



YOUTH HOUSING

POSITION STATEMENT

An interim information document

INTRODUCTION

Between the ages of 16 to 25 years young people face a range of life changes including leaving home or care, leaving mainstream education and finding employment. These life transitions can be challenging and some young people may require guidance and support in the processes. Additionally some young people may have specific support needs or require support to enhance their social skills in order to become independent and fully integrated into the wider community.

Young people often find it more difficult to obtain accommodation because of lack of knowledge of housing options, accessing them and affordability issues. Some young people need initial support in order to undertake or maintain a tenancy and to transfer to living independently.

The Council has compiled a Youth Housing Position Statement detailing existing housing and support services for young people, aged 16-25 years old, within Stroud District. It includes an overview of the services that are currently provided and identifies areas where there are gaps in provision or room for improvement and outlines current emerging changes in service delivery and accommodation provision.

The position statement is an interim information document designed to inform on the existing services. Current changes emerging will alter the overall model of youth housing services and provision therefore this document will be updated as changes become effective.

All feedback and comments are welcomed. Please forward in the first instance to:

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Stroud
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SUMMARY OF STATUTORY AND ADVICE SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE

16 & 17 year old Care Leavers Gloucestershire County Council Social Services

Duties under The Children's Act 2004 & The Leaving Care Act 2001- Responsible for:

- **Assessing needs**
- **Provide accommodation**
- **Advice & support**
- **Pathway planning**

Looked After Children's Team
Children's & Families Services
Shepherd Road, Tuffley
Gloucester
GL2 5DW
01452 525727

Solutions
Anne Peniket House
380 Bristol Road
Gloucester
GL2 4QX
01452 529187

16 - 17 year olds and Vulnerable 18 - 25 year olds Stroud District Council

Duties under the Homelessness Act 2002 – Responsible for:

- **Register Housing Needs**
- **Referral to Young Persons Housing schemes**
- **Provide housing to the homeless**

Stroud District Council, Rehousing Team, Ebley Mill, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB 01453 766321

All Young People 16 – 25 year olds

Advice & assistance services

Stroud District Council, Rehousing Team

County Youth Housing Advice Service

- **Advice, guidance & support**
 - **Information provision**
 - **Homelessness & planned moves**
 - **Housing negotiation support**
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Summary of Youth Housing Need data

Local Authorities have statutory duties in regard to housing homeless young people (16-17 year olds & vulnerable under 25 year olds).

In 2007/8 25 homeless young people had a stay in bed and breakfast accommodation of which 10 were 16/17 year olds. 8 young people stayed longer than 6 weeks. Central Government are seeking to abolish the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for homeless young people under 18 by April 2010.

The housing register as at May 2008 recorded 251 young people under 25 in Stroud district in insecure or temporary accommodation not owed a statutory housing duty.

Young people can struggle to access accommodation for various reasons including:

- Cannot legally hold their own tenancy under 18 years old
- Access to housing under 25 years old is difficult, further restricted by:
 - single room rate restrictions on housing benefit
 - no deposit bond scheme available
 - general cost and competition of accessing private sector housing.
 - less experience of managing and maintaining a tenancy

STROUD INTEGRATED YOUTH HOUSING NETWORK

The aim of the youth housing network is to prevent youth homelessness and make best use of the supported housing in the District, finding accommodation with the appropriate level of support for young people deemed as eligible.

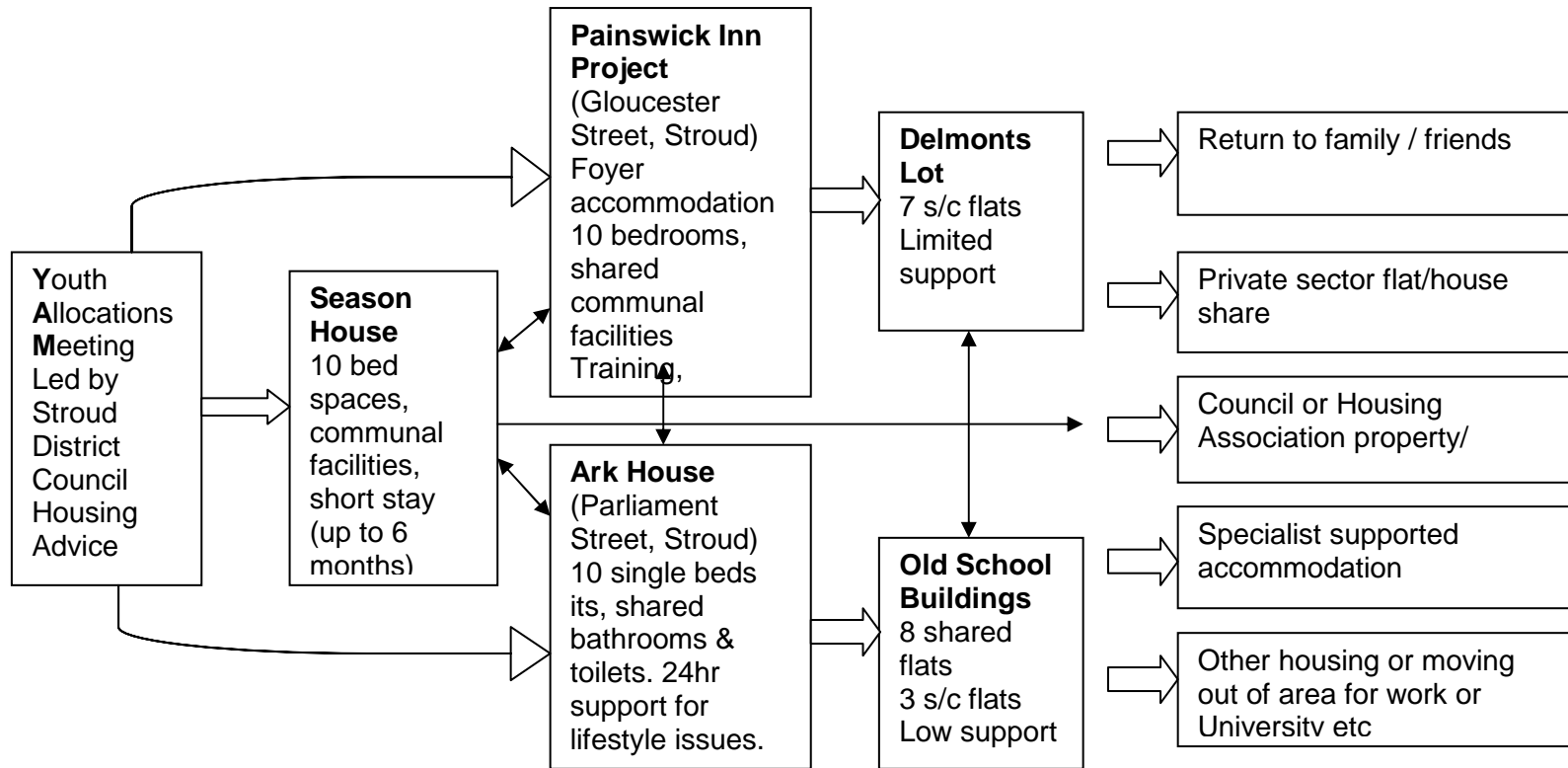
As detailed on page 2 access to the supported housing network is through County Youth Housing Advice Services or Stroud District Council (SDC) Rehousing Team.

When a statutory duty to house is accepted by Stroud District Council nomination will be made to an existing scheme or social rented accommodation. Young people may be housed in bed and breakfast or other emergency accommodation if space is not available.

A young person may stay in supported accommodation for up to 2 years, followed by move-on accommodation with floating support.

The table on the next page demonstrates the routes through youth housing in Stroud district

Flow chart of routes through Youth Housing in Stroud district



| Young People Support Services | Provider | Location | Service provision details |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Young Peoples Housing Advice Service | Youth Drop in centre Stroud District Council | Stroud Youth Centre Ryeleaze Road Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 1JR 01453 763993 Ebley Mill Westward Road, Stroud 01453 754064 | Tier 1 -Youth support services - information, advice, support & guidance on housing, education, employment and training for young people aged 13-19 years old (if disabled up to 25 years old) Housing advice links & info on website. Tier 3 – individual case support with housing issues – via specialist housing advice worker Tier 2 housing advice & assistance Stroud District Council |
| Short term emergency accommodation | Gloucestershire Nightstop www.gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk/services/ | City Works, Alfred St, Gloucester, GL1 4DF 01452 331 330 | Short term emergency accommodation in hosts homes. |
| Floating support | Knightstone Housing Association | Unit C2 Spinnaker Rd Hempsted Gloucester 01249 765600 | Support to help maintain housing tenancy. Provided throughout Stroud district as need identified. |
| Counselling | Gloucestershire Counselling Service | Alma Ho High St, Stroud, GL5 1AP 01453 766310 | Mediation service to prevent homelessness. Referral through Stroud District Council Housing Advice Team. |
| Young Parents under 18 | Stroud District Council Stonham Housing Association | Stroud district Magnolia House Cheltenham 01242 520696 | General needs housing with floating support Single rooms with communal room facilities. 3 move on houses. Support Services. |

| Young People Support Services | Provider | Location | Service provision details |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Drug / alcohol | Young peoples Substance Misuse Service GINI (under 18 yrs) GDAS (over 18 yrs) | 98-100 Eastgate St Gloucester GL1 1QN 01452 381166 23 King Street Stroud GL5 3BX 01453 755711 | Advice, information and support for individuals, families and communities who are concerned about drug and alcohol use. |
| Special needs | Ashway Court | Cashes Green Stroud 077 39446282 | Accommodation with support for young people with learning disabilities |
| Young ex-offenders | Youth Offending Service | 48 London Road Gloucester 01452 547540 | Primary role to address offending behaviour 10 – 18 years old. Welfare concerns referred to internal specialist services for assessment, mediation and support. |
| Mental Health | Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust – Gloucestershire Recovery in Psychosis (GRIP) | Albion Chambers 111 Eastgate Street Gloucester GL1 1PY GRIP based at Painswick Inn Project 01242 708166 | Assessment treatment care & support for people with mental illness. Access to supported accommodation. Early intervention in psychosis including assessment, treatment & support services from 14 years old. |

USEFUL WEBSITES WITH YOUTH HOUSING INFORMATION

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=16172>

<http://www.whatnowglos.co.uk>

<http://www.thesite.org/homelawandmoney/home>

www.shelter.org.uk