent 2005

Commissioning Strategy for children and young people with disabilities, complex health needs and special educational needs 2006-10

Commissioning strategy for the mental health and psychological well-being of children and young people in Brighton & Hove 2006-10

Anti-bullying policy

OBJECTIVE 3: Address the underlying causes of youth homelessness

What we know:

- Young homeless people face great difficulties accessing and completing training courses. For those moving from one temporary home to another, or sleeping rough, it is difficult to maintain training or education programmes because their time is spent finding somewhere to sleep.
- The **Youth Strategy Group** oversees the work of the integrated Connexions and Youth Support Service to ensure young people can access safe and accessible services including multi-functional youth centres, information, advice and guidance; detached outreach work; diversionary activities and preventive work.
- Many homeless young people have their **employment prospects** adversely affected by an extensive history of insecure accommodation. The work and learning service for the Integrated Support Pathway covers three key areas – **Basic Skills, Life Skills and Work Skills**, and aims to assist young people in supported housing to overcome barriers to social inclusion through learning, training, volunteering and work opportunities. The service promotes independence, facilitates routes out of homelessness services and provides ongoing support around employment and mainstream learning.
- For some young people, debt is a considerable individual burden. There is a need to **promote financial inclusion**, such as improving the take-up of **Educational Maintenance Allowance**.
- Programmes to identify **young people at risk of anti-social behaviour** are delivered though the Brighton & Hove Anti-social Behaviour Team and Partnership Community Safety Team; Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) and YIP+ in East Brighton; Youth Inclusion & Support Project (YISP) in Neighbourhood Renewal fund area of Hangleton & Knoll; Hollingdean Youth Programme & Community Safety Project. These target programme reduce the numbers of young people offending or re-offending.
- The **Intensive Family Intervention Project** aims to provide a holistic package of support to achieve three main objectives; reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour, reduce the risk of eviction and reduce the risk to children and young people in the families that are worked with.
- Rates of illegal **drug use amongst young people** in Brighton & Hove are slightly above national average: 35% in comparison to 27% nationally. This may be due to higher levels of reporting in Brighton & Hove than nationally because of the specialist services targeted at this group. The proportion of young people whose parents are problematic with substance misuse is high.
- The local multi-disciplinary substance misuse services is held as a national exemplar of best practice The Ru-ok service is co-located with the Youth Advice Centre so that specialist housing advice and be delivered alongside the substance misuse service.
- Homelessness has a detrimental effect on both **physical and mental health**. Young people can be particularly vulnerable to poor physical and mental health, and risk-taking behaviour such as self-neglect, self-harm, suicide and substance misuse. Young homeless people are more likely to experience a variety of medical problems, such as infectious diseases and nutritional disorders.

What we are going to do:

Priority 9

Improve access to learning, training and employment for young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

strategic actions

- Ensure that all under 19s are referred directly to a Connexions PA if appropriate
- Deliver training to increase the capacity of PA's to give housing advice
- Ensure that all homeless young people have access to accredited life skills training
- Deliver housing information sessions through Connexions network to young people

success criteria

* = first reported in 2006/07 targets to be set in April 2007

- Reduction in number of homeless under 19 year olds who are NEET*
- 55% of young people in supported housing complete a work and learning programme (Bands 3 and 4 of the Integrated Pathway)
- 5 sessions per annum delivered through Connexions network

Priority 10

Promote financial inclusion among young people

strategic actions

- Develop financial and student support awareness package to be delivered to years 10 and 11
- Hold information event for frontline practitioners to promote take-up of financial support packages available to young people who continue in education or training
- Provide all housing options officers (under 18 specialists) with information on financial support available for under 18's who continue in education and training

success criteria

- Increase take up of Educational Maintenance Allowance

Priority 11

Develop targeted interventions to prevent youth homelessness due to anti-social behaviour

strategic actions

- Deliver 'Respect' standard across all temporary accommodation
- Deliver 'Respect' standard across Supported Housing providers
- Deliver training for temporary accommodation staff on addressing anti-Social behaviour

success criteria

* = first reported in 2006/07 targets to be set in April 2007

- Reduction in number of evictions from temporary accommodation due to anti-social behaviour*

Priority 12

Promote the take-up of primary health services amongst homeless young people

strategic actions

- Provide sexual health and drugs information for young people in temporary accommodation and review services who provide condoms to ensure that they are working within PCT guidance
- Incorporate sexual health issues into housing support plans with young people and ensure that staff receive appropriate training to achieve this
- Ensure that all young people in temporary accommodation are registered with a GP and access appropriate primary health services

success criteria

- 100 % of 16 and 17 year olds with support plan within 10 days of placement in temporary accommodation Σ
- 100% of support plans to address health needs

Addressing the underlying causes of youth homelessness - supporting strategies and improvement plans

Children & Young People's Plan 2006-2009

Brighton & Hove Joint Strategy for 14-19 Education and Training 2004 – 2007

Youth and Connexions Service Commissioning Strategy 2006

Economic Strategy 2006/7

14-19 Action Plan 2006-09

Life Long Learning Strategy 2006-09

Supporting People Strategy 2005-10

Homelessness Strategy 2003-08

Youth Justice Plan 2005-06

Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2005-08

Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy

Drug & Alcohol Action Team Young People's Plan

Post Inspection Action Plan – Learning Partnership 2004-07

OBJECTIVE 4:

Preventing a new generation of rough sleepers

What we know:

- Young people sleeping rough have similar complex and multiple needs as their older peers. However, as with the other causes of youth homelessness, young people who rough sleep require strategies to prevent and tackle their particular needs at a time appropriate to them.
- In Brighton & Hove there was a total of 509 referrals of rough sleepers to the **Rough Sleepers and Street Services Team (RSSST)** in 2005/06. Of these referrals 75 were under 25, with two being under 18, making young people 15% of the rough sleepers referred.
- The main causes cited for young people rough sleeping was as follows:
 - Parental eviction
 - Eviction from supported housing
 - Offending
 - New relationship/Relationship breakdown
 - Substance misuse
- It has been identified that young rough sleepers primarily come from Brighton & Hove, London, and the wider South-East sub-region.
- The **Psychology service** is working with former rough sleepers, substance misusers and supported housing service managers to design learning programmes that will achieve the goals of changing thinking and behaviour to address cyclical homelessness and move away from street culture. The Service will develop and promote a new support model of working with young rough sleepers that is based on proven clinical interventions such as Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Solution Focused Brief Therapy and Motivational Interviewing.
- The **Y-Contact** service works to secure accommodation outside of Brighton and Hove by relocation or reconnection for young people aged 16-25 who don't have a local connection. Working within Brighton & Hove Single Homeless Strategy, the young people are mainly rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping and have a range of support needs
- At present there is no specialist accommodation available in Brighton & Hove for young rough sleepers with ongoing substance misuse issues, and no residential treatment services available for young substance misusers under the age of 18.

What we are going to do:

Priority 13

Ensure that, wherever possible, no young person sleeps rough in Brighton & Hove

strategic actions

- Ensure that any young person who is sleeping in rough in Brighton & Hove receives support from a specialist young people's worker
- Ensure that every young rough sleeper under 25 has a named YAC adviser and named RSSST
- Every child at risk of rough sleeping to be given a named care co-ordinator
- Care co-ordinator to arrange a multi-agency if child at risk of rough sleeping
- Ensure that a multi-agency professional conference takes place before a supported housing provider commences possession action to evict a young person
- Commission a snap shot housing needs survey of young rough sleepers

success criteria

- To reduce young people sleeping rough to as near zero as possible but at least below 3
- Reduction in % of referrals to RSSST who are young people under 25 (baseline: 15% of referrals)
- Evictions from supported housing <10%. Abandonment's from supported housing <15% (Integrated pathway Bands 2 & 3)*

Priority 14

Improve sub-regional housing advice and information to relieve the pressure of inward migration

strategic actions

- Provide comprehensive information to other Local authorities and advice agencies in respect of housing options for young people in Brighton & Hove
- Ensure that Brighton & Hove are represented on the Youth Homeless sub-group of the South East Regional Homeless Forum
- Seek appropriate out of City solutions to provide housing and support for young people

success criteria

- Schools across the sub-region incorporate Information on the reality of housing options in Brighton & Hove into education programmes on leaving home.

Priority 15

Develop cross-authority housing solutions to help young in-migrants re-connect safely with their local area

strategic actions

- Ensure that young people without a local connection can access support whilst being re-connected with their local area
- Seek to ensure young people's advice needs are considered in the SE Regional Housing Advice Strategy

success criteria

- Support 45 young rough sleepers per annum to re-connect with a settled housing solution and support in their local area

Preventing a new generation of rough sleepers - supporting strategies and improvement plans

Children & Young People's Plan 2006-2009

Supporting People Strategy 2005-10

Strategy for single homelessness 2003-2007

Young Carers Strategy & Statement of Intent 2005

Temporary Accommodation Strategy

Housing Renewal Policy

South East Regional Housing Advice Strategy

Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2005-08

OBJECTIVE 5: Providing a wider range of housing options for young people

What we know:

- The availability of a **range of housing options** suitable to the needs of young people is a vital part of our work to tackle youth homelessness and assist young people to achieve independent living in a settled environment.
- The aim is to **end the use of B&B for young people**. The Temporary Accommodation Strategy sets down aims and objectives to ensure that emergency accommodation will always be available in appropriate numbers and type. There may be occasions when bed & breakfast accommodation has to be used to meet an emergency housing need. In these cases there should be arrangements in place to provide immediate support to the young person, and for the move on to be within a specified time.
- The review of youth homelessness in Brighton & Hove identified the need for a **respite scheme** to provide emergency accommodation for young homeless people aged 16 and 17 years or care leavers aged between 18 and 21 years. The scheme would provide a useful source of emergency accommodation for those young people in need for short periods of initially up to 14 days. The respite scheme would work with the young person to enable them to return to the family home (where appropriate) and for mediation to take place with the family around a planned move, or to look at alternative options where a return to the family home was considered untenable.
- The Housing Needs Survey 2005 found that 66.2% of young people who intended to move hoped to get a flat, with the **private rented sector the preferred option**. 92.7% of young people said they were willing to share with friends
- Brighton & Hove's **Housing Renewal Assistance Policy** addresses key national, regional and local strategic priorities including:
 - Increasing the number of vulnerable households living in decent private sector homes
 - Help provide a healthy home environment
 - Helping adults and children with disabilities (and their families) live in homes that are adapted to meet their needs
 - Help people move out of fuel poverty
 - Help families with 'looked after' children stay in their homes
- There is a need to explore the feasibility of developing a **Support Lodgings Scheme**. Supported lodgings are provided by individuals in the community offering a room in their home with varying degrees of support. This provides a safe supportive environment for young people and the opportunity for them to develop independent living skills.

What we are going to do:

Priority 16

Reduce the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for families and young people

strategic actions

- Explore the use of Dispersed Tenancies for Care Leavers
- Only use bed & breakfast accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds as a last resort and for the shortest time possible (maximum 6 weeks)
- Ensure that 16 and 17 year olds in temporary accommodation received a fast track referral for floating support

success criteria

- BV203 – 10 % reduction in families in temporary accommodation per annum
- Average length of time of 16 and 17 year olds in B&B (target less than < 2 weeks)
- 100 % of 16 and 17 year olds in temporary accommodation with support plan within 10 days of placement in temporary accommodation

Priority 17

Provide greater housing choice by increasing young people's access to decent homes

strategic actions

- Produce a leaflet on moving on from Supported accommodation tailored for young people
- Establish the year Bond Scheme for use by Young Person's Supported accommodation Providers in partnership with the Credit Union
- Provide evidence to the DWP and DCLG about the impact of the Local Housing Allowance restriction for under 25s upon restricting access to the private rented sector

success criteria

- Launch 'year bond' scheme in 2006/07, targets to be set in 2007/08
- All young people have move-on plan with 3 weeks of entering supported housing

Priority 18

Develop appropriate, supportive housing options for young people in crisis

strategic actions

- Develop a short-term Respite scheme to provide emergency accommodation for young people
- Encourage housing associations to provide shared accommodation for 16 / 17 year olds (Moat Housing Association Model)
- Undertake feasibility study for establishing a Supported Lodgings Scheme

success criteria

- Reduce levels of homelessness amongst 16 & 17 year olds to below national level (< than 8 % of total homeless acceptances)

Providing a wider range of housing options for young people - supporting strategies and improvement plans

- Supporting People Strategy 2005-10
- Housing Strategy
- Temporary Accommodation Strategy
- Housing Renewal Policy
- South East Regional Housing Advice Strategy

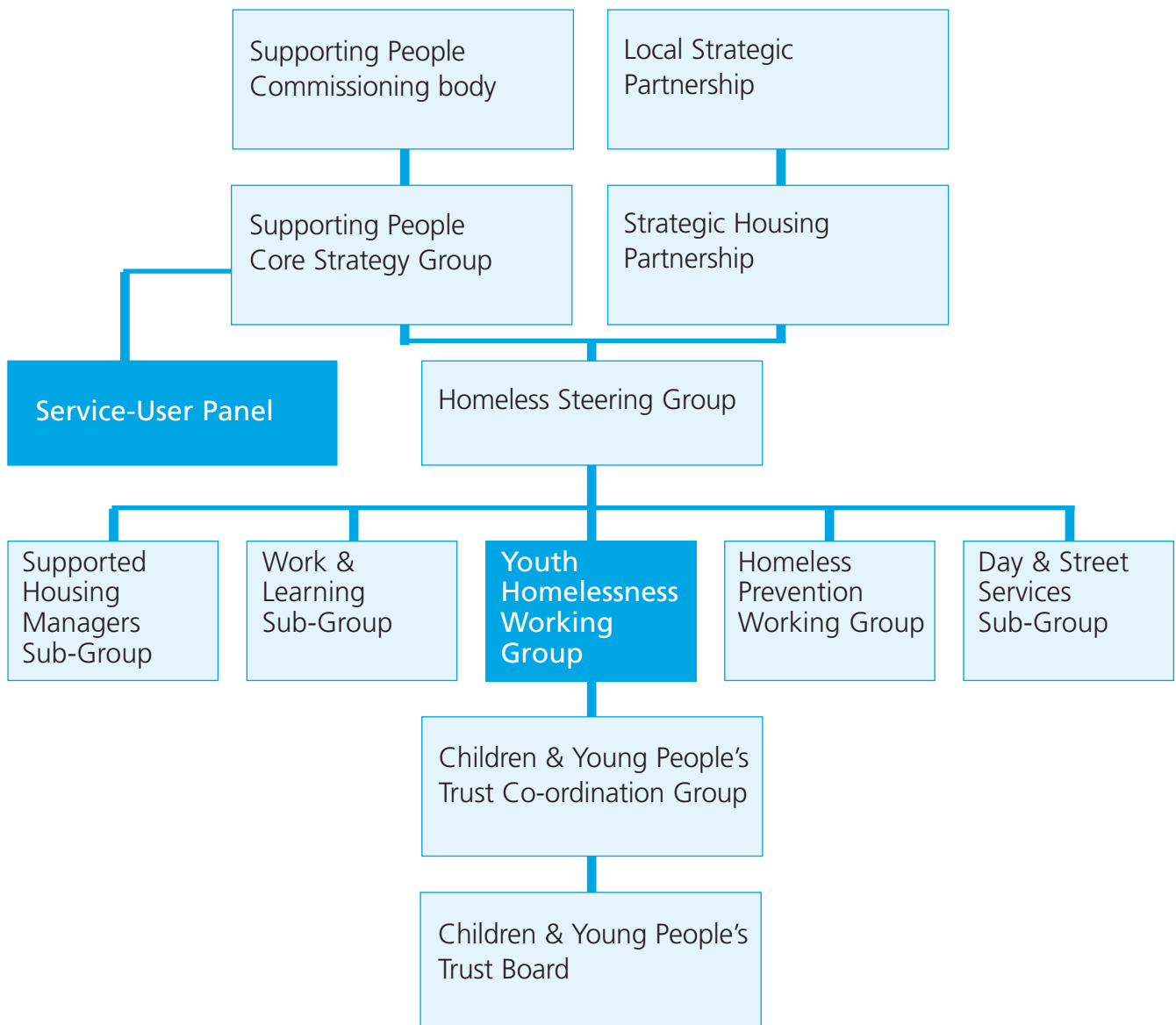
Part 3

Delivering the Strategy

Measuring success – Youth Homeless Working Group

The delivery of the strategy will be monitored by the Youth Homeless Working Group, on behalf of the Brighton & Hove Homeless Steering Group and the Children & Young People's Trust Partnership. The Youth Homeless Working Group is a group of key stakeholders

who are involved in tackling youth homelessness. The Children and Young People's Trust Partnership is a group of organisations throughout the city who are working together to give children aged 0 - 19 yrs and their families the best possible start in life.



Participation and communication with Young People

It has been identified that housing solutions should not be imposed on young people, and that they should be involved in the development of services which suits their needs, to ensure they are appropriate. There is a need for greater involvement of young people both in the design and delivery of homeless prevention services.

The Youth Homeless Working Group believes that it is through the involvement and participation of children, young people and their families that it will create lasting improvements in services. It has built consultation into all stages of planning and developing this strategy, and it will create opportunities for meaningful ongoing participation of children, young people, parents and carers and partner agencies.

Σ The Youth Council draws together young representatives from across the city, and links closely with school councils, youth forums, the UK Youth Parliament and existing young people's groups and clubs.

Σ The city-wide Parents Forum brings together existing parent representative groups, and provides a mechanism whereby parents and carers can have both a stronger voice and a scrutiny role in the development of our services.

Service-user Panel

It is important that young people who have actually experienced homelessness are involved in reviewing the youth homeless strategy. A series of planned service user panels, facilitated independently through the expertise of Consult Carr-Gomm, ensure users of support services provided by Brighton and Hove, are consulted and involved in key issues. These include youth homelessness, temporary accommodation and Supporting People. A feedback loop to relevant decision making and commissioning groups ensure this consultation feeds into such governance arrangements, for example the Core Strategy Group for Supporting People.

Appendix

The Policy Content

National Policy

DfES: Every Child Matters

This paper was published in December 2004, with five key outcomes in the Every Child Matters framework.

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

One of the aims of the Be healthy outcome is for children and young people to be emotionally and mentally healthy. Two of the outcomes under the Stay safe outcome are to keep children and young people safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation; and to ensure they have security, stability and are cared for.

Under the Achieve well being outcome sits the aim that children and young people live in decent homes and sustainable communities. Inspection criteria for this outcome include that steps are taken to give families and young people decent homes; steps are taken to ensure young people are financially literate; and initiatives are targeted at the most needy and address the broad range of issues in an integrated way.

ODPM: Sustainable Communities: settled homes; changing lives

This strategy was published in March, 2005, and aimed to halve the number of households living in insecure temporary accommodation by 2010.

The strategy recognises that young people can become homeless for a wide range of often complex reasons. Since 2002 all 16 and 17 year olds and care leavers between 18 and 20 have a priority need for accommodation if

they become homeless through no fault of their own. However it is important for agencies working with young people to deliver effective interventions to prevent homelessness occurring in the first place.

Every Child Matters recognised that tackling and preventing homelessness amongst young people and their families is critical to ensuring young people are able to realise their potential.

DfES: Youth Matters.

This paper was published in July, 2005. 'Youth Matters' summarises that in today's system services do not always meet the needs of young people; the various organisations providing services do not always work together as effectively as they should, resulting in wasting money and effort; and that young people do not have enough say in what is provided.

The aims of the reform are to make services for young people more integrated, efficient and effective; and involving a wide range of organisations from the voluntary, community and private sectors, to increase choice and secure best outcomes; flexible uses of funding and cuts in duplication.

This paper sees the Local Authority in playing a key role, in part via the Children's Trust which, when planning and commissioning services should ensure people including the homeless are taken into account. All young people should have access to good quality information, advice and guidance – this will mean that sign posting to services needs to be clear and accessible to young people and not just via schools and Connexions services. The use of ICT for these purposes should be considered.

The importance of early intervention is highlighted in this paper, thus there is a need for professionals in contact with young people and their families to know which services can offer the best support and guidance for young

people at risk of becoming homeless, and that professionals in contact with children and young people are aware of the early signs that can lead to homelessness.

Local Policy and Strategic Links

We recognise that youth homelessness is not simply a housing issue. Other corporate and multi-agency strategies will help to achieve our strategy objectives and vice-versa.

In 2002 Brighton & Hove City Council combined its children's social care and education departments into one Children, Families and Schools Directorate, and in 2004 a Children's Trust Board was established to lead a new partnership of all organisations working with children and young people and their families. In 2006 this Directorate was brought together with the equivalent children's community healthcare service to form a single organisation. This new organisation is called the 'Children and Young Peoples Trust'. The staff of the Trust will provide education, health and social care for all the 52,000 of Brighton & Hove City's children, young people and their families. It will also co-ordinate how services are commissioned from the voluntary, community and independent sectors.

2020 Community Strategy

At a local level the Brighton and Hove Community Strategy outlines the following priorities:

- Clear leadership to the city
- A council that is fit for purpose
- An Enterprising City
- A Safer City
- A Healthy City
- An Inclusive City
- An Affordable City
- An Attractive City
- A Mobile City
- A Customer focused City

Brighton & Hove City Council Delivery Plan 2004-2007

The Delivery plan is split into three parts:

- The Corporate Plan 2004-2007
- The medium term financial strategy 2004-2007
- The Performance Plan 2005-2006

The corporate plan 2004-2007 outlines the Council's values that underpin and drive its activities:

- Delivering cost effective services
- Civic pride and local democracy
- Sustainability
- Inclusivity
- Working in partnership

The corporate plan 2004-2007 also identifies the following four priorities:

- Developing a prosperous and sustainable economy
- Liveability (improving quality of life in the city)
- Social well-being and caring for vulnerable people
- Thriving 14 year olds able to participate in the life of the city
- Increasing the availability of affordable housing and working towards a decent home for all is one of the 'key deliverables' of the Social well-being and caring for vulnerable people priority in the corporate plan.

The Children & Young People's Trust

In response to the Every Child Matters national agenda the new Children & Young People's Trust Partnership is developing a city-wide strategy for children's services bringing together health, social care, and education services to secure better outcomes for children and young people in Brighton & Hove. By 2009 the Children's Trust Partnership aims to improve the life chances of all children and young people in the City so that everyone has the opportunity to maximise their individual potential.

It is crucial that the emerging integrated Children's Trust services incorporate ways of preventing homelessness and addressing the housing need of young people.

The Children & Young People's Plan

A new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) will also be published in April, 06. This is the first of a new generation of single plans required under the 2004 Children's Act. Its purpose is to secure positive outcomes for all children and young people by supporting more integrated and effective services working in partnership. The CYPP will be the core strategic and operational plan for the Children's Trust setting out our key priorities for the next three years. It makes a bridge between the business and team plans for services provided by the Children's Trust and the strategic planning and delivery of public services across the City.

From April 2006 the Children and Young People's Plan sets out how we are going to improve outcomes within these new arrangements for all children and young people in the City. There are 25 priorities which sit at the heart of the Children & Young Peoples Plan (CYPP). These are priorities which have been agreed in consultation with our wider partners for improving services and outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The Children's & Young Peoples plan will contribute to tackling homelessness through a number of initiatives including promoting effective care leaving strategies and developing this strategy to address youth homelessness. Professionals will be brought together to work in multidisciplinary teams to improve services and to ensure that these services are better focused on the needs of young people and their families.

Services where possible will be delivered locally so that provision can be tailored to meet the needs of local areas. Children's Centres will be set up, building local school partnerships and area based youth work to provide better and more immediate support. It is vital also that consideration is also given to the vertical transition into adulthood, as well as the promotion of joint working between children and young peoples services on a horizontal level.

Brighton & Hove Housing Strategy

Our housing vision is:

"To do all within our power to ensure all the people of Brighton & Hove have access to decent affordable housing that enables a good quality of life."

Brighton & Hove's Housing Strategy aims are to:

- Ensure that local people have somewhere to live
- Raise housing quality toward a decent home for all
- Improve housing care and support
- Make homes warm, energy efficient and more affordable
- Strive for equal access to housing and services
- Make neighbourhoods safe, attractive and sustainable
- Widen housing choices for local people
- Ensure good housing contributes to city regeneration and renewal
- Promote health, well-being and learning through appropriate housing solutions

We have grouped our strategy aims and objectives into 5 overarching priorities, reflecting the diversity of our work:

- Affordability
- Decent Homes
- Care & Support
- Equalities
- Neighbourhoods & Communities

The Housing Strategy is will be revised during 2007.

Brighton & Hove Homeless Strategy 2003-2008

This strategy sets out the city council's approach to preventing homelessness and supporting homeless households in Brighton & Hove, which includes, identifying the reasons for homelessness in the city, our early intervention and support services to prevent homelessness, and the alternative housing options and resources available to households threatened with homelessness.

This strategy, and its component sub-strategies have been developed for the use by

the council and its partners to help co-ordinate our approaches and services provided to the residents of Brighton & Hove.

The three key homelessness targets for Brighton & Hove are:

- to ensure rough sleeping remains below two-thirds of 1998 levels
- to ensure that homeless families with children are not placed in B&B accommodation unless it is an emergency
- to reduce the levels of homelessness resulting from the main causes of homelessness

The Homeless Strategy will be revised during 2007

Brighton & Hove Strategy for Single Homeless People 2002-2007

Key priorities:

- Working together to help prevent future homelessness
- Targeting resources towards those with a local connection
- Responding locally to rough sleeping and single homelessness
- Seeking to address housing support and health needs of homeless individuals
- Development of common and agreed standards of service
- Improving access to services for some of the most socially excluded
- Promoting access to training and employment for former rough sleepers
- Working in partnership to deliver the strategy
- Seeking better support for vulnerable people

Brighton & Hove Supporting People 5 year Strategy

The aims of Supporting People are to provide housing-related support to enable people to move to more independent housing or to sustain independent living. The Supporting People programme is now in its second year and this 5 year strategy sets out how we will commission and plan services in accordance with strategic priorities over the next 5 years. It provides a framework for how we will meet the

identified needs and priorities and how the gaps in service provision, knowledge and understanding of needs will be filled.

The Supporting People vision is:

To enable local people who need support to improve the quality of their life by promoting independence and individual well being through the provision of well planned, high quality and value for money support services.

We will achieve our local vision through 5 key objectives:

- To plan and commission services that meet local needs and priorities
- To commission services that contribute to local and national priorities and targets
- To ensure services meet the needs of diverse groups.
- To promote integration and partnership working at all levels.
- To monitor and review implementation of Supporting People at a local level

