



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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**Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth**  
*Minister for Faith*

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*Dear Ky*

*21 June 2019*

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May whilst answering an Oral Question on how the government is addressing increasing homelessness, I committed to writing to you following your interesting question regarding what we as a government have done to tackle child homelessness, including what support is provided to those children who are homeless.

We recognise the issues that families and particularly children can face while being in Temporary Accommodation. The Department has created the Homelessness Advice and Support Team, who are made up of homelessness experts from across the sector, who work closely with local authorities across the country to ensure that best practise is being shared across the country on how to tackle homelessness. This includes three specific youth homelessness advisers.

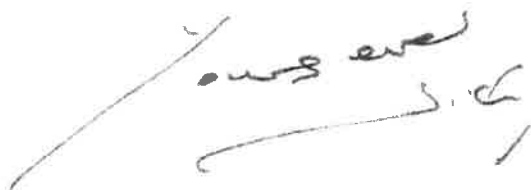
Chapter 17 of the homelessness code of guidance for local authorities sets out the important issues that local authorities are required to consider when placing families in temporary accommodation. This includes location, whereabouts of the schools, support from other services, and medical support. If a family is placed in another borough the local authority is required to notify the authority in which the family is being placed in.

As a part of the wider £1.2billion funding that the government has funded to tackle homelessness is the £617m Flexible Homelessness Support Grant, which is provided to local authorities across the country to ensure that they are able to deal with their homelessness pressures depending on their local need. This includes placing families in suitable accommodation and supporting vulnerable homeless children.

The government is taking this issue extremely seriously, which is why there is a cross-government approach to tackling homelessness and rough sleeping, overseen by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Reduction Taskforce, with key ministers from across government to join together to tackle this issue.

This issue is not only for government but also for those public services that support vulnerable people and those who are risk of homelessness on a day to day basis. That is why in the Homelessness Reduction Act we brought in the Duty to Refer. Which is a duty placed upon public services to notify local authorities if someone is at risk of homelessness.

I have deposited a copy of this letter in the library of the house.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bourne" followed by a flourish.

**LORD BOURNE OF ABERYSTWYTH**