



# Chloe's Story

## 4 years old

Chloe has gone to live with her gran on a legal guardianship basis, because her mum and dad are both alcoholics.

## 13 years old

Chloe has begun to rebel against her gran's rules.

## 14 years old

Chloe has gone back to live with her dad, but he is a functioning alcoholic and her mum is now in prison. The move has been sanctioned by social care, who have a 'she's voting with her feet, what else can we do?' attitude.

Chloe is being neglected. Her dad is providing food and shelter, but no emotional support and no boundaries. Chloe is starting to go missing at least twice a week, but her dad has not been reporting it to the police.

Chloe has been excluded from mainstream school and has been referred into a college placement, but her attendance is poor. Gran continues to be loving and supportive.

## 16 years old

Chloe hangs out with a peer group who regularly drink and smoke cannabis, leading to petty crime issues. She was recently arrested for anti-social behaviour.

Chloe is associating with other young people who go missing and stay over at risky adult addresses. There is a major concern about Chloe hanging around with a woman in her twenties. But the police can't issue a 'harbouring notice' because Chloe is 16.

Chloe's dad is in supported accommodation and because of Chloe's behaviour, there is a risk of him losing his current address. The response from social care is inadequate. There is a sense that the social worker has just been waiting until she can transfer Chloe to the 16-plus team and progress her to 'independent' living.

Chloe wants her own accommodation, which has led to differing views from social care and housing: neither are taking ownership and actually providing support.

If Chloe gets her own flat and is supported to live independently, there are real questions about the risks she may face as an at-risk 16-year-old.

Chloe is wrongly being treated as an adult. She is vulnerable and needs support in the crucial transition between childhood and adulthood.