

THE REALITY OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Homelessness leaves people vulnerable and makes the simplest of daily tasks a challenge. Compared to the national average, Aylesbury Vale has 22% more young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Local charity Youth Concern has launched a report into youth homelessness in Aylesbury Vale. The report reveals the facts and statistics about youth homelessness and includes recommendations for Youth Concern's Nightstop Aylesbury service which provides emergency overnight accommodation for 16-25 years olds.

Key Findings

- In 2019 330 young people aged 16-24 identified themselves as homeless or at risk of homelessness. This represents a 66% increase on 2018 (199 young people).
- 50% of survey respondents would be very likely to use Nightstop Aylesbury in an accommodation emergency. However, 40% respondents were fearful of experiencing racism during their stay.
- Homeless young people's needs are greater than just accommodation. Needs include mental health support and access to education, training and employment. This support should be available and flexible. Youth Concern has over 42 years' experience of delivering this kind of support to vulnerable young people in Aylesbury.
- Helping a young person into suitable accommodation takes time.

The report findings led Youth Concern to re-evaluate its service. In 2022 Youth Concern will deliver on the following recommendations to support more homeless young people:

1. Strengthen partnerships with existing and potential local referral organisations including Buckinghamshire Council, Jobcentre Plus, other voluntary services, schools and colleges.
2. Recruit more Nightstop hosts in Aylesbury Vale, especially hosts of colour.
3. Increase the amount of time guests can stay with their hosts from 3 nights to a maximum of 4 weeks.
4. Explore supported lodgings for young people needing more than 4 weeks' accommodation.

Thoughts on the report from The Rt Hon Sir David Lidington

“What comes through strongly from the research is the need to build even stronger working relationships between Youth Concern, Buckinghamshire Council and other organisations. The challenge of homelessness among young people is real and complex. No one organisation and no single policy initiative will provide all the answers. It is through effective partnership working that the challenge can be met and overcome.”



Youth Concern aims to support all 16-25 year olds in Aylesbury Vale who are facing a homelessness crisis. To find out more or to become a Nightstop volunteer, please email nightstop@youthconcern.org.uk

To learn more about Youth Concern's work with vulnerable young people in Aylesbury Vale, including our supported accommodation project The Next Step, our Drop-in Centre, counselling service and fundraising, please email kate@youthconcern.org.uk

www.youthconcern.org.uk



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