

Corporate Parenting Panel

25 May 2018



Accommodation Options for Care Leavers

Report of Karen Robb, Strategic Manager Looked After and Permanence Service, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

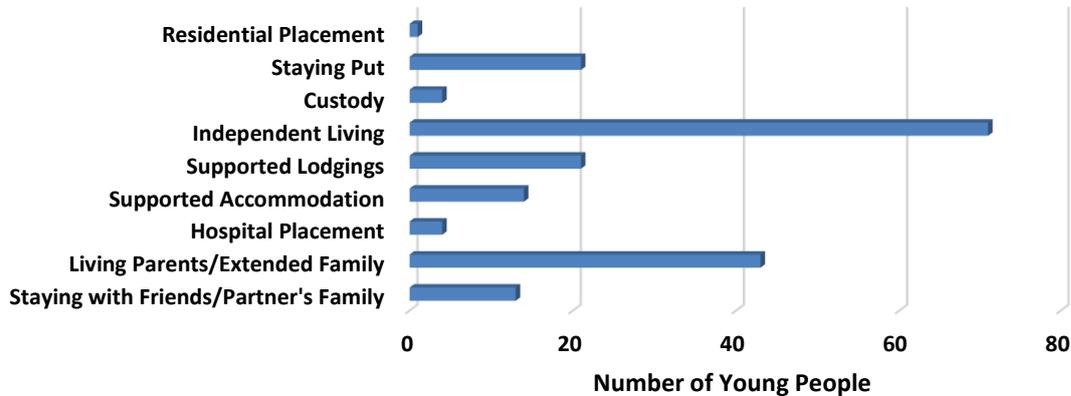
- 1 The Young People's Service continues to monitor emergency accommodation placements for young people involved with our service.
- 2 Information in this report is taken from the quarter 4 report (1st January - 31st March 2018) for 2017-2018.
- 3 At present the service currently uses the following services to meet the emergency accommodation needs of young people open to services with Children and Young People's Services:
 - Unplanned Emergency Supported Lodgings
 - YMCA Emergency Placements
 - Changing Lives Young People's Provision – The Old Manse
 - Bed and Breakfast Provision (as a last resort)

It should be noted that the Changing Lives Young People's Provision at The Old Manse, went live towards the end of the quarter (5th March 2018)

Accommodation Options

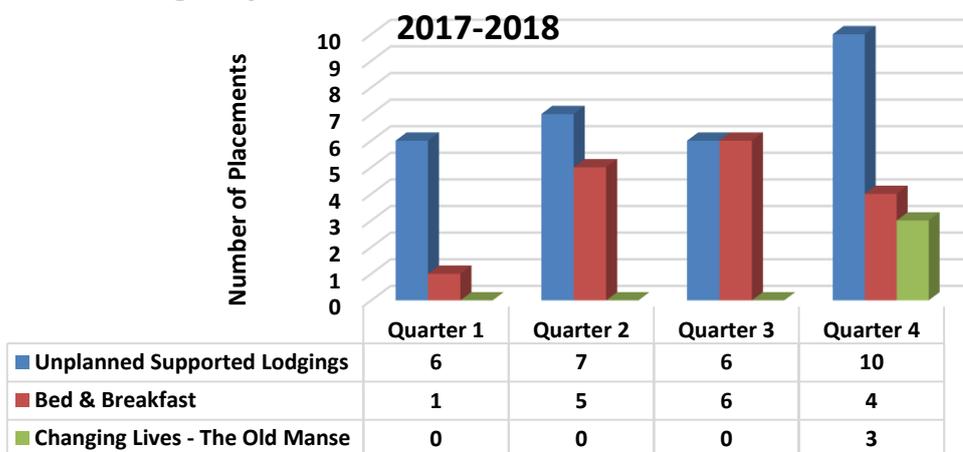
- 4 Young people have accessed a variety of accommodation options throughout quarter 4, some of which have been emergency accommodation options.
- 5 As can be seen from the following graph, the majority of young people were living in their own tenancy at the end of quarter 4. The second largest grouping referred to young people returning home to live with their parents or extended family.

Accommodation Options Accessed by Care Leavers as of 31st March 2018



- 6 As a service, we continue to adopt a zero tolerance approach to the use of bed and breakfast placements for young people. However, during quarter 4, it was necessary for 4 young people to be placed into bed and breakfast, utilising 9 bed nights in total.
- 7 Three of the young people were placed by the Housing Solution Service due to eviction from supported accommodation placements (2 young people) and fleeing domestic violence (1 young person). The longest placement was for 4 nights, whilst alternative accommodation was sought.
- 8 As can be seen from the graph below, 17 placements were made into emergency accommodation during quarter 4, utilising a total of 174 bed nights. This is an increase in both placement numbers and bed nights based on quarter 3 figures (42% increase in placements and 15% increase in bed nights).

Emergency Accommodation Placements Accessed

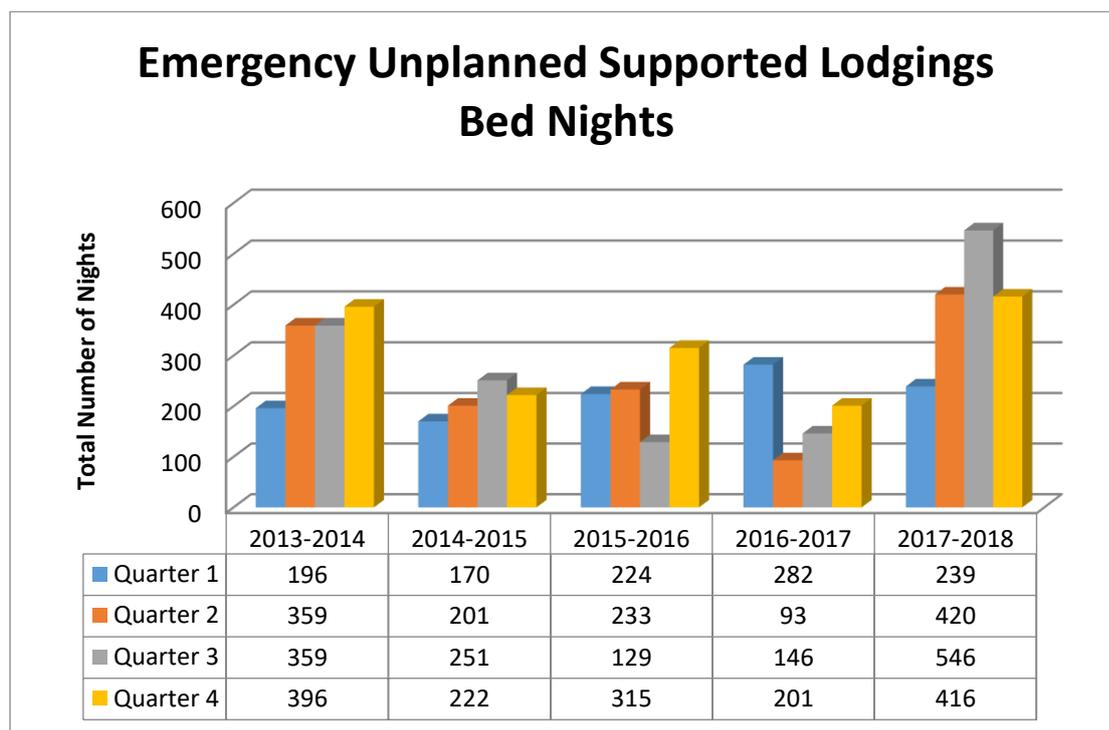


Support Lodgings

- 9 During Quarter 4, a total of 39 young people accessed placements within Support Lodgings. As can be seen from the graph below, the largest proportion of placements, were for those young people classified as Former Relevant young people (care leavers over 18).
- 10 In addition to the 39 young people in a supported lodgings placement, 5 young people were also being supported by the service in Staying Put placements.

Emergency Unplanned Supported Lodgings

- 11 During quarter 4 there have been a total of 23 placements involving 13 young people, utilising a total of 416 bed nights. The average length of placement is 19 nights. This represents a decrease of 24% on quarter 3 figures.
- 12 In terms of bed nights, 2017-2018 has been the busiest period for emergency unplanned supported lodgings since the inception of the emergency unplanned placements within supported lodgings; providing a total of 1621 bed nights during the period.



Bed and Breakfast Placement History – 1st January to 31st March 2018

- 13 During this period there have been 11 placements made into bed and breakfast, involving 7 young people. A total of 28 bed nights were utilised during the quarter. The majority of placements were for young men.
- 14 Three young people were placed by Housing Solutions during this period, as they were care leavers open to the Young People's Service but over the age of 18.
- 15 Placement numbers have remained relatively static in this quarter and show a small decrease from 12 placement in quarter 3, to 11 placements in quarter 4. However, the number of bed nights utilised has seen a significant decrease from 84 nights in quarter 3, to 28 nights in quarter 4. This represents a decrease of 67% on quarter 3 figures.
- 16 Placements for young people open to Joint Protocol process or classified as a Child in Need accounted for 70% of all bed nights utilised.
- 17 At the close of this quarter there were no young people in bed and breakfast.
- 18 It is hoped with the opening of the Changing Lives Young People's Provision, that we will see a decrease in bed and breakfast use in the longer term.

Conclusion

- 19 The service continues to work hard to ensure young people are accessing appropriate accommodation that is safe and suitable to their needs. The accommodation needs of care leavers are routinely monitored and recorded through NI147 & NI148 key performance indicators.
- 20 At the end of quarter 4, 89% of care leavers were living in suitable and appropriate accommodation. The figure has remained relatively static between quarter 3 and quarter 4.
- 21 The demand for emergency placements remains high, with significant demands being placed upon supported lodgings to provide high levels of unplanned placements for young people.
- 22 Young men still remain over represented in the number of placements made for young people.
- 23 Placements for complex young people remain an issue for the service, with 1 young person remaining homeless at the end of the quarter, following a further eviction from supported accommodation due to his behaviour and on-going substance misuse.

Next Steps

- 24 The introduction of the Changing Lives Young People's Provision is a welcome addition to our emergency accommodation provision and it is hoped that through the use of this and other emergency provisions, the service can deviate from its current use of bed and breakfast provision once again and therefore provide young people with appropriate and suitable emergency accommodation.
- 25 By the end of 2018 we are hoping to have moved from the temporary emergency provision (The Old Manse) in to the 12 bedded property at South Moor Stanley. Headley House will provide high quality self-contained flats for 10 young people and 2 emergency beds.
- 26 We are working closely with commissioning, housing providers and landlords to ensure we have suitable move on accommodation for young people, the priority will be complex young people and young men.

Recommendations

- 27 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are recommended to:
 - Note the contents of this report.

Contact: Carole Gill, Operations Manager, Looked After and Permanence Team. Tel 03000 262248

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Changing Lives project will impact on reducing costs of placements

Staffing – Young People's Service is suitably staffed, and commissioning ensures that accommodation providers recruit appropriate staffing levels

Risk – If accommodation is not available then a young person could become homeless

Equality and diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty – The needs of all young people are considered on an individual basis

Accommodation – The range of accommodation options are considered in this report

Crime and disorder – N/A

Human rights – All children and young people have the right to suitable accommodation

Consultation – Young People are involved in decision making

Procurement – This has taken place

Disability Issues – The service will ensure it meets the needs of young people with a disability

Legal Implications - The service will ensure that the accommodation and finance is provided for young people