

Homeless Link 7-minute briefings

These briefings are intended to be short, snappy break-downs of written reports and briefings, designed to give the audiences a top-level view of the key findings/recommendations.

This briefing is about Birmingham’s Youth Hub, a psychologically informed service providing advice, support and guidance, and access to housing, for young people at risk of becoming homeless.

7. Further information

The youth hub operates within the [Positive Pathway](#) approach, which focuses on avoiding housing crisis and ensuring that homelessness is not part of young people’s experience. It looks at how to support young people to achieve positive outcomes in other areas of their lives alongside housing – for example in education, training and employment, health and emotional well-being.

Read more about the Positive Pathway [here](#).
Read more about the Youth Hub [here](#)

1. Background

The Birmingham Youth Hub is a multiagency service supporting young people in housing need. It is run in partnership between St Basils Birmingham City Council Housing Options team, and Birmingham Children’s Trust.

The aim of the service is to prevent and relieve homelessness for under 25’s.

2. Information

The Youth Hub works with all young people in housing need, including care leavers, young people in custody and young parents.

Support available includes:

- Assistance in preventing homelessness including family mediation, access to floating support and landlord liaison/negotiation.
- Advice and help to apply for a range of housing options, for example, supported lodgings, supported accommodation, private and social housing.
- Advice on accessing education, training and employment.
- Specialist support services including health needs, drugs and alcohol misuse support and mental health services

6. What works

Co-location

Services located in the youth hub include:

- Children’s Social Services
- The Department for Work and Pensions
- Adult Social Services
- Housing
- Mental health, and drug and alcohol support.
- Domestic abuse

Through co-location for these services young people’s needs and rights can be quickly identified and effectively responded to.

5. What works

Accommodation Finding Service

The PIE approach focuses first on what young people require support with.

This means accommodation is matched to need.

In addition to the IAG service St Basil’s run an Accommodation Finding Service from the hub. This service is given a daily list of available accommodation across the city, by multiple different providers. They are able to match accommodation options with need and support young people into housing. They offer further support to young people entering exempt accommodation through their **Homelessness transition service**.

4. What works

Psychologically Informed Approach

St Basil’s use a psychologically informed environments (PIE) approach across all services including the Youth Hub.

When young people enter services, the priority is to listen to their experiences, understand what they need, plan support options and empower young people to make informed choice-based decisions about their housing options. Homelessness prevention workers will ask young people about their housing experiences, what hasn’t worked in the past and why, and develop a risk assessment and action plan to ensure young people have a package of support whatever their next housing step is.

3. How it works

When young people access the Youth Hub they have a conversation with staff delivering the **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Service**.

During these conversations workers will identify young people’s needs and begin the process of building a package of support around the young person.

Where a young person requires housing support they will work with the **homelessness assessment team** who will conduct a housing needs assessment and develop a personal housing plan with the young person. The team will work with the IAG service throughout the assessment.

