# Context statement

Job title: Tenancy Sustainment Officer (Young People)

Directorate/Service/Team: Adults- Housing and Community Safety- Housing Options

## Organisation structure

Reporting to: Housing Support and Sustainment Team Leader

Responsibility for: N/A

## Context of work

This role has been created to compliment the wider approach of Dorset Council to support Care Leavers and Young People that have not been a looked after child and find themselves homeless or facing homelessness.

The postholder will work collaboratively with Social Workers, Housing Caseworkers, Personal Advisors, families, young peoples support services and other agencies to sustain and source tenancies for young people. The post holder will work with young people in a strength based and supportive manner to ensure we fully assess and understand their needs and circumstances promote independence. The post holder will be expected to attend meetings relating to young people, work with the families of young people and undertaking mediation and negotiation to avoid family evictions from taking place. The role will improve the dignity, life opportunities, health, and financial wellbeing of vulnerable young people who, without intervention, would be at risk of homelessness.

A good understand of the interplay between the Children’s Act 1989 and the Housing Act 1996 would be essential.

The young persons tenancy sustainment officer will:

1. Work with young people to try to meet their housing needs in the community that avoids the need for temporary accommodation and homelessness. The postholder will need to have good conversation management skills and an empathetic approach to dealing with young people in need. Above all, sustainment is the goal.
2. Liaise with the relevant services and participate meetings that co-ordinate the Council’s response to Care Leavers and Young People at risk of homelessness. This will include monitoring any transitions of looked after children into the leaving care team without a robust accommodation plan in place post-18.
3. Work proactively with other services and organisations to ensure that the housing and support needs of people are fully assessed and that the appropriate person-centred support plan is put in place to ensure they have the skills to sustain independent living. This will involve signposting and referrals to other agencies that can assist the young person.
4. Prevent tenancies from failing by ensuring positive prevention work is provided to overcome barriers and work pro-actively with landlords both in the social and private rented sectors.
5. Identify creative opportunities to work with private sector landlords to improve the housing offer available to young people.
6. Work pro-actively in the community with providers of accommodation to ensure tenancies are being sustained and move on plans are identified. This will include and is not limited to our own Care Leaver accommodation in Weymouth.
7. Maintain a good understanding of the Council’s policies and procedures for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, and alert Children’s Services and/or Adult Social Care where it is suspected that a child or vulnerable adult might be being abused, neglected, or harmed.

## Travel requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the Council) to be available on most working days in order to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period.

## Other information

Enhanced Adults and Children DBS required

The post is fixed term for 2 years.

The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post.

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| **Context statement prepared by:** |
| Manager | Ashleigh Johnston  | Date | April 25 |