

# Access to Semi-Independent placements in Kensington and Chelsea



## Advice for care leavers



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## Introduction

Finding and keeping suitable accommodation is one of the most important parts of Pathway Planning for a successful adult life. If you are an eligible, relevant or formerly relevant young person (see 'Sorted and Supported' leaflet) your Personal Adviser (PA) from the Independence Support Team (IST) will work with you and your Social Worker (SW) to agree your Pathway Plan. If you are a qualifying care leaver you can ask for advice and support from IST.

We know young people may worry about where they will be living in the future so we encourage you to start thinking with us about move on accommodation when you reach 16, even if the plan is not to move for some time.

Matching what you need with what is available can be complicated and takes time, especially if you don't want to live in Kensington and Chelsea.

Your SW and PA will aim for you to be in the best place for your long-term future by the time you are 18 and no longer 'in care' or a 'looked-after child'. They will talk with you, your carers, and sometimes your family, about immediate and long

term plans and check you are getting the best information before you make any important decisions.

## Next Steps

For most young people the next step towards housing after foster-care or children's home is to live for a time in semi-independent accommodation. Usually this is a room of your own, in a shared house or flat with a key-worker to give extra support.

The advantages are:

- you are not on your own
- you have a chance to learn from experience and develop your skills
- you can show yourself and others that you can manage in your own place
- this is often the best route to getting your own permanent tenancy (see leaflet on Access to Public Housing).

## Semi-Independent Placements

Your PA and SW can tell you about suitable semi-independent places. They will help you fill in a generic application form, usually when you are 17, for the Semi-Independent Review Group (SIARG). This is a panel of people who meet once a month to look at all requests for semi-independence placements for single care leavers. Your PA will give you other advice if you need family accommodation.

Members of the panel are:

- Head of Care Resources -  
**Glen Peache**
- IST Senior Social Worker leading on Accommodation -  
**Vivette Williams**
- IST Personal Adviser Accommodation -  
**Donald Thomas**
- Manager of Creswick Road Hostel -  
**Joan Jackson-Callen**

The panel aims to match young people with suitable places by keeping track of care leavers' accommodation needs and keeping in touch with accommodation providers.

The information on your application form helps the panel work out what level of support you need (more details follow) so they can recommend a suitable place. You will get an invitation to meet some of the panel; make sure to keep the appointment as it is your chance to be heard and ask the panel questions.

You can contact the panel by email at **SIARG@rbkc.gov.uk**.

From the list of accommodation providers (page 7) you will see there are a limited number of places available and nearly all are in North Kensington. It is not always possible to find exactly what you want, when and where you want it so we will take care not to make promises we can't keep. If SIARG cannot suggest a suitable place, your SW and PA will work with you to look at other options which may include other hostels or privately rented accommodation.

If there is a vacancy in the recommended placement you will be expected to move in. If there is no vacancy you will be put on their waiting list.

Do talk to your SW or PA about any reasons why you cannot

move at a particular time e.g. exam dates. They may be able to arrange to pay for the empty room until you can move in; if not, the room will go to another young person on the waiting list.

Young people have different needs, levels of urgency and circumstances so the waiting list is not always 'first come first served'. We will do our best to keep you up-to-date about when a place is ready for you but things can change quickly so it is best to be prepared to move at quite short notice.

We understand young people may like to visit the place they plan to move to but we also need to protect the privacy of people living in the placements so it is not always possible to see a room unless it is empty.

We will give you as much information in advance as we can and you may be asked to go for an interview to the placement – another chance to find out more.

## Appeals/Complaints Procedure

If you do not agree with the recommendation of the panel you can ask for the decision to be reviewed. The Head of Service will look at all the available information and may ask to meet you. They will decide if they agree with the panel's decision or they will make their own recommendation.

If you are still not satisfied with the outcome you can make a complaint to the Council's Children's Services Complaints Service; your worker can help you with this process.

## SIARG Support Levels

Young people's support needs can change but we use this guidance when looking at your application:

### LOW

Young person needs support on average up to a maximum of three hours per seven day week

Support staff might not actually meet with the young person every week but they will be available if required. May be called into a crisis situation which pushes support up to next level of support.

Young person is confident to contact support worker in an emergency.

Young person may need this level of support for approx eight to 12 months.

Young person may be relatively independent. May need support accessing benefits, EET and practical skills to enable them to gain more independence skills.

Support may be delivered on a one-to-one or group basis.

### MEDIUM

Young person needs support on average from three up to a maximum of five hours per seven day week

Support worker will meet with young person at least once a week to work through an aspect of the support plan.

Support worker will be available at other times. May be called into a crisis situation which pushes support up to next level of support.

Young person may contact support worker in an emergency and may also make contact when they are not confident in carrying out a task.

Support plan may identify issues of conduct, emotional, budgetary, time management and practical skills which will need to be worked through to enable them to gain more independence skills.

Young person is unlikely to need this level of support for up to 18 months.

Support may be delivered on a one-to-one or group basis.

## HIGH

Young person needs support on average between six up to a maximum of ten hours per seven day week

Support worker will meet with young person at least twice a week to work through aspect of support plan.

Support worker will be available at other times. May be necessary to have two members of staff available at any one time.

May be called into a crisis situation which pushes support up to next level of support.

Support is likely to involve repeated prompting on a daily or weekly basis in respect of the same task.

Support plan may identify issues of conduct, emotional, budgetary and time management skills which will need to be worked through to enable them to gain more independence skills.

Young person is unlikely to need less support within 24 months.

## INTENSIVE

Young person needs support on average between ten up to 13 hours per seven day week

Support worker will be accessible 24/7.

Support is likely to involve repeated prompting on a daily or weekly basis in respect of the same task.

Young person will not be able to share accommodation.

Support is ongoing and is unlikely to be reduced within 24 months.

Support workers needed to work on shift basis.

Any young person needing more than 13 hours support will need an individual support package agreed by SW/PA and team manager.

## Placements used by SIARG

### Provided by Kensington and Chelsea Family and Children's Services:

- **Creswick Road - Six units**  
(medium/high support) - Acton
- **Barandon Walk flats - Three units**  
(low/medium support) -
- **St Marks Children Home - Four units**  
(medium/high/intensive support) - North Kensington
- **Whistler Walk - Various units**  
(medium/high support) - World's End, Chelsea

### Provided by Private and Voluntary Organisations:

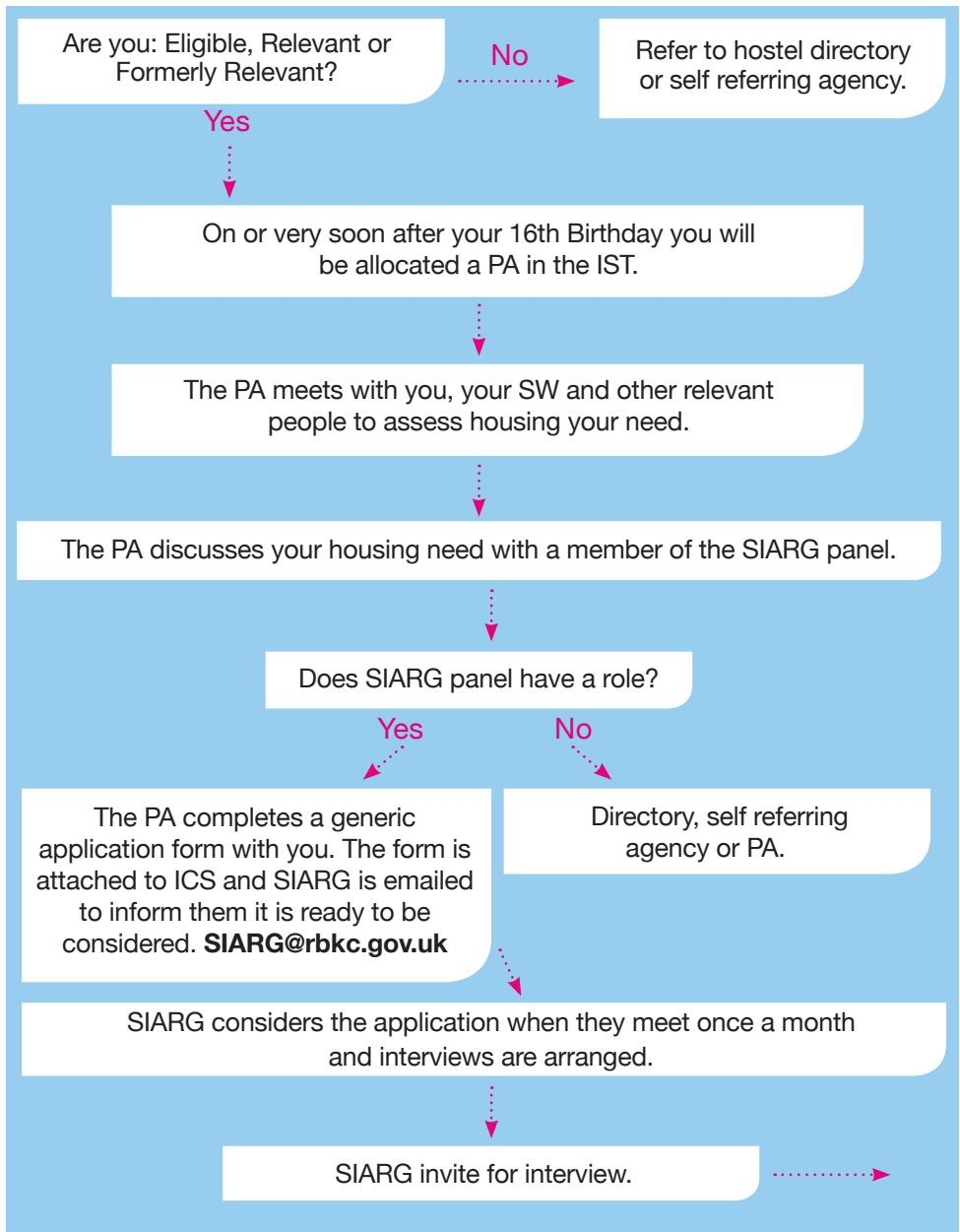
North Kensington

- **P3 - Various units**  
(low medium/high/intensive support) - North Kensington
- **Longridge Road - 11 units**  
(medium/high) - Earl's Court
- **Endlesham Road - Various units**  
(low/medium) - London Borough of Wandsworth
- **Barlby Road - Three units**  
(medium/high) -

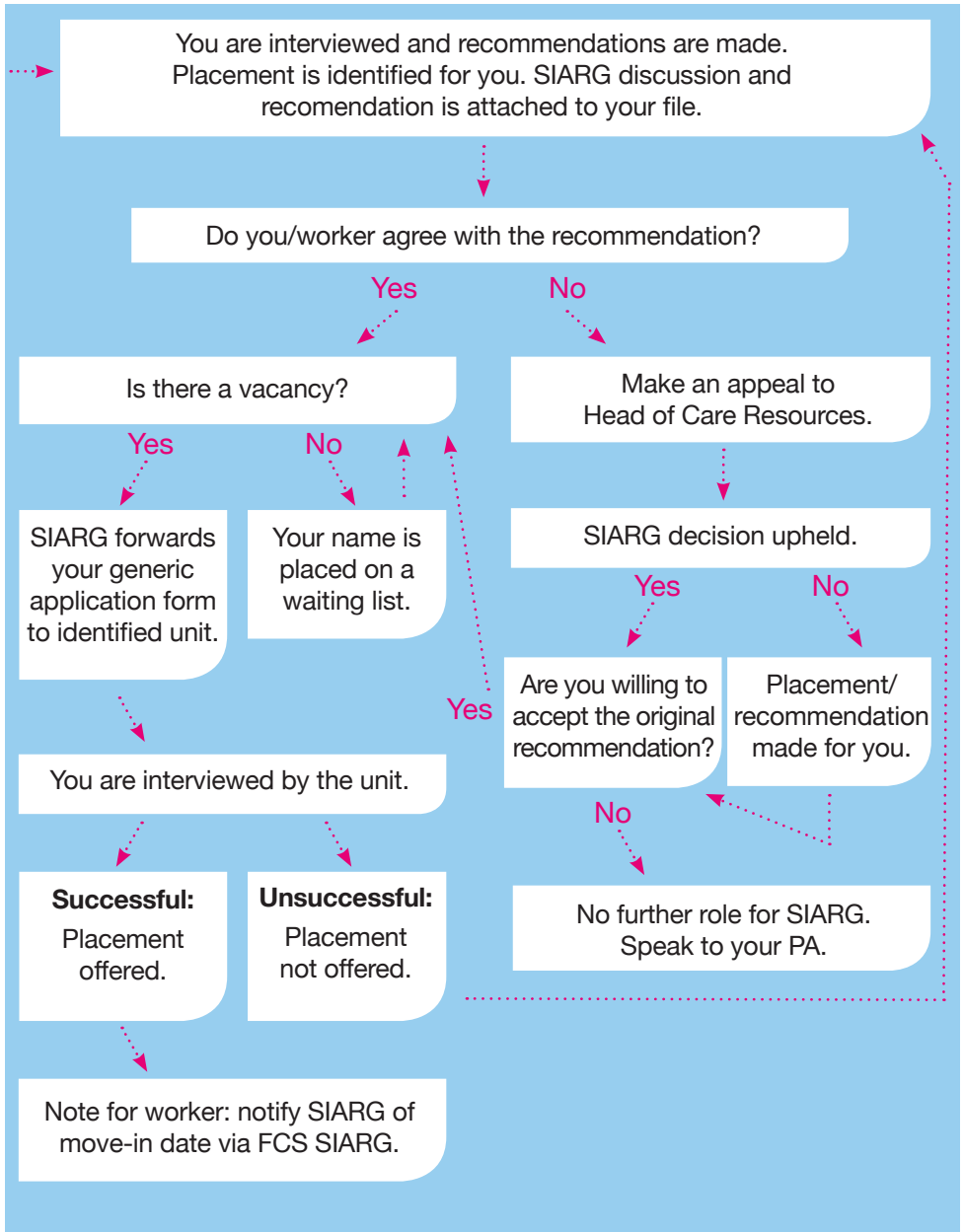
North Kensington

- **Dashwood House - Various units**  
(medium/high/intensive) - Notting Hill
- **Lyon House - Various units**  
(low) - North Kensington
- **Lorne Gardens - Various units**  
(low) - North Kensington
- **Wornington Road - Four units**  
(low/medium) - North Kensington

## Flowchart guide of the SIARG process









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