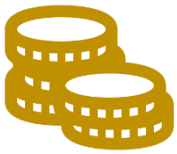
The Children's Society

If you're homeless and aged 16- 18 you can be supported by the Local Authority under Section 17 or Section 20 of the Children Act. This table sets out what sort of difference this makes for yoU

Key Difference: The main difference is that Section 20 provides you with the status of a looked-after child and then a care leaver, which comes with a range of long-term support. Section 17 accommodation is for a shorter period and doesn't provide the same level of long-term support.

	Supported by Section1 17	Supported by Section 20
Accommodation options	Supported accommodation	Supported accommodation, foster care, or a residential children's home.
 Money and rent	You will be supported to apply for Universal Credit. You are responsible for paying for your rent and other expenses such as food and clothing.	Children's Social Care will pay for your accommodation until you reach 18, and you will receive a weekly personal allowance (money)
Support	Your Youth Homeless Prevention Worker will support you with: • moving into your new home and maintaining it.	Your social worker will support you with: • moving into your new home and maintaining it until you are 18

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Charity Registration No. 221124

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	(keeping it tidy following house rules) • arranging regular meetings with workers who support you • Helping support you with any needs you may have. • Signposting or referring you to services (mental health, debt, education, employment etc) • You will also have a key worker at your supported accommodation. **Please note:** sometimes young people stay supported by a social worker for a longer under a Child in Need plan or Child Protection plan if needed.	• making a Care Plan which will say how professionals will work with you to meet your needs, including health, education, identity, and family relationships. • Arranging regular meetings and regularly looking at your Care Plan to see if any changes need to be made. • Signposting or referring you to services (mental health, debt, education, employment etc) • You will also have support from the workers where you are living. • **Please note:** If you are staying out overnight, your social worker may

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		want to complete safety checks. • You will be asked to attend regular health check appointments.
Support after you turn 18	• You do not have to leave your supported accommodation when you turn 18. but, if you and your key worker feel that you are ready for independent living (living on your own) you can be supported to move on. • You can get banded for social housing. • You can be supported to access the housing service, however you may	• Your Social Worker will support you to make accommodation plans for when you turn 18. • You can get banded for social housing. • You can be supported to access housing service, and you could get temporary housing up to the age of 21 if you have been in care for more than 13 weeks. • You can be supported to move

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	not get temporary accommodation. • You can be supported to move in with someone in your network(friends or family.) • You can be signposted or referred to other agencies who you may need support from as an adult.	in with someone in your network (friends and family). • If you have been in care for more than 13 weeks you can receive support from a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25. This includes support around employment, education, mental health support, advice around accommodation etc.

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