

**97. Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People –
DoI review of entry onto public sector housing waiting lists**

The Hon. Member for Onchan (Mr Callister) to ask the Minister for Infrastructure:

Pursuant to the Select Committee Report on Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People, what work has been undertaken to review the regulations relating to the entry of care leavers and estranged young people onto public sector housing waiting lists and the number of points received by care leavers and estranged young people on public sector housing waiting lists?

The Minister for Infrastructure (Mr Baker): Recommendation 12 of the aforementioned report states:

That the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department of Infrastructure work together to review the regulations relating to the entry of care leavers and estranged young people onto public sector housing waiting lists; and the number of points received by care leavers and estranged young people on public sector housing waiting lists.

Following the Tynwald debate on the matter in October 2019, the recommendation was amended:

That the criteria around access to Public Sector Housing eligibility including the priority based system, service access pathway and structural factors of suitable available housing stock for care leavers and estranged young people be reviewed as part of the wider overarching strategy and that the need to effectively communicate this to accommodation providers and users must be addressed.

The Department has reviewed the Public Sector Housing (General Needs) (Allocation) Policy 2019 (the 'Regulations') as follows:

- There has always been the means for care leavers and estranged young people, where they are eligible, to access public sector housing waiting lists. At present this is applied through paragraph 7 of the Policy, which provides that:

7(1) The Department may issue guidance about the matters to be taken into account in determining (in particular) —

(d) the additional relationships of persons who may apply to a housing authority and be treated as joint applicants in exceptional circumstances

This includes, for example, a tenancy held in trust, by a carer or corporate parent for example, on behalf of the young care leaver. The particulars are included in the guidance documentation issued to all housing providers.

- Additional points are awarded for relevant criteria—and include, for example, additional pointing for the adequacy or standard of current accommodation, additional health/welfare requirements, etc. and these are awarded according to a scale of need ranging from 'low priority', 'medium priority' or 'high priority' depending on the severity of the situation.

The particulars are included in the Policy document 'Health, Welfare and Environmental Health pointing for public sector Housing Waiting Lists' where a minimum of 20 additional points are awarded; and this can be increased in line with the needs and personal circumstance.

The Council of Ministers' Social Policy and Children's Sub-Committee ('SPCC') has agreed to take forward the lead in overseeing delivery and monitoring of the various actions contained in the Report of the Select Committee on Accommodation for Vulnerable Young People 2018-19 [[PP No 2019/0088](#)]. The SPCC intends to report to Tynwald Court in November 2020 with a progress update.