

Assessment and Referral Process for Supported Housing for Young People and Young Families aged 16-24

Oxfordshire has established a Pathway through services for vulnerable, homeless young people and young families aged 16-24. The Pathway, developed in partnership between Oxfordshire County Council and the five district councils, places primary importance on preventing homelessness. However, where young people are assessed as needing supported housing the Pathway provides a structure through which young people are supported to independence.

There will be a consistent route into services across Oxfordshire and the Young Person's Housing Assessment/YPHA (also known as the Joint Housing Assessment) will act as the referral form into all services except those for unaccompanied asylum seekers. Referrals to this service will be made solely by social workers using specialist forms.

Referrals into services will be co-ordinated through a single point within each district, or in Children's Services.

Completing the Young Person's Housing Assessment (YPHA)

- **16 and 17 year olds**

Prior to a YPHA being completed for homeless 16 and 17 year olds, their needs will be assessed by a social worker (and where possible jointly with a housing officer) to determine what service they are entitled to under the Children Act 1989.

- **Care Leavers**

For care leavers aged 18-21, the YPHA will be completed by their social worker or Leaving Care Personal Advisor and can contribute to any statutory assessment under the Homelessness Act 2002.

- **18 to 24 year olds**

For 18 to 24 year olds, who require a housing and support service, the YPHA will act as a referral form into services, and will not contribute to any statutory assessment. It will be completed by one of a number of approved organisations who can refer into the pathway.

Who can make the referrals?

Young Person	Agency completing YPHA
16 & 17 year old homeless singles and families	Jointly by Social Worker in Children & Families Assessment Team and Housing Officer
16 & 17 year old care leaver	Social worker or Leaving Care PA
18-21 year old care leaver	Leaving Care PA and Housing Officer
18-24 homeless singles and families	One of the agencies listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Department • Supported Housing Provider • Floating Support Provider • Youth Support Service • Connexions • Probation • Street Services Team • Advice Agency • Other Support Provider