



Frontline agencies in partnership

## Young people and care leavers in the Survey of Needs and Provision

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### Survey of Needs and Provision

The Survey of Needs and Provision (SNAP), conducted by Homeless Link and Resource Information Service (RIS), and funded by the CLG and CRASH<sup>1</sup>, brings together and makes publicly available data on single homeless people and couples in England.

The research focused on day centres and accommodation based services for single homeless people and couples, including both direct access/emergency hostels<sup>2</sup> and second stage supported accommodation<sup>3</sup>. The research consisted of three main elements:

- Analysis of data about hostels and supported accommodation from the Supporting People (SP) provider database<sup>4</sup> and basic analysis of SP client records.
- Analysis of data about day centres, direct access hostels and second stage supported accommodation from Homeless UK.
- A telephone survey of a sample of 151 day centres, hostels and second stage supported accommodation providers on Homeless UK, to gather more detailed information about clients served and their needs, services provided, standards of buildings and sources of funding.

This briefing summarises the findings in SNAP relating young people and care leavers.

### Summary of findings

There is a range of specialist homelessness provision for young people in England. Services specifically for young people usually work with people between 16 and 25 years of age. 10% of all day centres are aimed at young people and 16% of direct access hostels. In second stage accommodation foyers represent a large proportion of provision.

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<sup>1</sup> CRASH is the property and construction industry charity for the homeless. [www.crash.org.uk](http://www.crash.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Direct access hostels are short stay emergency services aimed at rough sleepers or those in need of immediate accommodation that usually have 24 hour staffing, frequent vacancies, no or limited waiting lists and can often accept self referrals.

<sup>3</sup> Second stage supported accommodation projects provide longer-term accommodation for homeless people, often to those moving on from "first stage" direct access hostels. These projects usually have waiting lists, less frequent vacancies than direct access hostels, and are less likely to accept self referrals.

<sup>4</sup> Supporting People data covers England.

In the 151 projects surveyed:

- Young people represented a majority of clients in a third of projects. However, the majority of these were second stage accommodation providers and the data may have been skewed by better coverage on Homeless UK of young people's services such as Foyers.
- Day centres are least likely to be aware of whether or not clients have a history of being in care. Care leavers are unlikely to be in a majority (over 50%) in services, but in around half of services care leavers were reported as representing between 1-49% of clients.

21 of the 151 projects surveyed had specialist services or members of staff targeted at young people, including:

- Three out of 40 day centres
- Nine out of 40 direct access hostels
- Nine out of 71 second stage accommodation projects

Six projects surveyed had specialist services or members of staff targeted at care leavers, including:

- One day centres
- Three direct access hostels
- Two second stage accommodation projects

### Day centres

**There are a total of 187 day centres in England and 19 (10%) are specifically for young people only (usually aged 16-25).**

- 99 day centres (53%) can accept 16 year olds, and eight day centres (4%) have a minimum age of 17. Nine day centres (5%) have a minimum age of 25 or 26.
- Out of the 138 day centres where the average age of clients is known, it is 19 or under in seven (4%).
- Half of day centres surveyed report that at least some of their clients are care leavers. However, the majority of these 15 (38%) they represent only between 1-25% of clients.

### Direct access hostels

**There are a total of 246 direct access hostels in England and 40 (16%) hostels are specifically for young people (usually aged 16-30).**

Five of these hostels for young people are women-only or include women-only accommodation as part of their provision and two hostels are men-only or include men-only accommodation as part of their provision. However, 148 hostels (60%) do not accept 16 year olds and 133 (54%) do not accept 17 year olds.

In the telephone survey a quarter of direct access hostels reported that over 50% of their clients are young people (16-25), which is a higher proportion than in day centres.

## Second stage accommodation

Foyers for young people represent a significant proportion of the second stage accommodation provision in the UK. Foyers integrate accommodation for young people with training, job search, personal support and motivation. There are 119 foyers for young homeless people with a total of 4,670 bedspaces. We cannot yet determine what proportion of overall second stage homelessness provision this is, as second stage accommodation has not yet been fully researched, and all projects are not yet included on the Homeless UK database.

The telephone survey found that out of the 71 second stage projects surveyed:

- Young people represent the majority of clients (over 50%) in 35 projects (49%), a significantly higher number reported than for direct access hostels. However, these figures are likely to be skewed by better coverage of foyers and YMCA projects among the second stage supported accommodation listed on Homeless UK, which are aimed specifically at young people.
- At the same time, only seven of these 35 projects stated that they had a specialist worker or service aimed at young people.

## Supporting People data

We included three Supporting People client groups in our analysis of homelessness services in England:

- Rough sleepers,
- Single homeless people with support needs, and
- Young people at risk.

Out of the 50,736 household units that we identified with the above groups either as their primary or secondary client groups, 24% (12,278) are for young people at risk. Although London has the highest number of household units for young people at risk and the North East the lowest, as a proportion of provision in each region, provision for young people is highest the East Midlands and lowest in the South East.

## Household units per region by client group

Region	Single homeless		Rough sleepers		Young people at risk		Total Number
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
East Midlands	2,131	71%	14	0%	861	29%	3,006
East of England	4,518	76%	0	0%	1,417	24%	5,935
London	9,659	67%	1,309	9%	3,418	24%	14,386
North East	1,581	78%	6	0%	428	21%	2,015
North West	4,155	74%	53	1%	1,431	25%	5,639
South East	4,796	77%	237	4%	1,203	19%	6,236
South West	3,583	70%	83	2%	1,420	28%	5,086
West Midlands	3,541	75%	0	0%	1,212	25%	4,753
Yorkshire & Humber	2,699	73%	93	3%	888	24%	3,680
<b>England</b>	<b>36,663</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12,278</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>50,736</b>