

# We are Coram Housing Rights Ambassadors

*We have all experienced homelessness or housing issues. We want our voices to be heard and acted on so all homeless young people receive the advice, support and home they need to fulfil their potential.*



**We have identified 7 areas where action needs to be taken to improve support for homeless young people.**

## PREVENT



**Prevent young people becoming homeless in the first place**  
Prevent homelessness by providing more support to young people at school and to families before relationships break down.

*"There should be more support to stop family breakdown. Schools and social services should help more when there are potential issues, before they escalate."*

*"Make mediation available for families, to help with communication."*

## SUPPORT



**Support young people to build life skills**

Support young people to build life skills and maintain a tenancy, including support with budgeting, managing debt and paying bills.

*"Young people who are homeless often don't have networks around them."*

*"Young people need help with budgeting and managing money, to avoid getting into debt and rent arrears."*

## MONEY



### **Help young people who are struggling with the cost of living**

Homeless young people lack a financial safety net, yet they have lower entitlements to pay and benefits compared to older adults.

*"Don't discriminate against young people in the benefits system."*

## INFORM



### **Give homeless young people accurate and accessible advice and information**

Many young people do not know about their rights when they become homeless or where to get help.

*"There needs to be one place online you can go to for information about housing and homelessness. It needs to be easier to find."*

*"Put housing related advice in more public places that young people go."*

*"Lots of young people don't know where to go or who to turn to."*

## LISTEN



### **Listen to young people and be compassionate**

Young people are often not taken seriously or believed when presenting at councils. Many have experienced trauma and this is often not recognised or understood.

*"It can feel like people are not caring. They need compassion... to comprehend what someone else is going through."*

*"There needs to be understanding of young people's difficult family situations. Dedicated housing workers for young people would help."*

## ADVOCATE



### Help young people understand their rights and express their wishes and feelings

Too many homeless 16 and 17 year olds are never offered advocacy, despite a legal entitlement to it. Those over 18 may be adults, but many need someone independent to stand by their side, to help them understand the complicated housing system and in some cases speak on their behalf.

*"It's a lot to put your emotions to the side when talking to professionals. So an advocate can help by speaking for you."*

*"An advocate can explain your rights and go through what you need to know. They don't have obligations to the council. They just have to listen."*

*"Young people need someone to talk to – like a buddy – someone to confide in, who's there just for you."*

*"The council should make sure there is a designated worker to help deal with housing issues and explain how things work. It would mean young people will be able to stay informed and know what's going on."*

## HOME



### Give young people a safe and suitable place to live

Young people need safe and suitable accommodation that allows them to continue their education or employment.

*"We need homes that feel safe and secure. They need to take into account people's physical, mental and cultural needs."*

*"Don't put young people in adult hostels."*

Find out more  
about our work:



We support **#YouthHomelessChapter**, a UK wide movement fighting to end youth homelessness.

**We are Coram.**

**Better chances for  
children, now and forever.**



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## **About Coram's Housing Rights Ambassadors**

Coram's Ambassadors are 16-25 year olds with lived experience of homelessness or housing issues. They campaign locally and nationally to change policy and practice and empower their peers with knowledge of their rights through workshop delivery and content creation.