HOMELESS 16/17 YEAR OLDS & SOUTHWARK JUDGEMENT PATHWAY

Child presents to Housing as Homeless 16/17 year old. Housing to complete initial Homeless Screening Form and complete an urgent MASH Referral. A Housing Office will be allocated to the case

Homeless 16/17 year old either presents to the MASH directly or is referred to MASH by Housing

MASH will review referral and complete a MASH enquiry to speak with both the child and parent/carer to gather more information. MASH to identify if there are family network solutions and establish if the child is homeless. Explore possible safe solutions and arrangements for the immediate 24 hours

If the child is homeless and/or is likely to become homeless without support a contact will be processed to TYSS or if a teenage parent/pregnant Assessment Team.

MASH enquiry establishes that the child is not homeless and doesn't require additional support form children's services – Contact to close with rational recorded and feedback to referrer

Social Worker will contact the child and family and complete a Homeless Screening Tool (if not completed) and will make immediate plans. If referral did not come through housing, Social Worker will commence joint C&F assessment. Team Manager will open a homeless 16/17 year old hazard until suitable family option or alternative is identified. Once family options are robustly explored if no safe options are identified a Social Worker will explain the child rights to become a Child in Care and HOS will be notified. Suitable arrangement will be made with ART with Service Director approval.

C&F Assessment completed with child and Family with support from housing within 15 days of referral.

Child and family supported as a CiN to remain with family options and to prevent homelessness and becoming a child in care. Family Network Meeting and intensive support to be offered.

Child becomes or remains a Child in Care and ongoing reunification options are explored through a 30-90 day return home agreement if safe to do so.

If a family options are not identified and the child refuses to become a Child in Care they will be placed in ART supported accommodation and remain Section 17 until 18. We will continue to explain their rights to them to become a CiC.