

The challenges of preventing and relieving homelessness for young people leaving the secure estate in Wales

Dr Jenny Hoolachan (Cardiff University)

Dr Harriet Pierpoint (University of South Wales)



SOCIAL RESEARCH NUMBER:
30/2019
PUBLICATION DATE:
10/07/2019

Evaluation of homelessness services to young people in the secure estate

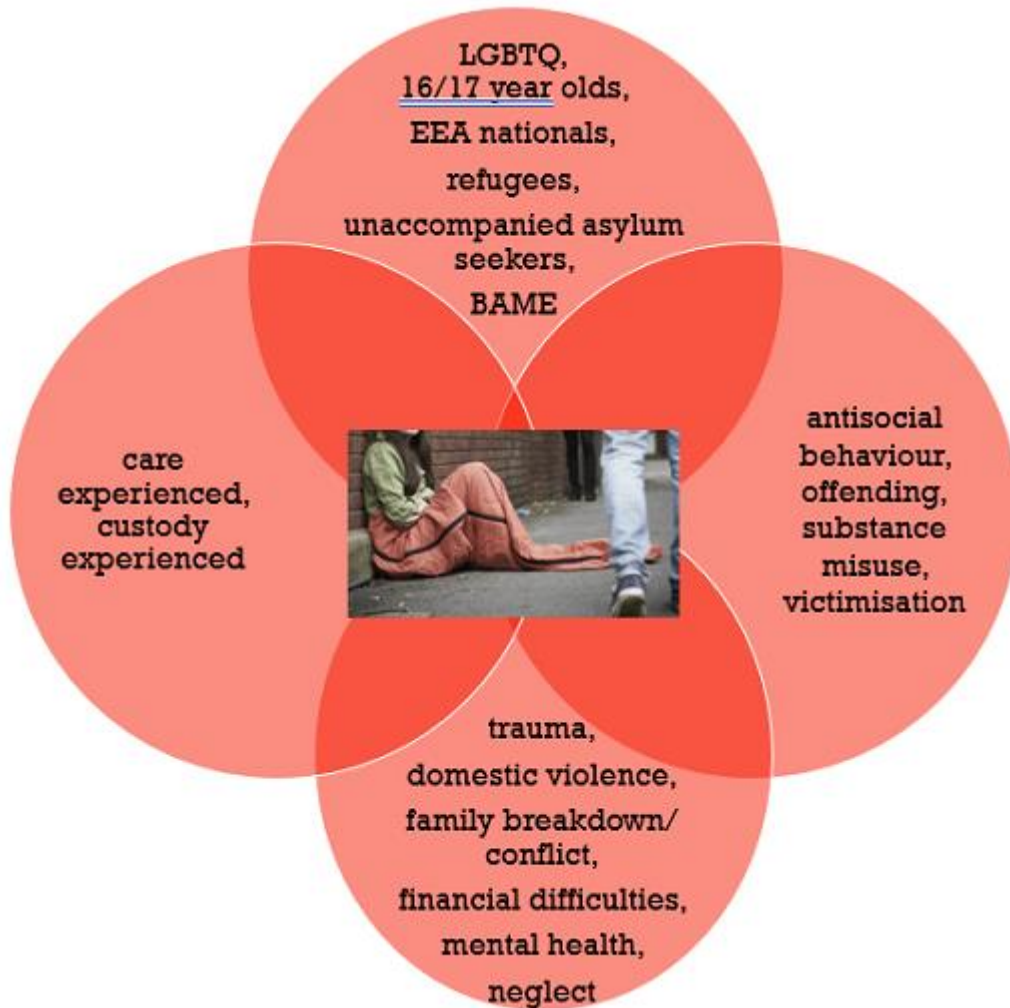


Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

OGL © Crown Copyright Digital ISBN 978-1-83876-642-9

Overview

- Youth homelessness and the secure estate
- Summary of the Pathway for young people
- Methodology
- Key findings
- Implications and next steps



Those who end up in the secure estate tend to:

- Be small in number
- Have committed the most serious types of crime...
- ...and/or be repeat offenders
- Have the most complex health and social problems

Young People's Pathway

Pre-custody

Reception

Resettlement

Release

Methodology

Semi-structured interviews with national and local stakeholders (n=65)

Online survey of stakeholders (n=41)

Semi-structured interviews with young people (n=8)

Case studies of two young people including interviewing six stakeholders relevant to their case

Focus group with senior stakeholders (n=9)

Stage 3: Resettlement

‘The biggest issue I have is the 66 days. It’s completely unrealistic to expect for us to keep a bed open for 66 days for a young person. It can’t happen, it cannot happen. A young person will be found accommodation in a timely way, but I’m going to be honest, it will be seven days. It will happen. What I like about the 66 days is that the Youth Offending Service let me know that we’ve got this young person and we can start looking at it. But we cannot secure a bed for 66 days.’

- Children’s Services

Stage 4: Release

‘When there are problems it does seem to come down...and we have had a couple of examples in [local authority] where it does come down to the wire. We’ve had them be two days before they’ve been released and that’s because they haven’t been able to identify a placement because there aren’t any’.

- Youth Offending Team

Availability of 'Suitable' Accommodation

“These young people are the most difficult at times to manage, for various reasons, you need very skilled staff, you need the right type of accommodation. It’s not ideal putting them in accommodation with a lot of other people with very similar issues. It’s a long-term situation, it’s not quick win situation [...] I think this is the big challenge really. It’s having the stock, having it available on time, having the staff trained, having the right type of accommodation in the right place”

- Focus Group



B&B

- B&B can increase people's vulnerability and also their risk of reoffending
- However...
 - If the choice was B&B or nothing, B&B was the preferred option
 - B&B also seen as preferable to supported accommodation located far away from a YPs support networks
 - B&Bs vary in their quality – some actually provide better support and care than supported accommodation



Other Unsuitable
Accommodation

**Supported accommodation for
adults**

Family accommodation

**Placement in larger hostels
(where it was felt that a YP would
be better off in smaller premises)**

Increase the
availability of
'appropriate'
supported
accommodation

But what might this look like?

- Very small number of beds (max number = 4)
- Full-time support (staff on-site)
- 1 to 1 staff/resident ratio
- Emphasis on mental health and addiction support
- Mixed views about whether there should be a strict regime in place (to mimic custody) or not
- A 'mini Tresillian House'

OR

- Support existing accommodation providers to accommodate high risk young people
- Reconfigure high-quality B&B accommodation into the fold of supported accommodation
- A Housing First approach

And how might this be achieved?

- Commissioning
- Partners pooling budgets
- Local authorities pooling accommodation

Next steps

@Jen_2603

@HLPierpoint

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-07/evaluation-homelessness-services-young-people-secure-estate.pdf>

