

<b>Report for:</b>	Corporate Parent Advisory Committee
<b>Title:</b>	Housing and care leavers
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Denise Gandy, Director of Housing Demand

## 1. Introduction

Haringey Council set the strategic and policy direction for housing while Homes for Haringey deliver a range of operational services, including:

- Housing management service and repairs for Council tenants
- Maintenance of the Councils housing register and allocations of social lets
- Advice and support to households who are facing homelessness
- Access to supported housing

Both the Council and Homes for Haringey, therefore, have an important role to play as housing corporate parents.

## 2. Housing options for young people leaving care

### 2.1 Social housing quota for care leavers

We have an established agreement between Housing Services and Children's Services that a quota of social housing lets will be set aside each year for care leavers. The quota level is based on a projection of the number of people who are due to leave care that year and a consideration of the range of needs. The current quota is 60 one bedroom properties and 6 two bed properties.

The Young Adults Service nominate to the quota and band A status is allocated. For one bedroom properties, care leavers bid through the Council's choice based lettings scheme and choose a property from the Council or Housing Association properties that are advertised. For two bedroom properties, a direct let is made as it would take too long for a care

leaver to bid successfully for a 2 bedroom property as demand is so high for those properties.

## **2.2 Training flats (Hermitage Road and Fireman's Cottage)**

In 2012 the Housing Service and YAS jointly developed our first supported living scheme, which provides training flats for young people who are due to leave care but are assessed as needing to develop some additional skills or experience before they are likely to be able to manage a tenancy. The first property, Hermitage Road was for young women and we then developed another scheme, Fireman's Cottage, for young men in 2014.

These schemes allow young people to live as part of a small group with a volunteer lead tenant to offer them additional support to get ready to live independently in a tenancy in the future.

We are looking to add some satellite studio bed flats to this provision where young people will receive floating support from the volunteer involved with the other schemes. .

## **2.3 Homelessness and temporary accommodation**

If something happens that means that a young person is not able to remain in their placement and move straight into their permanent accommodation, they will be referred to the Housing Service to make a homeless application.

The Homelessness Priority Needs Order 2001 ensures that homelessness legislation supports the Leaving Care Act by stating that 18 – 21 year olds who are former relevant children have an automatic priority need and so the Council will owe them a homelessness duty if they are in housing need.

Since the introduction of the social housing quota, most care leavers move on to their settled accommodation without the need for temporary accommodation,. However, this was not the case historically and so we are currently reviewing all single households in temporary accommodation, including care leavers, with the aim of developing a move on plan with them to enable them to move to more settled accommodation.

## **2.4 Private rented accommodation**

If a care leaver would prefer to move into private rented accommodation, they can be supported to do this through an incentive payment to a private landlord. Care leavers are exempt from the shared room rate in the private sector until they are 22 and so would be able to rent a one bedroom flat

rather than just a room (shared room rate applies to most other single people until they are 35)

### **3. Homes for Haringey offer**

Since the last discussion at the Aspire meeting, the Homes for Haringey Directors have discussed whether there is more we can do to enhance our offer as corporate parents. Options discussed include:

- Working with one of our contractors to offer a day course on painting and decorating plus basic home maintenance for care leavers who are being awarded band A.
- An enhanced housing management offer.
- Offering an apprenticeship to a care leaver.