

Make a Homeless Application

If you don't wish to be a Looked After Child and you cannot return home or to a safe place, then you can make a homeless application to the LHA.

The LHA will offer emergency accommodation whilst they explore if you are homeless through no fault of your own. It is likely that they will look to secure you accommodation in supported housing in the long term as being able to afford a flat as an under 18 is highly unlikely.

Make a Homeless Application

This section is to be completed if you are unable to return home or to a safe place.

If you require impartial support to make a decision please ask one of the professionals to seek an advocate for you. Please tick the box to indicate your choice.

- To be looked after
- To make a homeless application

Name:

Date:

Signature:

Prevention of homelessness for young people

For 16 and 17 years olds



Prevention of homelessness for young people

If you are 16 or 17 years old and need advice and support around housing, the Youth Homeless Prevention Team (YHPT) can help you access the right support and services.

If you are at risk of becoming homeless or are homeless then an assessment of your needs will need to be undertaken by the Local Housing Authority (LHA) and Children Services. If you already have support workers such as a Social worker, please talk to them straight away.

The assessment is called a Joint Housing Assessment, and this will be done alongside Children Services' Child and Family Assessment. The purpose of this assessment will be to look at how we can support you and your family to resolve your current challenges, and to look at solutions to your homelessness. A Housing Advisor from the LHA, a Social worker and a YHPT Caseworker will be in the Joint Housing Assessment with you and your family.

Outcomes from the Joint Assessment

Returning to live with your family

If this happens, you will also be offered either Early Help support from a YHPT Caseworker or become a Child in Need and be supported by a Social Worker.

In both cases you and your family will be supported to build and maintain positive relationships and a plan of support will be put in place. This is likely to involve other services with specialist's skills such as substance misuse workers and careers advisors.

Moving to Supported Accommodation

In the short term you would still be supported by the YHPT Caseworker and Social worker as a Child in Need.

As a Child in Need living in Supported Housing you would need to claim benefits to pay for your rent and living expenses (Universal Credit). Please be aware that your housing benefit will not cover all of your rent and you will more than likely have to top this up from your other benefits.

The supported housing service will require you to engage in either education or employment and the support from their key workers. A joint plan of support would be pulled together with the Social worker, YHPT Caseworker and Keyworker.

Becoming a Looked After Child.

If you are unable to return home or to a safe environment, you can choose to become a Looked After Child. This means West Sussex County Council becomes responsible for looking after and supporting you, with your family (if appropriate).

You will also have a Social Worker who will put a support plan in place with you, alongside other professionals. They will work with you to create a Care Plan, which will include a Placement Plan which will look at the housing options they can offer you. These will include foster care, supported accommodation and supported lodgings. The plan will look at Education, Employment and Training, Independent Living Skills, Health and Wellbeing, Family Relationships and Future Housing.

You will have regular meetings with your social worker and review meetings with an independent chair, called an Independent Reviewing Officer. As well as health checks with a nurse and support to access a doctor and dentist.

Children Services will pay rent and provide you with a living allowance. However you will not be able to claim benefits until your 18 years old.

If you have been in care for more than 13 weeks before your 18th birthday, you will be provided with a Leaving Care Personal Advisor. They will continue to support you up to the age of 25.