

Title/Status-	GUIDANCE- Supported Lodgings Young People's Guide
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Leicestershire Procedure for GUIDANCE- Supported Lodgings Young People's Guide

Applies to- Children in particular circumstances

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What is Supported Lodgings?

Supported Lodgings is accommodation provided in the home of an approved person who is known as a host. They offer a room to a young person, which is in a family home, providing secure and secure and stable accommodation for 16 – 21 year olds, or through to 25 if they are in full time education or training.

Supported Lodgings is suitable for those young people who are not quite ready to live on their own or be fully independent just yet. Your host(s) will be able to help with whatever a young person needs, that might be problem solving, relationship building, budgeting, cooking, or just needing someone to be a good role model.

Some young people move into supported lodgings from a residential placement or from foster care, and their hosts provide valuable support, they can ensure you have all the skills you need to progress successfully towards independence as a young adult.

In Supported Lodgings, you will have your own bedroom which will have all the necessary essentials such as a bed and wardrobe, to make sure you feel comfortable and settled in your home. You will have your own front door key, that you will need to look after, and you can spend as much or as little time with your hosts as you want to.

Supported Lodgings hosts will provide:

A room in a family home where you can feel safe and supported where you can develop all of the skills you need to live independently.

They will have the skills to support you to identify and access anything you need, in a manner which helps you to learn how to do this independently in the future.

Hosts will be able to give you advice, guidance and support in developing your independence skills.



They will also support you to achieve your potential, whatever that might look like for you, in your education, training, and employment. A host will encourage you to help to achieve your goals and aspirations.

Hosts can support you to make and attend health appointments if you need them to, such as with the GP, opticians, and dentist. Hosts will also be mindful of your wellbeing and support you to access mental health support, alongside involved professionals, if you think that would be helpful for you.

Your host will make sure you have three meals a day that they provide, you will be encouraged to join in the shopping and cooking, because that will be helpful for you in the future.

They will also be there for emotional support, and they will be there for you if you have any worries, concerns, questions or need any support or advice with anything in your life.

Your host will work alongside your social worker, your Personal Advisor (PA), and all of the other professionals who are involved in your life, to promote your needs and development. You will continue to have support from your social worker until you are 18 years of age, and support from your PA until you are 21 years of age, although you can access a service at any time in the future at the same time.

Everyone will ensure that your religion, beliefs and identity are respected, including your host(s).

What will be expected of you?

- You can see a profile of your host before you meet them, and you can visit them before you decide if this is going to be the right place for you. You will also have the opportunity to talk about what the house rules are, which will include expectations around behaviours, and the way you all live together in your home.
- You need to be in education, training or employment, or working towards that. Your hosts, social worker or PA, and the Virtual School will support you with that.
- There is a zero tolerance policy towards the use of drugs and alcohol, as well as aggression or threatening behaviours.
- We expect everyone to treat each other with respect.
- You need to want to engage with your host(s), as well as the professionals involved in your life, because they are all there to support you.

- You need to want to engage in working towards independence. This will include learning to cook, budget, do your own laundry and all of the other things that will help you to look after yourself when you need to. Your PA will have an ASDAN workbook, which is a resource you can use to evidence your independence skills.
- You do need keep your room reasonably clean and comfortable, just so that it is hygienic for you to live in. Your host(s) won't go into your room because that is your space, unless they are worried. If anyone does think there is a need to go into your room, they will let you know, unless there is a safety issues.
- You are expected to be in your placement four nights per week. You can have visitors at the home, such as your friends or family, that just needs to be agreed with your host(s).
- Your host will give you their mobile number, and you will need to give them there, so that you can keep in touch if you are out and about. This is just to ensure that you are safe and well and that your host(s) know where you are.
- You are expected to buy your own toiletries and clothes, either out of your allowance, or universal credit (see section below on what you are entitled to). If you are working and earning more than £90 per week, you will need to contribute £25 towards your board.

Are you eligible?

You will need to be aged 16 – 21, 25 if you are in full time education or training, including an apprenticeship.

Young people in supported lodgings need to be in education, training or employment, or seeking to be. If for some reason your circumstances change in terms of your education or employment, you will be supported by your host, social worker, and PA to find alternative education, training, or work.

You will need to be someone who is open to accepting advice and support, as well as to respect the house rules (see below).

What are you entitled too?

Your social worker or PA will visit you, to support you, and they will usually see you on your own. You can also contact them by phone, email or text.

If you are under 18, you will get a personal allowance from Children and Family Services. If you are over 18 years of age, and you are not in employment, you are expected to claim Universal Credit. You will be supported by your Host and PA to claim this.



Positivity



Trust and respect



Flexibility



Openness and transparency

Your host has their own social worker, who you can talk to if you want to, with or without them being present.

Until you are 18, your review meetings will continue, chaired by an independent reviewing officer (IRO). Those meetings will review your pathway plan, which should cover all of the things that are important to you. You can contact your social worker, PA or IRO and ask for your review to be brought forward if you have any concerns relating to your own safety or welfare.

Your rights:

The Children's Rights Service is available to young people who are currently in care, or who have been looked after by the Local Authority. A Children's Rights Officer is someone who works for Leicestershire County Council, but they are not a social worker or a PA, and their role is to ensure young people are understood, happy and safe.

Contact information:

Phone: 0116 305 6302

Mobile: 07789 081 528

Email childrensrights@leics.gov.uk

The Children's Rights Service can support young people to make a complaint if they wish to, about any aspect of their lives, as well as providing advocacy independent of the social work teams.

Leicestershire County Council also has a complaints service. The [complaints form](#) is available online.

Contact information:

Phone: 0116 232 3232

Address: Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8RB



The Children and Young People's Commissioner is Dame Rachel de Souza. Her job is to help children and young people understand their rights and to make sure those rights are respected. The advice is impartial and free.

Contact information:



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Phone: 0800 528 0731

Email: help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk