



Children and Young People in Care Housing Support Service

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Our aim:

The Housing Support Service will offer you all the support and guidance you need to live independently and hopefully take on a tenancy at the age of 18.

The support we offer will include:

- Setting Up Home
- Keeping yourself safe.
- Support with Personal, Emotional and Mental Health
- Support and guidance in Self Care Skills
- Support and guidance in preparation for independent living (Support to develop general household skills)
- Budgeting and Money Management
- Managing a tenancy
- Support to access education, work placements, employment, and social activities
- Motivation and Taking Responsibility
- Social Networks and Relationships
- ASDAN Accreditation – Living Independently



Referral Process:

Your social worker or Young Person's Advisor will hold discussions with you around having a short stay in one of our two training flats. You can do this for anything from 3 days up to 2 weeks and this will give you the opportunity to experience independence and to understand the skills you need to live independently.

A planning meeting is arranged with your social worker, YPA and housing support worker prior to you going into the training flat. This will discuss what the expectations are and what we hope to support you with. Throughout your stay, one of our Housing Support workers will visit you daily and support you throughout your experience, carrying out an independence assessment, focusing on areas of independence identified in your initial referral.

At the end of the stay, our housing support worker will sit down with you and your social worker and look at how you felt your stay went and to look at how well you did, or if there are any areas where you might need to develop further. We may recommend another stay or we may feel that you are ready for the next step.



The Next steps: Once you have been in the training flat and it has been agreed that you are ready for the next step, we will work with you and your social worker to look at a move into a semi-supported flat within the city. Once we have identified a suitable property, we will arrange for you to meet your new housing support worker and go and view your potential new home.

If you are happy with the location and the flat, we will agree, with you, your carers and your social worker a move in date. During this time, your YPA and your housing support worker will support you to purchase all that you need to set up your home. This will be purchased out of your Setting Up Home Grant.



Move in day:

On move in day, your housing support worker will meet with you and either your social worker or YPA to support you to move in, unpack.

During this time we will also:

- Ask you to sign a support agreement with your housing support worker
- Complete an INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT PLAN (ISP). This will provide a structured plan of support you will receive and behaviour expectations whilst living in the flat.
- Health and safety inspection will be carried out with you throughout the flat
- Utility accounts (gas, electric and water) set up and a payment plan arranged.
- Basic household items purchased

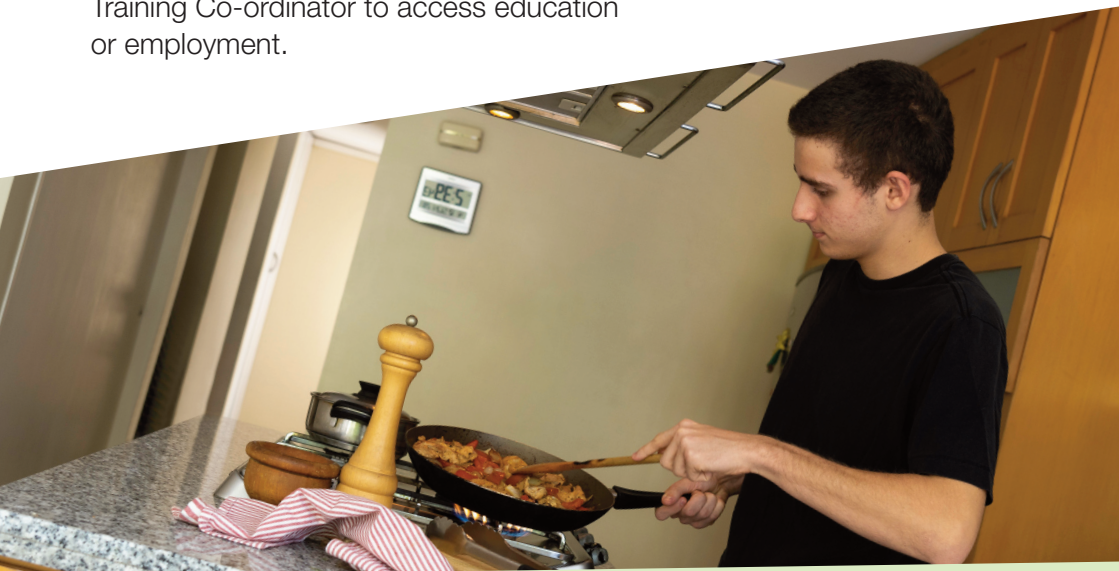
After move in:

We will agree with you and your social worker, the level of support that you require. We can offer up to 30 hours per week. We normally start with high support to ensure that you are settled and are working with us to progress. We can reduce this once we feel that you are managing your tenancy well and consistently.

We work 7 days per week, and during the evening, so we can ensure that our support visits fit in with your education/lifestyle. We will show you how to access local transport networks and help you familiarise yourself with your local community.

We will work through your support plan, also supporting you to complete an ASDAN Short Course Accreditation – Living Independently, which is instrumental in evidencing your progression. Along with your social worker/Young Person's Advisor, we will meet every four weeks to look at what has gone well during the month. Also highlighting what areas, we will cover and support you over the next four weeks.

We will also support you, along with our Education, Employment and Training Co-ordinator to access education or employment.



Move on:

Once you have reached 18, and when we are all in agreement that you have evidenced that you can manage living independently, we can look to start the next steps. You have two choices; you can remain living in the property or you can look to bid on another property within Wolverhampton. Your housing support worker and YPA will complete a move on evidence grid, advising Wolverhampton Homes that you are ready for the next step. This will need to include the evidence that you have completed your ASDAN Accreditation. You will also need to complete a Homes in the City application and your housing support worker will help you with this. Once your application has been accepted, you can either sign for your tenancy or start bidding, as a priority application for a one bedroomed flat in an area of your choice.

We will support you throughout your journey and also ensure that you are settled if you are moving into a new flat.



Complaints

We are hope that you are happy with our service, but if something isn't right and you wish to make an informal or formal complaint in relation to the support and service provided by the Housing Support Team, you may intimate this to the Supported Accommodation Manager. The complaints leaflet shall be made available on request.



Advocacy

The **Children's Society Black Country Advocacy Service** is an independent, confidential service in Sandwell, Wolverhampton, and Walsall. It's for children and young people who are in care, leaving care, or who have a social worker.

An advocate is a person who can help you say if you don't like something or if you don't agree with a decision that affects your life. Advocates are independent and confidential – they don't work for the council or children's services, and they will not tell anyone what you say to them without your agreement (unless there is something that might cause harm to you or someone else)

*For referrals to the **BCA Service***

email: **BCA.referral@childrenssociety.org.uk**

Telephone: **0808 169 9954**

Website: **<https://forms.office.com/r/Ts4KV9T2qD>**

Get in touch
We'd love to hear from you...

You can get this information in large print,
braille, audio or in another language
by calling 01902 551155 or emailing
translations@wolverhampton.gov.uk

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