Salford City Council
Young Person’s Housing Plan

2008 - 2011
Young People and Housing in Salford

Young People are a priority for Salford. Our Community Plan for 2006-2016 has seven priority themes, one of which is a city where children and young people are valued. Our aim is to improve the quality of life for all young people and promote their wellbeing.

Young people aged 16-24 years made up 12% of Salford’s population, which was just over 26,500 people in the 2001 Census. Numbers of young people in this age group have since grown, and by 2007 were estimated to be over 33,000.

In this plan a young person means someone who is aged 16-25 years old.

The housing needs and wishes of young people vary from a young person who may find themselves homeless and in need of immediate shelter, to someone living at home with parents who may have little chance of owning or renting their own accommodation in the near future.

There are some young people who may have specific housing and support needs. These include:

- Young people leaving care
- Young people with drug and alcohol problems
- Young offenders
- Young people with learning difficulties
- Young people with mental health issues
- Young people with physical / sensory impairments
- Young parents
- Young people who are homeless

To meet the needs of these young people we have reviewed services and wrote strategies, these are:

- Salford’s homelessness strategy 2008-2011
- Supporting People service reviews 2008
- Review of floating support services 2008
- Housing and support strategies for people with learning difficulties and mental health needs
- Affordable housing strategy 2008

We have also developed specialist accommodation and support services which are paid for by the Supporting People programme\(^1\). We currently have 8 of these services for children and young people, these are:

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\(^1\) Supporting People is a government funded grant programme which pays for housing related support services. These services help people to live more independently and to maintain their tenancies.
• Salford Assisted Families Project – a service for families (with children) who are at risk of eviction as a result of Anti-Social Behaviour

• Foundations Support Services – supported accommodation for young people with learning difficulties aged 16-25 (low to moderate needs) and vulnerable young care leavers

• Liberty House – supported accommodation for young single homeless people aged 16-25

• Next Step Floating Support – housing related support for young people leaving care who own or rent their own accommodation

• Next Step Supported Lodgings – supported lodgings for young people leaving care

• Project 24/7 – a youth homeless prevention and housing related support service for young people aged 14-25

• Petrie Court – supported accommodation for young single people aged 16-25 who are at risk or who are leaving care

• Salford Foyer – supported accommodation for young single homeless people aged 16-25 and lone teenage parents.

Why we have written our young person’s plan

The overall aim of our plan is to improve housing and housing related support services for young people in Salford.

The decision to write a housing plan for young people was made as a result of:

• Listening to what young people, and the people who work with them, were telling us about housing issues for young people in Salford.

• Reading about what the Government expects from us, including responding to recommendations in “Every Child Matters (2004)” and “Youth Matters Green paper (2005)”.

We wanted a plan which could:

• Look at making improvements to existing housing and support services for young people, including the way in which those services work together

• Develop and improve access to a range of housing options for young people

• Help to prevent young people losing their accommodation and becoming homeless, by providing better advice, information and support options

• Make sure that research findings about young people’s housing needs are taken into consideration in the future planning and delivery of services.
How we put our young person’s plan together

Our plan was put together with a group of volunteers from Project 24/7\(^2\) who wanted to make a difference to other young people in need. The group have been involved in all stages of the plan and have become registered NCH volunteers with their volunteering input being recognised by the Millennium Volunteers Programme.

The Salford Strategic Housing Partnership, Salford’s Children & Young People’s Partnership Board and the Lead and Support Elected Members for Housing all gave their support for the plan to be developed.

The work to put our plan together was carried out jointly by Housing and Children’s Services. Workers from young people’s services were consulted through a series of events aimed at understanding the issues surrounding housing for young people in the city.

Our consultation activities involved:

- Questionnaires being sent out to a range of young people from across Salford, 170 were returned completed.
- Focus Group sessions were held with 8 agencies who offer services to young people.
- Two large consultation events were held, one with workers from a range of young people’s services, and a second with 25 young people from a range of services and accommodation projects. Both events were hosted by the Project 24/7 volunteers.

Information from our consultation provided us with the opportunity to look in detail at the housing needs and experiences of young people in Salford. A consultation report is available to be shared with other agencies and services to inform any work they are doing with young people. You can get a copy by contacting Wendy Goodwin, Principal Officer, Strategy and Planning, Salford City Council on e-mail: wendy.goodwin@salford.gov.uk or telephone: 0161 793 2787.

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\(^2\) Project 24/7 is a service for Young People which provides housing-related support through drop in and 121 sessions. The service also delivers peer education around homelessness in schools across the City.
The difference our plan will make for young people in Salford

Young People’s Vision
The volunteers who developed this housing plan came up with the following vision for what they want from housing services in the future:

“To know where to go to get the right information, at the right place, to get the right housing and the right support for me”

As such, Salford’s vision for young people is to ensure that young people receive clear, consistent and coordinated housing advice and can access housing services in a way that best meets their needs.

Key Issues
Our plan will address the key issues from our research and consultation findings, which were:

- It is hard for young people to get their own home and choices are limited, particularly affordable ones. Age banding is seen as being the biggest barrier, as many properties advertised through Salford Home search are not available at all to anyone under 25\(^3\).

- More specialist support services are needed to help prevent young people from becoming homeless. Improvements need to be made to mediation, peer education and mentoring.

- There is high demand for temporary and supported accommodation for young people.

- Improvements are needed to services for homeless young people, particularly the out of hour’s response service.

- The support to help young people to develop the skills they need to live independently and move in to their own home\(^4\) needs improving and co-ordinating

- There is a lack of consistent and accessible information and advice about housing for young people.

- Communication and information sharing between different services could be improved. Young people said they would like a single assessment which would ‘catch’ all their needs.

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\(^3\) A snapshot of availability taken from the Salford Home Search website showed that only 6 out of 18 one bed properties were available to young people under the age of 20.

\(^4\) An analysis of applicants re-housed with homelessness priority status in the last 3 years found that the 16-21 year old age group were more likely to lose their tenancy (an average of 39.4% over the 3 year period).
Our recommendations

The results of our research and the findings from our consultation have led to the development of three key aims for our plan.

1 – Increase the range of specialist accommodation and support for Young People living in Salford. This should be via suitable homes and access to prevention services in the City.

2 – Develop specialist information and advice services for Young People’s in housing need in the City. Develop new and creative ways to provide accurate information to Young People and those working with them.

3 – Improve the housing options available to young people by recommending changes to Council policy, with the aim of enabling more young people to be allocated a council or housing association property. We will work with partner organisations and developers to increase the range of housing in the City.

In addition to this written plan, Salford City Council and the Project 24/7 volunteers group will produce an interactive CD-rom which will be sent to organisations who work with young people. The CD-rom will provide information about processes and procedures for referring and signposting young people in housing need.

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How we will deliver and monitor our plan

The Young Person’s Strategic Housing Group will be responsible for delivering the actions in our plan. Appendix 1 tells you who the members of this group are. They will be monitored by the Children and Young People’s Partnership Board and the Housing Strategic Forum as shown in the diagram below.
Appendix 1: Membership of the Young Person’s Strategic Housing Group

- Service Manager Salford Home Search and Housing Advice, Housing Connections Partnership
- Petrie Court Scheme Manager, Housing Connections Partnership
- Furnished tenancies service manager, Housing Connections Partnership
- Manager, Connexions
- Mediation and Support Worker, Connexions
- SMART service manager
- Community Housing Development Team Manager, Salford City Council
- Community Housing Policy Team Manager, Salford City Council
- Principal Officer, Community Housing Development Team, SCC
- Principal Officer, Community Housing Policy Team, SCC
- ASSFAM Housing Support Worker
- Salford Foyer Manager, Places for People
- Project 24/7 Senior Practitioner
- Youth Offending Service Team Manager
- Children and young people’s co-ordinator, DAAT
- Principal Manager, Next Step
- Project Manager, Action for Children
- Teenage Pregnancy Operations Manager, Youth Service
- Liberty House Scheme Manager