



## Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities consultation Submission from Depaul

December 2017

### About Depaul

Depaul works in some of the UK's most disadvantaged communities, preventing homelessness and providing support to vulnerable young people. Last year we provided services including emergency accommodation, longer term housing and community outreach to over 3,000 young people. Through our Nightstop Network we work across the UK, and deliver a number of other services across London, the North East, Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the information in this submission please contact Dan Dumoulin, Depaul's Policy and Public Affairs Manager: [daniel.dumoulin@depaulcharity.org.uk](mailto:daniel.dumoulin@depaulcharity.org.uk); 07989 404363.

### Answers to consultation questions:

#### Question 11b)

Chapter	Page and paragraph number	Change/add/ remove	Comment
2	Page 27, paragraph 2.66	<p>Add new title: <b>'Supporting young people'</b> above paragraph 2.66</p> <p>Before paragraph 2.66, add new paragraph:</p> <p>'Housing authorities should consider what support could be made available to young people who are at risk of or have experienced homelessness. Services including family mediation, supported lodgings and emergency hosting can help to prevent young people from becoming homeless.'</p>	<p>Depaul welcomes the recognition in paragraph 2.66 of the draft Code of Guidance that young people have particular needs. The Code of Guidance should emphasise this by including a subsection in Chapter Two dedicated to young people, alongside the subsections already in the draft Code dedicated to families and victims of domestic abuse.</p> <p>The University of Cambridge has <a href="#">estimated</a> that over 80,000 young people experience homelessness each year. Homeless Link research shows that <a href="#">45 per cent</a> of the people living in homelessness supported accommodation are aged 16-24.</p> <p>Depaul supports the Government's plans to update joint guidance from DCLG and DFE on the provision of accommodation for homeless 16 and 17 year olds. 'Young people' are generally considered to be people aged 16-24,</p>

			<p>so those aged 18-24 will not be covered by the updated joint guidance.</p> <p>It may be helpful for local authorities for the Code to also suggest how they could prevent youth homelessness. There is evidence to suggest that the types of services and support mentioned in the suggested additional paragraph help to prevent young people from becoming homeless:</p> <p><b>Family mediation</b></p> <p>Family mediation is an effective way of preventing homelessness, helping families to stay together and securing cost savings for public services. Provision of family mediation services, however, is currently uneven and young people and families who could benefit currently cannot access it.</p> <p>A 2015 <a href="#">academic review</a> of youth homelessness, undertaken by Herriot-Watt University, found that the “available evidence suggests that mediation is likely to be a cost-effective approach, potentially making substantial savings by reducing the need for (or length of) temporary accommodation placement.” It also found that “there is clearly both scope and support within the sector for more mediation work, especially (but not only) in geographical areas that are currently very poorly served.”</p> <p>In one area a Depaul family mediation service was delivered alongside school workshops and parenting support. These services prevented 62 young people becoming homeless over the course of a year, leading to an independently estimated average saving of £9,493 per young person, see Insley Consulting and Depaul (2011) <a href="#">Homelessness prevention: Can we afford not to?</a></p>
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			<p><b>Emergency hosting</b></p> <p>In emergency hosting schemes members of the public give up their spare room for a few nights to a young person who has nowhere else to go. These schemes prevent young people from becoming homeless and sleeping rough.</p> <p>The Nightstop network quality assures voluntary emergency hosting services covering around half of the local authorities in England. The network ensures that appropriate risk management and matching processes are in place.</p> <p>Nightstop volunteer hosts provide young people with a safe place to sleep, a hot meal and a listening ear if they want to talk. In 2016 Nightstop services provided over 12,000 bed nights in the homes of volunteer hosts.</p> <p>In the last year Nightstop has been endorsed by DCLG Minister responsible for homelessness Marcus Jones MP, the Scottish Government and the Mayor of Greater Manchester. A UK Government rough sleeping strategy (1999, <a href="#">Coming in from the cold</a>) recognised that <i>“‘Nightstop’ schemes have been very successful [...] Such schemes provide a real alternative to homelessness. They have a crucial role to play in giving young people an opportunity to take stock without gaining the label “homeless.”</i></p> <p>A forthcoming social return on investment research report, commissioned by Depaul, will provide more evidence on the outcomes achieved by Nightstop services.</p> <p><b>Supported lodgings</b></p> <p>Supported lodgings are long-term placements for young people aged 16-25 within a family home. Hosts generally provide accommodation, meals and a stable, supportive presence for young people, with more intensive support</p>
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			<p>being provided by a specialist service provider.</p> <p><a href="#">Guidance</a> published by DCLG in 2008 found supported lodgings to be the most effective type of supported accommodation for young people. The current <a href="#">joint guidance</a> for 16 and 17 year old young people who may be homeless and/or require accommodation recognises that supported lodgings offer young people opportunities to take on more responsibility and prepare for the transition to adulthood.</p> <p>Supported Lodgings and Nightstop are in some ways similar to Housing First, as they are an alternative to project-based supported accommodation services.</p>
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**Question 14 b)**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Page and paragraph number</b>	<b>Change/add/ remove</b>	<b>Comment</b>
16	117, 16.32	<p>Add: Local authorities may find it useful to consult guidance published by DCLG in 2008, 'Making a difference Supported lodgings as a housing option for young people'. The guidance sets out potential benefits of supported lodgings for young people. It also provides information around planning and commissioning supported lodgings schemes.</p>	<p>DCLG has published excellent <a href="#">guidance</a> on supported lodgings for young people. It provides strong evidence to show how effective supported lodgings can be in tackling youth homelessness. Local authorities may find this guidance extremely useful and the Code should help to ensure that local authorities are aware of it.</p>