



Housing Options for Young People aged 16+

A guide for Young People and Parents.



In Northumberland, there are a number of different options for you to consider when thinking about where to live - some with support, and some without. We want you to be involved in the process of deciding what type of accommodation suits you best, and where that should be. We will help you consider your needs and level of independent living skills.

Accommodation Options

The Accommodation team within Northumberland Adolescent Services can offer support to access housing options such as supported accommodation or Northumberland Homefinder, depending on the young person's circumstances.

In Northumberland we have a number of accommodation options available to young people 16+:

• **Supported Lodgings**

• Supported lodgings offers young people a room within the home of a supported lodgings host.

• The supported lodgings host will support you to develop the skills you need to live independently and will work with you and services to support you to move on into your own accommodation when you are ready.

• **Sixteen Plus**

• Offer supported properties within the community with support. They will support young people to develop their independent living skills and can offer a higher level of support.

• **Places for People**

• Offer self-contained flats within the Blyth area and support young people to develop their independent living skills. Staff are based on site 24hrs a day.

• **NAS Supported Tenancies/Trainer Flat Provision**

• Offer fully furnished properties within the community with visits from support staff.

• **Northumberland Homefinder**

• is Northumberland County Council's housing allocations service, used by social housing providers across the county including the Council, Karbon Homes and Bernicia. The system used for allocating properties is known as Choice Based Lettings. If a young person is ready to live independently, they can apply through Northumberland Homefinder for a tenancy in Northumberland.

• The website is www.northumberlandhomefinder.org.uk

• **Nest Care & Support**

• Offer supported properties within the community with support. They will support young people to develop their independent living skills.

• **YMCA North Shields**

• Offer self-contained flats at St James Knott House, in North Shields and support young people to develop their independent living skills. Staff are based on site 24hrs a day.



Emergency Situations

Wherever possible, young people are supported to make a planned move towards independence, but we understand that sometimes this does not always go to plan, and sometimes young people have to leave home in an unplanned way. When this happens, we will call a Joint Housing Protocol meeting can be called to look at the options for young people age 16/17.

For young people age 18+ you can contact the Council's Homelessness & Housing Options team for advice and support. If you are homeless or threatened with homelessness, you can contact the council's Housing Options & Homelessness team on 0345 600 6400, or on freephone 0800 196 8409 for further advice.

Joint Housing Protocol Meetings

The joint housing protocol is an agreement on how everyone will work together with 16- and 17-year old's who are homeless or threatened with homelessness within Northumberland. It includes the following agencies:

- Housing Services – Homelessness & Housing Options Team
- Childrens Social Care
- Supported Housing Providers
- Social Housing Providers
- Northumberland County Council Housing
- Northumberland Homefinder
- SORTED
- Youth Justice Service
- Youth Service

What will happen?

The first part of the process is for someone to speak to you about your situation. We will then contact your parents/carers, where appropriate to discuss whether you can return home.

If you are unable to return to you home, we will ask you parents/carers to identify an alternative family member or friend that you can stay with.

After this, the person you first discussed your situation with, may decide to call everyone together who can help with your situation and hold a panel meeting. You will be invited to attend the meeting, alongside staff from the accommodation service and the housing homeless team.

What Happens at the panel meeting?

At the panel meeting, the different options available to you will be discussed. You and your parents/carer will be invited to the meeting. Everyone present will decide on what to do next.

Why Should You be Involved?

Attending a panel meeting gives you and your parents/carer the chance to be involved in discussing the options for you. It means you will be able to have your say on the situation and what you want to happen to make things better.

Specialist Accommodation

For adults and young people aged 16+ who have specific support needs (such as a disability, learning difficulty or a mental health condition) that cannot be met through the above services, a referral can be made via your social worker or care manager to source accommodation via Complex Housing process.

Your social worker or care manager will discuss housing options with you and advise on the best option for you.

Some of the options include:

- **Shared accommodation** – this can be a house, flat or bungalow shared by people of similar age and support requirements. Support staff may need to sleep over to provide overnight support.
- **Single accommodation** – this can be a house, flat or bungalow where one person lives alone but support staff may need to sleep over to provide overnight support.
- **Concierge accommodation** – this may be a block of flats where you would have your own accommodation but there is staff present 24 hours a day over 7 days a week to provide support as required.

Your social worker or care manager will be able to discuss these options in more detail.

Northumberland Communities Together

Northumberland Communities Together is here to connect you to mixed support and assistance that help keep you safe and well.

We can offer advice and support to apply for accommodation should you not be open to Social Care and require assistance in applying for and securing a property. We can assist in filling in relevant paperwork and application forms and advocating on your behalf.

We can support you to access other services and supports available, and things to do locally. We can also signpost to local organisations who may be able to assist in provision of furniture.

Please call **01670 620 015** for advice.



Accomodation Costs/Finances

When a young person accesses their own accommodation; there is normally a cost attached to this and this will vary depending on the accommodation that is accessed. As part of the transition process, advice and guidance will be provided to determine the costs of the accommodation and any potential to access funding to meet the placement costs.

Young people may be entitled to apply for Personal Independence Payments or Universal Credit via the Department for Works and Pensions. Further advice and guidance is available from Citizens Advice Northumberland, who may be able to offer support to apply for and access benefits as well as providing budgeting and financial inclusion support.

 More information at www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk/get-help

Local helplines available Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.30pm

01670 339960 – Debt Advice Line

01670 339960 – Energy Advice

Freephone

0800 144 8 444 – Help to Claim Universal Credit enquiries

0808 278 7 944 – General Advice Line

Glossary of Terms

Term	Description
Housing Services – Homelessness & Housing Options Team	Offers advice and support to people who may be homeless
Supported Housing Providers	Organisations that offer accommodation and support
Social Housing Providers	Organisations that offer rented accommodation
Northumberland Homefinder	Application process to apply for rent accommodation
SORTED	Supports young people with drug and alcohol issues
Youth Justice Service	Supports young people who may be at risk of offending and becoming involved in the criminal justice system
Youth Service	Support young people in the community and offers access to youth clubs in Northumberland
Joint Housing Protocol	Agreement between services on how to support young people at risk of homelessness
Citizens Advice	Provides advice and support on a range of issues
NET's	Offers emergency funding for those in crisis