



# Student Wellbeing Resource

Housing & Supported Accommodation

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## Overview

Research has identified a number of factors associated with high risk of homelessness among young people including: “experiencing abuse or neglect; experiencing domestic violence, mental health or substance issues within the family home; running away as a child; truanting or being excluded from school; leaving school with no qualifications; having learning disabilities; and being a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender young person.”<sup>1</sup>

It is crucial that young people at risk of homelessness get early support to inform them about their choices and options and to help them to access accommodation services at the right time. The number of young people reaching the tipping point of homelessness in Sheffield has been falling over recent years but young people continue to form a relatively high proportion of the total number of people who present to the Council’s Housing Solutions as homeless, and the number of 16-25’s accessing supported accommodation. It is important to note that the incidence of homelessness among young people is likely to exceed official statistics because it is often masked, for example as ‘staying with friends’. This description can cover a wide range of circumstances from relatively safe temporary arrangements to significantly unstable accommodation and downright dangerous situations of exploitation.

## References

<sup>1,2</sup> B. Watts, S. Johnsen and F. Sosenko, Youth Homelessness in the UK (Herriot-Watt University: 2015).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/news/2013/jun/21/report-calls-for-action-to-prevent-homelessness-for-next-generation>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-guidance>

## Key Facts

- The main reported reason why young people become homeless in Sheffield and nationwide is because their parents or families are unable to or no longer wish to house them. This can be for a number of reasons including clashes within the home, overcrowding, pregnancy, parental ill-health, financial pressures, breakup of parents’ relationship, introduction of parent’s new partner, problematic parental or young people’s behaviour, etc.
- In 2015-16 Housing Solutions dealt with 438 homeless presentations by young people aged between 16 and 25, 310 of whom were single young people.
- Generally research indicates that the best outcomes for young people are achieved by those who remain living in the family home, where it is safe to do so, and for those who leave home in a planned way only when they are ready in terms of their emotional, practical and financial wellbeing.<sup>2,3</sup>
- All 16/17 year olds who present as homeless to the Council are jointly assessed by a housing officer and a children’s social worker.
- It is now possible to identify the secondary schools attended by young people who later became homeless, although this is not routinely monitored.

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## ✓ Best Practice

Statutory Guidance - *Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities 2006*<sup>4</sup> (Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Education and Department for Health) identifies that young people who are at risk of exclusion from education are more at risk of becoming homeless. It suggests that one way to tackle common causes of homelessness is by housing authorities working with local schools to provide young people with information about the implications of leaving home and the housing choices available to them. The following local agencies offer help and advice on specific matters, and the list of local offers and providers highlights who will do work in schools around homelessness.

## i Local Housing & Support Agencies

**Sheffield City Council, Housing Solutions** – Provides advice and help for anyone aged 16 years and above who is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless in the near future, or has a housing problem that they need help to resolve. Call Housing Advice and Options line on 0114 273 6306 during Monday-Friday 8.30am to 5pm or in case of an emergency out of hours please call 0800 731 1689. Email [HousingSolutionsGeneric@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:HousingSolutionsGeneric@sheffield.gov.uk)

**Sheffield City Council, Permanence and Through Care** – Provides statutory social care duties to maximise outcomes for looked after children and care leavers. Call 0114 203 9060 / Email [PermanenceThroughCareService@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:PermanenceThroughCareService@sheffield.gov.uk)

**Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Safeguarding Hub** – Provides a single point of access for concerns about vulnerable children, young people and young adults who have complex needs or who may be at risk of harm. Lines are open 24/7 call: 0114 273 4855.

**Sheffield Futures, YIACS (Youth Information Advice Counselling Service)** – Provides a single access point for holistic advice and counselling for young people in a youth-friendly environment. Trained staff support young people to access appropriate services including accommodation services. This service launches fully in autumn 2017. Further information from Sheffield Futures on 0114 201 2800.

**Roundabout Homeless Prevention Service** – Provides advice for young people about housing options, from planned moves to emergency accommodation. Roundabout also has a mediation service and will work to reconnect young people with their families. Call 0114 272 8424 or drop in Monday-Friday 10am-4:30pm at 22 Union St, Sheffield, S1 2JP.

**Shelter Housing Advice & Information Resource** – Provides advice on housing related matters via drop in and appointment. Call 0344 515 1515 or drop in Monday-Friday 9am-5pm at 48 Furnival Gate, Sheffield, S1 4QP. Email [sheffield\\_hub@shelter.org.uk](mailto:sheffield_hub@shelter.org.uk)

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## Local Offers and Providers

Provider		What they offer	Cost	Contact details
Roundabout	<b>Peer Education</b> – interactive session about youth homelessness, the facts and real life stories from trained young people who have experienced homelessness themselves.	Aimed at Y10 and Y11 pupils. Could be an assembly slot but prefer x 3 full class sessions, duration flexible from 40 minutes to 1 hour.	Free	Tracey Jackson Deputy CEO <a href="mailto:tjackson@roundaboutltd.org">tjackson@roundaboutltd.org</a> 0114 253 6785
	<b>Mediation</b> – mediation worker delivers an introduction to mediation, will see pupils in school or at Roundabout’s Prevention Service (details above).	Sessions are usually weekly, but service is needs led, and there is no time restriction on delivery.	Free	Jonathon Edwards Peer Education Worker <a href="mailto:jedwards@roundaboutltd.org">jedwards@roundaboutltd.org</a> 0114 272 8424
De Paul Nightstop	The service aims to be an option for agencies, to directly prevent rough sleeping, or keep people from staying in unsafe places.	Free, safe accommodation for people that are in housing crisis or homeless aged from 16 to 25 in the homes of trained and vetted volunteers, on a night by night basis.	Free	Contact Nightstop South Yorkshire on 0114 278 7152 before 4pm to discuss a referral.
Cathedral Archer Project	Briefing session/awareness raising.	Assembly slot or short talk about homelessness and the impact of the pupils’ donations especially around Harvest time.	Free to Primary or Secondary schools	Tracy Viner 0114 321 2312 <a href="mailto:archer@archerproject.org.uk">archer@archerproject.org.uk</a>

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## Local Offers and Providers (cont)

Provider	What they offer	Cost	Contact details	
Safe at Last (Depaul UK)	<b>Education and Prevention Programme</b> – aims to educate and inform children and young people about keeping safe, the risks and dangers of running away and alternative choices for support.	Interactive sessions with a 30 minute performance and 30 minute workshop – these times and themes/topics can vary. Suitable for assemblies.	Bespoke packages can be created starting at £250.	<p><a href="mailto:Jay.yerrell@depaulcharity.org.uk">Jay.yerrell@depaulcharity.org.uk</a> 07515 850 526</p> <p><a href="mailto:Katie.eastburn@depaulcharity.org.uk">Katie.eastburn@depaulcharity.org.uk</a> 0759 556 3075</p> <p>Office: 01909 566 977</p>
	<b>One to one support sessions</b> – for those at risk of running away or who have run away from home.	Range of support including conflict, bereavement, family relationship breakdown, anti-social behaviour, criminal activity, mental health, emotional well-being and more.	Free	<p>Referral form in family support section:</p> <p><a href="http://safeatlast.org.uk/what-we-do">http://safeatlast.org.uk/what-we-do</a></p> <p>Office: 01909 566 977</p>
	<b>Family Support</b> – delivering family support work to parents/carers of children and young people that have run away.	Family Support Workers provide emotional and practical help and advice to families who are experiencing long or short term difficulties. They help them to access support from other services as appropriate.	Free	