

Community of Practice

June '21

**Finance to
access
services**

**Listen to
friends who
put ideas that
they won't get
the help
required**

**Barriers to
benefits and
Housing
benefits**



Barriers/ Difficulties

Amount of evidence needed to prove homelessness

Siloed working of Child and Adult services [care leavers]

Degree of evidence requested to prove being a care leaver - lack of knowledge of consequence of this

Lack of Female only shared accommodation

Trauma informed approaches unique to young people

Incentivise female only shared accommodation

Greater flexibility re evidencing homelessness by LA for young people who are kicked out be parent

Services and Ideas

Young Roots

Crisis

New Horizons

AKT

Barriers/ Difficulties

Cultural barriers: eg staff not being able to understand concerns

Lack of resources. - affordable housing for young people, Money.

Staff looking down on young people due to their age - not taking life experience into account

languages barriers

Oversubscribed, reduced non-specialist services which further excludes young people and reduces motivation

Young people placed into Private Rented Sector and discharged from statutory services

Young people being treated as "numbers" rather than individual people

More mental health services for young people. which they can access.

Lack of trust caused by services not following through

Services and Ideas

IPS - individual placement support - employment

Having a seamless transparent system

Multi-agency working as standard - LA, schools/colleges charities, drug and alcohol services, CAMHS, etc

Barriers/ Difficulties

Young people /
Local Authorities -
communication and
reluctance to
engage.

Unhelpful
communication -
reluctance to attach
or explain decisions

Options - can get
caught up in which
options are available
to young people,
even when e.g.
mental health
assessment has
been completed

Answers not
forthcoming
until advocacy
/ legal services
instructed

Having to fund
non-statutory
emergency
accommodation
while negotiating
duties with local
authorities

Feels unhelpful to
have to escalate
issues / become
more adversarial in
order to progress
cases - desire to
work in partnership,
maintain / develop
relationships

Services and Ideas

potential Pre-Action
Protocol project to
'threaten' legal
action prior to
instructing a
solicitor

Better training for
Local Authority
frontline workers on
Public Sector
Equality Duties (inc.
on protected
characteristics,
burden of proof, and
what may be DV)

Agreement re:
communication
between LAs and
charities that
charity can hold LA
to

Barriers/ Difficulties

A lack of awareness about services available

Discriminatory private landlords, avoiding benefit capped young people

Don't understand what services can do or lack of trust in services

Prejudice and attitudes towards young people

Gatekeeping- and how this affects trust

Services and Ideas

New UC legislation increasing exemption for under 35 to access 1 bedroom rates

SAR exemption:
<https://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2021/jun/07/changes-to-shared-accommodation-rate-exemption-to-benefit-under-25s>

Ease of contact with services/housing officers

Multi organisational meetings with services specific for cases involving young people with complex needs