



## **Joint Housing and Social Care Protocol for Care Leavers Making a Planned Move on Reaching 18**

**Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council – Environment,  
Housing and Neighbourhoods Department**

**Blackburn with Darwen Children’s Services – Families, Health  
and Wellbeing Department**

Reviewed November 2016

## **SCOPE OF THE PROTOCOL**

The protocol covers young people leaving care at age 18 or older who are making a planned move to social housing provided by B-with-U's

## **PROCEDURE**

The young person's Personal Adviser will contact Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Housing Needs no less than three months prior to the care leaver reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to arrange an interview

The interview will usually take place in the Housing Needs office at the Town Hall

A copy of the relevant section of the Pathway Plan will be provided to the Young People's Housing Officer prior to the interview taking place. This will detail:

- The support needs required to maintain and sustain accommodation;
- An assessment of the level of the young person's skills for independent living;
- Any risk factors e.g. relating to offending behaviour/mental health problems;
- The name and contact details of the Personal Adviser who will retain responsibility for the young person up to the age of 21

In addition a letter should be sent to Housing Needs confirming the date at which Children's Social Care will cease to be responsible for the young person's rent

The Young People's Housing Officer will identify the housing options most likely to meet the needs of the young person and make recommendations based on the information gained at the interview and the Pathway Plan provided

Referrals to providers of supported accommodation will be made if appropriate

The young person will be registered with the B-with-U's choice-based letting scheme and placed in band 1\*

A letter confirming the banding will be sent by the Young People's Housing Officer to the young person and copied to their Personal Adviser

Personal Advisers will attend the sign up of the tenancy and support the young person to make a successful transition and subsequently to maintain their tenancy

If the young person reaches the age of 18 without a suitable offer of housing being made either an arrangement can be made whereby the young person can remain in their placement for a short period, or they can apply as homeless

\* in circumstances where the young person does not wish to remain in Blackburn with Darwen and they have the support of their leaving care worker in this, they may be placed in band 2 which will enable them to bid for properties in the other east Lancashire boroughs

Reviewed November 2016

### **ACCOMMODATION COSTS**

Children's Social Care, under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 are responsible for the accommodation costs in full of looked after children up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

From their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the individual care leaver is expected to meet their own housing costs whether that is in temporary or permanent accommodation. There may however be exceptions to this, for example in the case of relevant students

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

The key to implementation of this joint protocol is direct communication between frontline workers

If an issue cannot be resolved at this level the matter should be referred for a decision to the Housing Needs Manager and Children's Social Care Leaving Care Team Manager