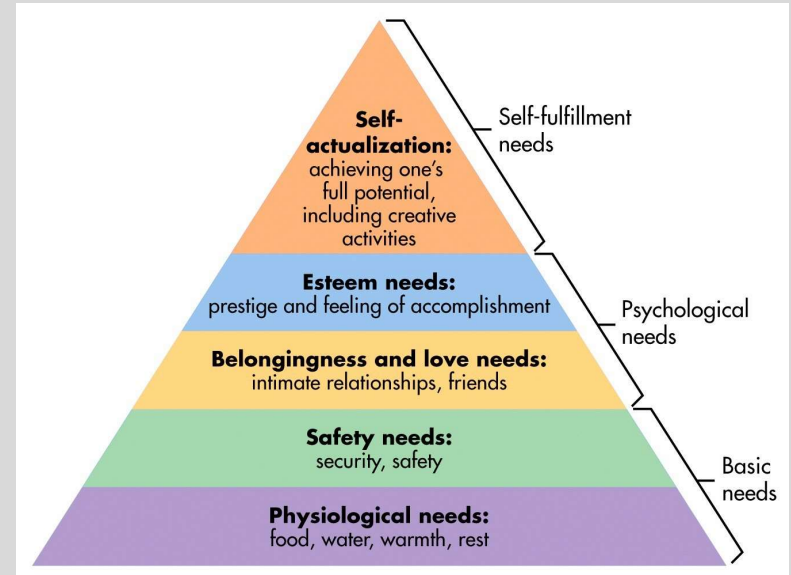
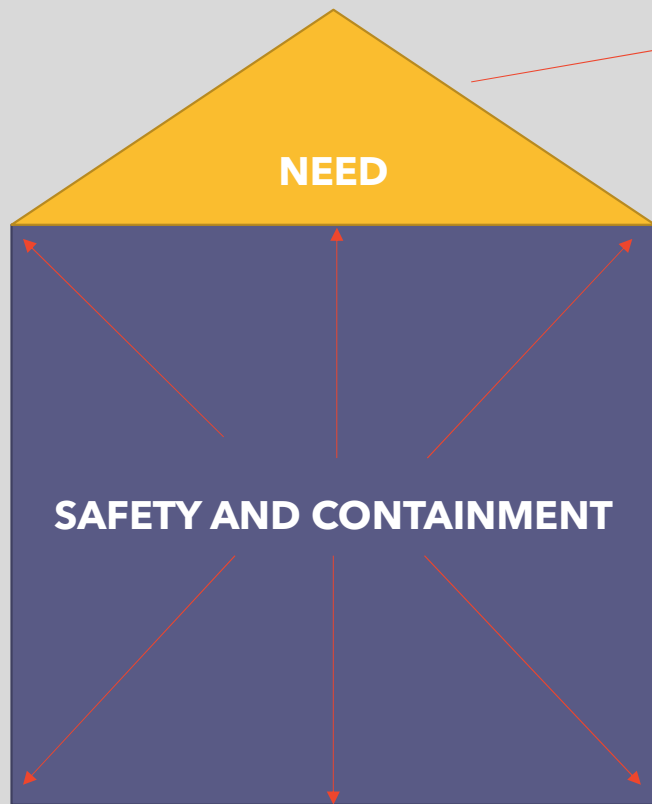




HOUSING FOR CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

Becky Thompson, Head of Service, Regulated
Services and Corporate Parenting

Why is safe, sustainable housing so important for care experienced young people?



Maslow's hierarchy of need (1943,1954)

How can a young person feel appropriately safe and contained when they do not have a safe base?

Our current care experienced cohort

170 care experienced supported by the team

```
graph TD; A[170 care experienced supported by the team] --> B[137 aged 18-21]; A --> C[33 aged 22-25];
```

137 aged
18-21

33 aged
22-25

Where they live:

- 23 living with parents and relatives.
- 2 in community home/residential care.
- 22 in block contract semi-independent and transitional accommodation or other supported lodging arrangements.
- 23 in Staying Put lodgings arrangements with former foster carers.
- 2 in lodgings arrangements without formal support.
 - 2 of no fixed abode.
- 79 in independent living arrangements.
- 2 in emergency/temporary accommodation through housing.
 - 5 in custody.
- 10 in other accommodation for example in hospital setting or other adult social care provision.

The cared for journey

16 years old

18 years old

Child becomes cared for below age 16 - fostering/residential then fostering

Placement breakdown may lead to need for block contract option to be considered at sixteen or above

16 years old

18 years old

Child becomes cared for aged sixteen or above - likely block contract option and through youth homelessness route

Only block contract options or Staying Put options offer security and stability post-eighteen

The immediate care experienced journey

18 years old

25 years old

The "hidden missing
- cohort of 18-25
years old in block
contract options

Without move on options, this 'bed blocks' options for incoming cared for children.

This cohort are not considered as homeless but do not have a forever, permanent home.

These young people do not have a Personal Housing Plan or a specialist Housing Officer support to assist with their next steps.

These young people can become stuck, and regress in terms of their ability to be independent, when we cannot act when they are ready to move on to greater independence in a timely way.

Sixteen plus unregulated semi-independent accommodation: block contracts awarded 1st April 2021

Lot One: Supported Lodgings: for young people aged 16 -21 who are cared for children and/or care experienced young people to 25 if eligible and for homeless or at risk of homeless young people aged 16 – 25.

Awarded provider: Young Devon: 24 units (5 of which are for 'enhanced support needs).

Lot 2 A: Multi-occupancy units for cared for children and/or care experienced young people with more complex needs aged 16- 18.

Awarded Providers: Young Devon: 6 units (Grosvenor Road) and **Livewest: 3** units.

Lot 2 B: Multi-occupancy Units for cared for children and/or care experienced young people as part of a stepdown from care and/or step-down from more intensive post 16 accommodation provision and for other Young People (16-25) homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Awarded Provider - Livewest: 20 units.

Lot 3: Semi-independent Accommodation and Support for Young Parents who are aged 16-24 years old.

Awarded provider: Westward Housing: 12 units.

Sixteen plus unregulated semi-independent accommodation: block contracts awarded 1st April 2021

Apart from Livewest Lot 2 A units the other units were not **vacant** units on 1st April 2021 as young people were currently living in these provisions.

These block contracts are not same day emergency accommodation or a permanent accommodation provision.

The maximum length of stay for Supported Lodgings and Lot two should be **no longer two years** and if over one year stay, this should be for evidenced based reasons.

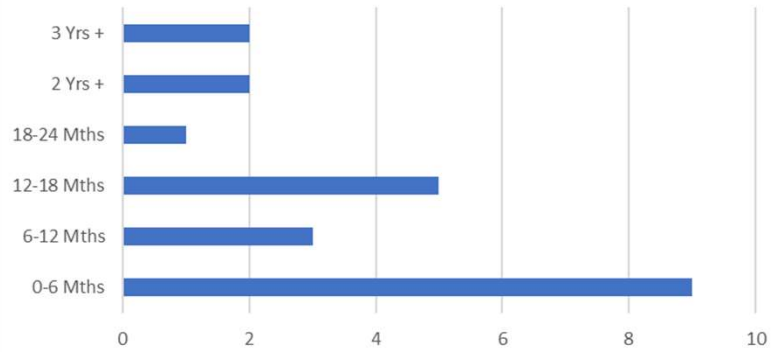
Through-put and planning move-on **at the right time** is key to ensuring the most efficient and effective use of these provisions.

As of 18th October 2021: **4** individuals have been in a supported lodgings placement for **over 2 years (2** being just over **three years)** and **6 over 2 years** at Livewest (Foyer).

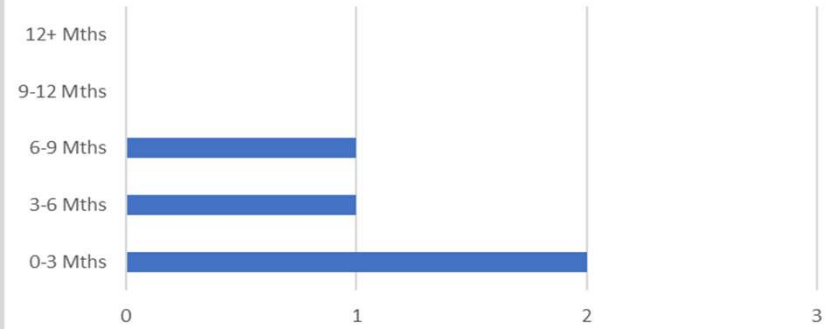
Young Devon and Livewest snap-shot consultation in June 2021 regarding individuals being **'ready to move-on'** to independent living but unable to do so as no move-on accommodation available:

Young Devon Supported Lodgings: **14 (17** including three spot purchase placements outside of block contract) and Livewest (Foyer): **10**.

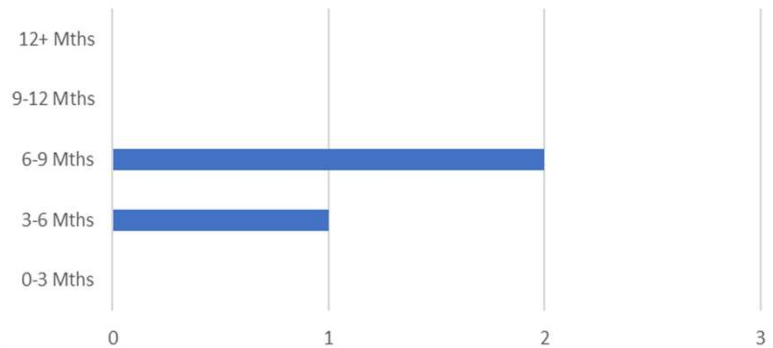
Young Devon: Lot 1 Supported Lodgings - Numbers by Length of Stay



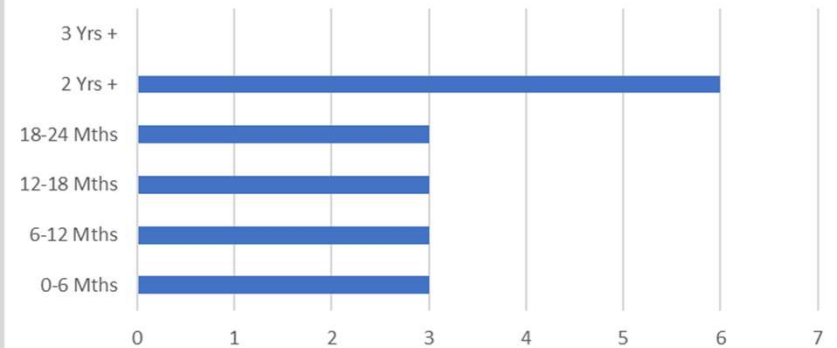
Young Devon: Lot 2A Grosvenor Road - Numbers by Length of Stay



LiveWest: Lot 2A Enhanced - Numbers by Length of Stay



LiveWest: Lot 2B Standard - Numbers by Length of Stay



Move on ready young people

Age	LiveWest	Young Devon	Westward YPS
16			
17		1	
18	1	8	
19	2	6	1
20	3	2	1*
21	2		1
22	1		1
23	1		1
24			
25			1
26			1
Total	10	17	6

Some challenges preventing move on:

*Lack of overall housing stock

*DHC refuse to B-Band all Young Parents & E-Band (no housing need). B-Banding process still goes to Panel.

*Lack of DHC B-Banded properties.

*Inconsistent application of ethos to automatically band B care experienced young people.

*DHC administrative issues i.e. meetings cancelled or referrals misplaced causing delay.

*The lack of proactive action which can be taken prior to a young person's eighteen birthday.

*Issues relating to accommodation suitability i.e. size, condition, type.

*Issues relating to landlord resistance i.e not renting to those in receipt of Housing Benefit or under 25s.

*Lack of guarantor.

Torbay Bond Scheme issues i.e. no money available, estate agents accepting the bond scheme or not accepting under 21s

What have we done so far?

- Introduction of a Transitions Panel, which tracks planning for all cared for and children with disabilities from fourteen to eighteen and identifies placement or post-eighteen challenges much earlier in the young person's care experience.
- Use of Access to Resources Panel to secure six months' rent and deposit for care experienced young people, to overcome guarantor barrier.
- All unregulated placements are tracked and monitored through the Independent Placement Overview Panel.
- Preparation for Independence Strategy has been approved and is now operational.
- Placement Auditor in post and working intensively with providers in respect of intervention provided to young people to prepare them for transition and independence, including tenancy management.
- Young Researchers group through South Devon College are focused on preparation for independence, in conjunction with an ongoing task and finish group.
- Meeting has taken place with the founder of the Guarantor Scheme with a Torbay model being drafted.
- Sixteen plus provider forum established and ongoing.
- DfE funded homelessness prevention Personal Advisors in post.
- Approval of the joint protocol in respect of youth homelessness.
- Joint assessment has been reviewed and piloted and is now operational.
- Youth Homelessness Prevention Tracker now in use, tracking final destination of each young person.

What's next?

- Set up a Virtual team to work in partnership with the Youth Homelessness Prevention Team. This to include alliances with private sector landlords.
- Development of an education programme to be delivered to young people and staff at the colleges and schools across Torbay
- Programme for independent living to be fully developed and implemented.
- Programme delivered to groups of young people with the involvement of partners.
- Create a Torbay specific model of the Guarantor Scheme for approval; this will then lead to further market engagement activity.
- Roll out training jointly with Housing to all social workers.
- Incorporate homeless prevention training into ASYE programme (2021/22).
- Delivery of an awareness and risk/vulnerability programme to strengthen the preventative aspect of the DFE project along with imparting the learning to the Personal Advisors within the main Care Experienced Team to ensure a legacy is established and the work continues following the close of the project. This work will be extended to raising awareness across partner agencies.

HOWEVER...

The success of the measures taken and planned is entirely dependent on the availability and accessibility of appropriate, local move on housing stock. This is evident from analysis of the current cohort of care experienced young people, evidence-informed projections, feed back from young people and feedback from providers. The lack of move on accommodation is the single most impactful factor in terms of promoting the safety and sustainability of suitable housing for care experienced young people.