

Supported lodgings

Briefing for employees

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Supported Lodgings is an accommodation framework which helps young people leaving care to move into adulthood in a safe and nurturing environment. The focus of Supported Lodgings is on helping the young person to maximise their Education, Employment and Training opportunities, as well as promoting them to build on their emotional resilience and life skills before moving on to living independently. From October 2023, Supported Lodgings services are regulated and inspected by Ofsted.

Supported Lodgings ensures that the young person can experience move into adulthood in a supportive home and be helped to become the best version of themselves!

Supported Lodgings is where a young person leaving care or otherwise eligible, can rent a room from a Supported Lodgings Provider. Our Supported Lodging providers live onsite but tend to be engaged in their own employment and routines, including occasional holidays and weekends away. Our providers enjoy the flexibility of Supported Lodgings

and often experience the same rewards as Fostering.

Each young person requires a different level of support. For example, some young people may need more support, care and nurture than others, whereas other young people may be fully independent and wish for minimal involvement from their Supported Lodging providers.

As a young person achieves adulthood on their 18th birthday several significant legal and financial changes occur. Children's services no longer have, or share, parental or financial responsibility for the young person. Supported Lodgings is an independent arrangement between the young person and the Provider facilitated by Children's services.

There are **3 financial elements** for providers of Supported Lodgings:

i) Rent paid by the young person, usually via Universal credit.

Depending on a young person's budgeting ability, provision may be made for the rent to be paid directly to the provider. Universal Credit, and therefore rent, is paid in arrears.

A one off payment equivalent to 4 weeks' rent can be paid to offset the processing period (For those in the care of the Local Authority, or those seeking asylum, Children's Services are responsible for rent).

ii) Contribution to household bills from the young person's income

iii) Fee from Children's services

Before the young person moves in a Licence Agreement and a Support Plan are drawn up.

A Licence Agreement is a formal agreement between the Provider and the young person, evidencing the rental arrangement and including ground rules. Both parties sign the licence agreement.

A young person friendly version of the license agreement will explain the conditions and expectations within their home. This guide will be mindful of the word "eviction" and what this may look like for that young person being mindful of rejection. This will be a less formal, young person friendly explanation which explains technical jargon in a caring way.

A Support Plan records arrangements between the young person, Staying Put provider, Personal Adviser, Social Worker and Staying Put worker where the young

person will be able to identify the support they will need and from whom to gain the necessary life skills ready for independence. This will be reviewed in 1 month, 3 months and thereafter at 6 monthly intervals. Life skills include budgeting, including costs of living, cooking including a healthy diet, how to manage their laundry, personal care, organising their correspondence, and using public transport.

Supported Lodgings team will support the Provider through monthly contact. Training and peer support is provided.

The Personal Adviser statutory commitment is to review the pathway plan with the young persons and significant others at least every 6 months and contact the young person at least every 8 weeks.

Supported Lodgings are a form of Supported Accommodation and are regulated and inspected by Ofsted.

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