

Myth busting about Children's Services

- ▶ Children's Services do not own or manage accommodation for families.
- ▶ Children's Services do not want to remove children from their families, if parents are able to meet the needs of their children and keep them safe.
- ▶ Children's Services' responsibility is towards children.



Useful Support Numbers

Thriving Families

Accessed through Customer Services 0300 123 4043

Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111 444

Crisis

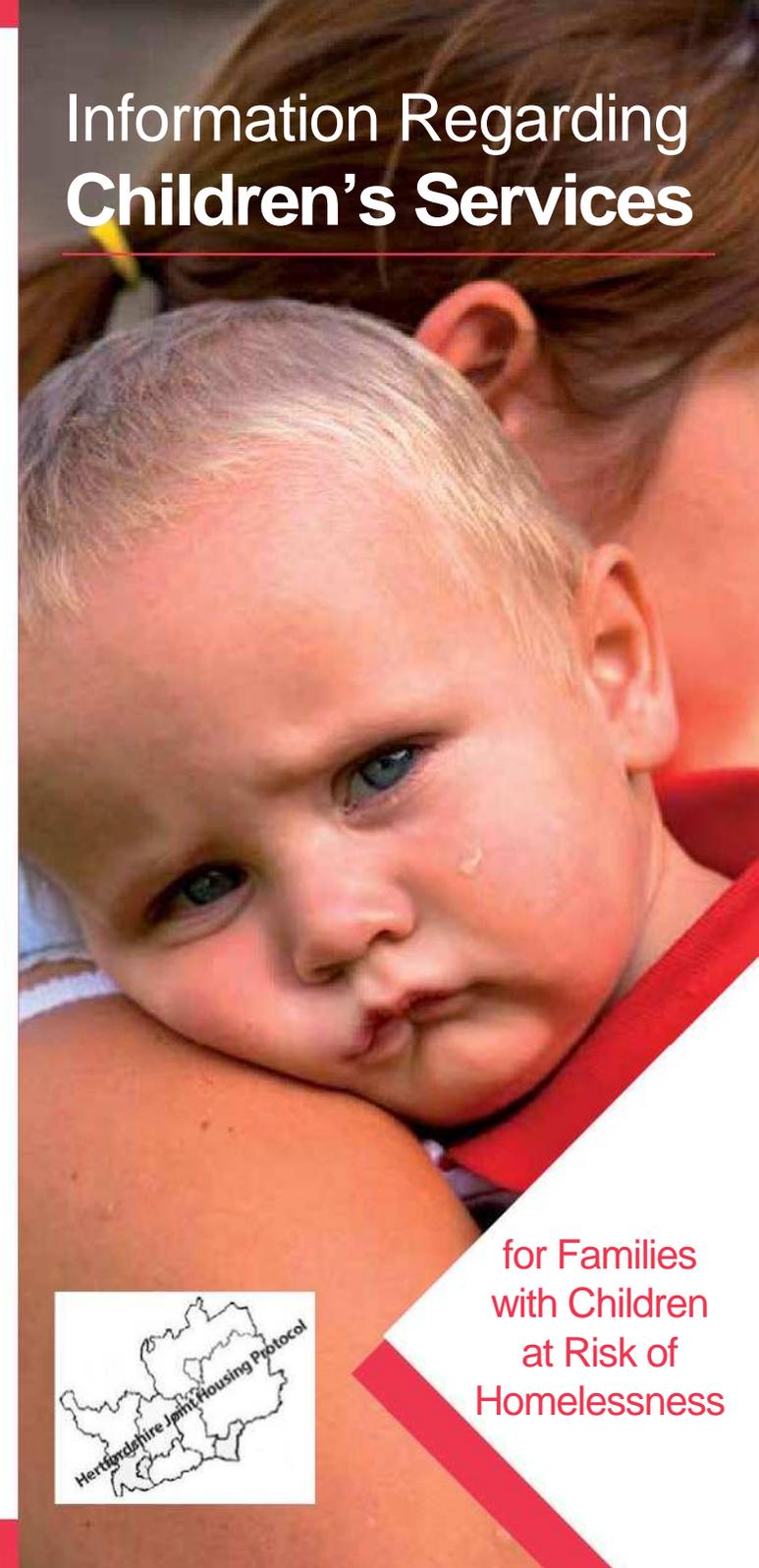
0844 251 0111

Shelter

0808 800 4444 or 020 7505 2000
www.shelter.org.uk



Information Regarding Children's Services



for Families
with Children
at Risk of
Homelessness

Children's Services

Children's Services may have a duty to assess families with children who are at risk of homelessness.



What can Children's Services do to assist?

- ▶ Children's Services will complete an assessment of your child/ren's needs and their Human Rights.
- ▶ Children's Services will provide advice, support and identify services which may assist you in meeting your child/ren's needs.
- ▶ Children's Services will assess any risks your child/ren may be experiencing.

Depending on the outcome of this assessment, other services may be offered to you and your family.



What do Children's Services need to know to complete an assessment?

- ▶ Children's Services will need to know your current financial circumstances, including any income from employment, benefits, family and friends and your outgoings.
- ▶ Children's Services will need to know how your current circumstances arose, and how you have met your children's needs in the past.
- ▶ Children's Services will ask for your consent to gather information from other agencies and support networks, including your extended family and friends.
- ▶ Children's Services will discuss with you your child/ren's needs, how you as their parents are meeting those needs, and what social and environmental issues are impacting on your family.
- ▶ Children's Services will speak to your child/ren as part of the assessment to understand their wishes, feelings and experience of family life.

Failure to comply with supplying or consenting to the information needed to complete an assessment can impact on Children's Services duty and options available to Children's Services to assist you.