

Appendix 7

Evidencing the value of housing related support in **services for young people**

National Policy Initiatives

There are a number of national strategies that central government have developed that housing related support services contribute to delivering. The devolution of power to local areas from national government involves an expectation that localities will commission and deliver services that contribute toward attaining these targets. In some cases central government will pass legislation or issue statutory guidance to compel local authorities and Health Authorities/Trusts to perform certain functions. Housing related support providers perform an important function in supporting the local authority and primary and secondary statutory health services in meeting the health, social care and support needs of young people.

There is a range of legislative and policy initiatives that impact on the services that young people can expect. The main piece of legislation for those under 18 is the **Children Act 1989** which places a duty on the local authority to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in their area who are in need. In a recent case G V Southwark it was determined that Children's Services departments must accommodate and support young people if they have been assessed as a child in need and require accommodation as they are not able to live with their family. For those young people who have been in Local Authority care and entitled to a leaving care service the **Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000** sets out what they can expect from their local authority as corporate parent. For young people under 18 who are not entitled to be looked after by the Local Authority would have a priority need for accommodation under homelessness legislation **Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) order 2002**. This order also confers priority need status to (dependent on their age) care leavers. The more recent **Children Act 2004** aims to encourage integrated planning, commissioning and delivery of services including multi agency working. The DCSF is reviewing the statutory guidance that accompanies the legislation and it is anticipated that there will more emphasis on suitable accommodation for young people in and from care, consultation on the draft guidance is expected in early Winter 2009-10.

In 2007, Communities and Local Government launched a **youth homelessness strategy** to reduce the numbers of young people becoming homeless with a target of illuminating bed and breakfast use by young people by 2010. As part of the initiative the CLG have developed a website and in conjunction with the Department of Children Schools and Families have produced guidance on **Joint working between Housing and Children's Services: Preventing homelessness and tackling its effects on children and young people**.

Further information about these initiatives is available below:

Children Act 1989 http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1989/ukpga_19890041_en_1

Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 www.leavingcare.org
<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/childrenleavingcare/childrenleavingcare/>

Children Act 2004 <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/childrenactreport/>

G v Southwark <http://www.leavingcare.org/data/tmp/5618-11519.pdf>

Youth Homelessness Web page <http://www.communities.gov.uk/youthhomelessness/>

Joint working between Housing and Children's Services guidance
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/goodpracticeguide>

National Indicators

There are a number of National Indicators that services for young people contribute to not least because one of the original blocks for Local Area Agreements was Children and Young People. The NIs specifically for young people tend to concentrate on certain groups of young people for example NI 45 and NI 46 young offenders access to suitable accommodation and education, employment and training and similar indicators for care leavers in NI 147 and NI 148.

NI	Description	Significant contribution	Partial contribution
NI 19	Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders	✓	
NI 22	Perception of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area		✓
NI 43	Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	✓	
NI 45	Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training	✓	
NI 46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	✓	
NI 50	Emotional health of children	✓	
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health services	✓	
NI 54	Services for disabled children		✓
NI 58	Emotional and behavioural health of children in care		✓
NI 79 - 82	Achievements of different levels of qualifications at age 19		✓
NI 90	Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas		✓
NI 91	Participation of 17 year olds in education or training	✓	
NI 110	Young peoples participation in positive activities	✓	
NI 111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice system aged 10 – 17		✓
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate		✓
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds		✓
NI 114	Rate of permanent exclusion from school		✓
NI 115	Substance misuse by young people	✓	
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education,	✓	

	training or employment (NEET)		
NI 141	Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living	✓	
NI 142	Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	✓	
NI 147	Care leavers in suitable accommodation	✓	
NI 148	Care leavers in employment, education and training.	✓	

The full list of national Indicators and guidance as to their rationale and definitions can be found at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicators>

To find out the priority NIs agreed between each Local Authority and the Regional Government Office visit <http://www.localpriorities.communities.gov.uk/default.aspx> and <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/aio/10958567>

Homeless link have developed a toolkit to support providers in profiling their work against the NI prioritised in their locality with case studies of services for homeless people. <http://www.homeless.org.uk/policyandinfo/issues/laacurrent/laaform>

ROCC has an on line tool which is a guide to the NIs chosen by local areas in the South East. The tool enables providers to see which Nis specific client group services contribute to <http://www.rocc.org.uk/static/documents/Local%20Area%20Agreements%20Indicators%20Tool.xls>

The **joint strategic needs assessment** of the health and wellbeing needs of the community produced by the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust should include mental health needs. The National Mental Health Development Unit has produced a tool kit for commissioners, partnership managers and third sector as a part of the Mental Health Commissioning Programme. The tool kit can be found at <http://www.nmhd.org.uk/silo/files/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-and-mental-health-commissioning-toolkit-2009.doc>

Resources evidencing the value of **offenders services**

- The **CLG** have commissioned a tool to enable local authorities to evidence the **financial benefits** of housing related support. National research has demonstrated considerable savings as the provision of housing related support services can prevent the use of most intensive costly public services. The national net financial benefit of the Supporting People Programme for young people services including young parents, young people at risk and care leavers is £2.4 million. The tool can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/financialbenefitsguide?view=Standard>
- The **Office of the Third Sector** has developed a **Social Return on Investment (SROI)** programme that enables commissioners and providers to calculate the social return that investing in services providers. Parth YMCA's Get Ready for Work programme which provides support to enable young people into training, education and employment demonstrated that every £1 invested in the project realised a social value of £4.35.

Information on the programme and tool can be found at: http://www.sroi-uk.org/component/option,com_frontpage/Itemid,65/

- The **Department of Health** in its **Care Services Efficiency Delivery** programme has produced case studies demonstrating savings made by investing in support related housing services. One Housing Group has demonstrated that its modernisation of floating support has resulted in 6% lower cost than the national average hourly unit cost for floating support.

Case studies are available from:

<http://www.dhcarenetworks.org.uk/csed/Solutions/supportRelatedHousing/?parent=5322&child=5324>

Any report utilising the above tools will be more compelling if real life case studies are included, where it has been demonstrated that individual's outcomes have been enhanced due to their personal receipt of housing related support services.

Public Service Agreements

These are central Government targets to improve the delivery of public services and the outcomes they achieve. Although each PSA is cross departmental responsibility it has a lead department and a single delivery plan. The central government departments work with the regional Government Offices to support local authorities in delivering the targets and monitor progress. There are 30 PSAs and PSA 16 is most relevant to the delivery of services to people with mental ill health.

PSA 16 aims to increase the proportion of socially excluded people (young people leaving care being a specific group) in 'settled accommodation' and 'employment, education and training'. The Cabinet Office has the lead on this PSA but, as it is a cross-departmental delivery plan, amongst other departments, DCSF and CLG are also responsible for delivery. Each PSA is underpinned by a number of the national indicators PSA16 is measured by NIs 143 – 150.

The following table represents the PSAs to which housing related support services have a significant or partial contribution to make.

PSA	Description	Significant contribution	Partial Contribution
PSA 2	Improve the skills of the population on the way to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020		✓
PSA 8	Maximise employment opportunity for all		✓
PSA 10	Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people	✓	
PSA11	Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged background and their peers	✓	
PSA 12	Improve the health and well-being of children and young people	✓	
PSA 14	Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success	✓	
PSA 15	Address the disadvantage that individual experience because of their gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief		✓
PSA 16	Increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and employment, education or training	✓	
PSA 19	Ensure better care for all		✓
PSA 21	Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities		✓
PSA 23	Make communities safer		✓
PSA 25	Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs		✓