

Agreement

The purpose of the 'Staying Put' scheme is to enable young people who have reached 18 years, and are no longer 'looked after' by the local authority, to continue to live with their former foster carer, up to the age of 20 years; this could be longer if an informal arrangement is agreed between them. Reaching 18 years marks a legal change but doesn't have to mean everything changes at once.

By 'Staying Put', the young person commits to being in education/training or to establish themselves in working life with support from carers whom they know and trust. Carers commit to extend their placement, and provide a setting, in which the young person can continue to develop skills for independent living, whilst also giving the young person the opportunity to explore for themselves what it means to be a young adult.

The principle which underpins the 'Staying Put' scheme is to enable young people leaving care to be given a more gradual transition into independence. This stage marks a shift in the previous relationship between the carer and young person, as it would do for any young person setting out into adult life.

When both the carer and young person are clear about what is expected of one another, and committed to making things work, in a respectful way, THE BEST OUTCOMES can be achieved.

The young person (YP) will continue to have a Pathway Plan review at least every 6 months, and will have a Social/Support worker who meets with the young person every 8 weeks. **Financial Arrangements**-please see next page:

STAYING PUT

<p>Rent</p>	<p>£65.00 per week</p>	<p>To be applied for from Housing Benefit or paid by the YP if working. Housing Benefit will assess earnings, on a sliding scale; the YP will need to pay any shortfall, to their carer. It may be that the YP's level of earnings means they are responsible for paying all their rent. If assessed to do so £65.00 is the maximum rent they will pay</p>
<p>Contribution from the young person's income/benefits</p>	<p>£13 per week</p>	<p>YP to pay to their carer towards costs e.g. food</p>
<p>Payment to Family Placement Team Carers And Independent Foster Carers</p>	<p>See the Staying Put policy for details of payments</p> <p>It is the Carer's responsibility to check if payment will be assessed as taxable income</p>	<p>For Family Placement Team Carers the amount reduces every 6mths until the end of 2 years. Thereafter it is for the carer and YP to agree an informal arrangement if they so wish.</p> <p>For Independent Foster Carers, payment will be made for support costs, through their agency, for the YP's year 13, up to the end of August the same year. Then, if the YP continues to 'stay put', carers will be paid at stage 2 of the 'Staying Put' policy.</p>
<p>Payments to young person from CIC&MOT</p>	<p>The YP will receive annual allowances for clothing (reducing) and at Xmas/Festival/Birthday time</p>	<p>The YP is responsible for her/his own expenses, incl. phone credit, haircuts, clothing, toiletries, leisure, travel etc.</p>

Moving on

Moving on to independent living will ideally be a planned process, once the young person feels prepared to do so, and housing provision or supported lodgings have been identified.

Although the young person has the right to leave the 'Staying Put' scheme, at any time, a notice period of 28 days' notice should be given by the young person or the carer.

Circumstances may arise which result in the young person being asked to leave the 'Staying Put' scheme before the planned time. Issues should be discussed at reviews/meetings with warnings given before any notice is issued. Matters could be about:

- Young person's failure to keep to their financial commitment
- Young person not making any efforts to be in Education, Employment, Training
- A repeated breach of the house rules

In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for the placement to end more quickly i.e. if there has been serious misconduct or safeguarding issue.

Payment will cease when the young person moves on.

If the young person needs to leave the placement, and there is no alternative accommodation, they will need to present as homeless, to the BANES Housing Options Team.

It is recommended a young person register with the Council's **Homesearch Scheme**. This means time is accrued on the register while the young person is 'staying put' with their carer.

Complaints policy

If the young person is not happy with the service provided or wants to make a complaint he/she should contact their Social / Support Worker who will support them through the process which may mean setting up a meeting to help resolve the issue(s).

The Agreement

I *young person* make a commitment to:

- Live within the carers home a minimum of 4 consecutive days per week and to be in education, training or employment during my time on the scheme.
- To live according to the rules of the house and this agreement
- To be working on my independence skills for myself, and alongside my carers
- To keep to my financial commitment

I/we/carers make a commitment to:

- Provide a safe and supportive environment where the priority will be to equip the young person with skills to enable them to achieve independence.
- We will be encouraging, consistent and supportive, whilst enabling the young person to be free to develop life experiences for themselves
- To provide a key for the young person, which the young person will replace if lost

Signed: (Young person)

Signed: (Carer)

Signed: (Witness)

Date:

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Permission..... *Young person*..... gives permission for Children's Services representatives and my carer to discuss my housing benefit application with the housing benefit department in order for my claim to be processed efficiently.

Signed: (Young person)

Date.....

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