

## Chapter 6: Local authority support for children and families

More extensive information on Part III of the Children Act can be found in specialist texts on the Children Act 1989 such as Wise et al., *Children in Need: Local Authority Support for Children and Families* (Legal Action Group, 2014).

An influential report on the rising number of children in care was published in June 2018. The Care Crisis Review can be found at [www.frg.org.uk/images/Care\\_Crisis/CCR-FINAL.pdf](http://www.frg.org.uk/images/Care_Crisis/CCR-FINAL.pdf).

Advice for young people in care is provided by Coram Voice—a national organization offering advice, help, and advocacy to young people and care leavers, [www.coramvoice.org.uk](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk).

The limitations of s. 17 are made clear in a case commentary in E. Mitchell, '*R (LH and MM) v LB Lambeth*—the provision of services for disabled children' (2007) *CFLQ* 19(4): 496.

### Children in need and housing

D. Cowan (2004) *CFLQ* 16(3): 331. In a case commentary on the House of Lords case *R (G) v Barnet LBC*, discussed at the beginning of the chapter, Cowan considers Lambeth's policy, which survived the House of Lords' ruling, of offering accommodation only to children in need, without their family. He argues that these decisions make the general duty in s. 17(1) irrelevant; in addition, paradoxically, housing legislation gives greater protection to households with children than the Children Act 1989.

The following case provides a comprehensive exploration of s17 duties in respect of housing: REGINA (on the application of AM) and THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING, THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS [2015] EWHC 1004 (Admin). See also *The homeless child – local authority duties* [https://www.lag.org.uk/article/206549/the-homeless-child--ndash--local-authority-duties#:~:text=Zia%20Nabi%20and%20Marisa%20Cohen,their%20obligations%20to%20homeless%20children.&text=The%20Housing%20Act%20\(HA\)%201996,not%20intentionally%20homeless%20\(s193\)](https://www.lag.org.uk/article/206549/the-homeless-child--ndash--local-authority-duties#:~:text=Zia%20Nabi%20and%20Marisa%20Cohen,their%20obligations%20to%20homeless%20children.&text=The%20Housing%20Act%20(HA)%201996,not%20intentionally%20homeless%20(s193)).

The following guide is a comprehensive exploration of the services for migrant families under s. 17: Public Law Project, 'Social Services Support for Destitute Migrant Families: A guide to support under s 17 Children Act 1989' (August 2013; updated August 2014).

Coram Children's Legal Centre has also published a useful fact sheet on local authority support for migrant children: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Section-17-support-January2018-FINAL.pdf](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Section-17-support-January2018-FINAL.pdf)