



Hartlepool
Borough Council

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Department: Housing, Growth and Communities

Division:

Date Input to System: 21/05/2026

Officer Making Decision: MS G PTAK

Subject / Description & Reason for Decision: *(for publication)* Minor amendment to the allocation policy to enable the Council to better meet its corporate parenting responsibilities by giving a band 2 to care leavers at 17 and a quarter, but if still unable to be successfully allocated a property by 17 and a half, will be awarded a band 1. The Council needs to meet its corporate parenting responsibilities by ensuring care leavers are able to access appropriate and suitable accommodation in order to avoid becoming homeless as they leave care. This minor amendment will ensure that care leavers have some choice and control, aligned to expected OFSTED outcomes, whilst realistically being able to achieve independence upon leaving care without having to present as homeless.

Type of Decision: Non Key

Nature of Delegation Being Exercised: Chief Officer has delegated powers to make a minor amendment to the allocation policy. This decision should have no negative cost implications to the Authority.

Alternative Options Considered & Rejected: The alternative is the status quo, which can involve young people leaving care without accommodation and having to present as homeless. This in turn also puts additional pressure on the number of temporary accommodation places that are available to other homeless applicants. By bringing in this minor change, it avoids placing pressure on the homeless system and avoids additional costs to the public purse by not having to use expensive temporary accommodation. It also helps us to meet our statutory responsibilities as corporate parents in terms of ensuring they have the best opportunity to access independent accommodation upon leaving care.

Any Declared Register of Interest: No

Other Considerations:

OFFICER WITH THE DELEGATION

NAME: MS G PTAK

POSITION: Director of Housing, Growth & Communities

IN CONSULTATION WITH...

AUTHORISED BY

NAME: MS G PTAK

POSITION: Director of Housing, Growth & Communities

DATE: 21/05/2026