



Children and Young People in Care - Supported Lodgings Scheme

Information for Young People



Welcome!

We hope that you will be happy with your home.

This booklet outlines the key things that you need to know, so that you can make informed decisions about your new home.

Please feel free to contact our Service if you feel that there is something you are unsure of, or if you need further clarification.

You can contact us on **07392137570** or email us at **supportedlodgings@wolverhampton.gov.uk**

What is Supported Lodgings?

Our Supported Lodgings Service aims to offer young people aged between 16 to 21 and who have been in care or are leaving care of the Local Authority, semi-independent accommodation in a shared property with a Supported Lodgings Host.

A Supported Lodgings Host has a distinct role where they provide the opportunity for young people to live in a safe, caring and homely environment and provide support, advice and guidance to enable them to live independently.

Service Aim

Young people aged 16-21 who have previously been in care will have support from the Supported Lodgings Service that enables them to manage the transition to living independently by way of providing a semi-independent shared accommodation which will enable the Young Person to prepare for managing their own tenancy.



Confidentiality

The Supported Lodgings Service respects confidentiality. Prior to any information being shared about you, you will be asked to sign an information sharing agreement.

Your confidentiality will only be breached if by not passing on information it could be detrimental to you/or another third party (e.g. serious risk to another person's health and wellbeing) or if there is a requirement by legislation framework (e.g. the police require to know your whereabouts).

Who Offers Supported Lodgings?

People who offer Supported Lodgings are individuals or families who have a spare room. Wolverhampton Children's services sub-contracts Supported Lodgings Host, however they are not social workers or residential workers.

The most important aspect is that people providing Supported Lodgings are willing to offer you some support and help. This help will depend on your own needs and what the Supported Lodgings Host is able to offer you.

They have been specially selected and trained to provide you with the space and support that will enable you to develop your own independent living skills. You will have the opportunity to purchase and prepare your own meals and generally you will have access to most of the facilities in the house.



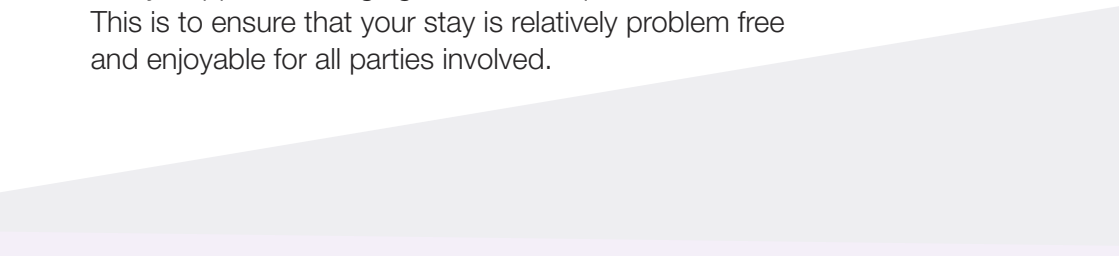
Home Agreement

This will be a contract between you, the Supported Lodgings Host, and the Supported Lodgings Services and will include the roles, responsibilities and expectations during your stay. The contract will also include details such as financial responsibilities, young person's plan, contact details etc. Each party will receive and be required to sign the completed Supported Lodgings Agreement.



Boundaries at Home

Every Supported Lodgings Home is required to have boundaries. This is to ensure that your stay is relatively problem free and enjoyable for all parties involved.



Boundaries are agreed and put in place and a young person is encouraged to adhere to them to become a responsible and respected resident. These qualities will stand a young person in good stead when applying in the future for a tenancy for their own home.

The agreed boundaries will form part of your individual young person's plan that you will be asked to follow while in this Supported Lodgings Home. Your Young Person's Plan aims to ensure that your needs are being addressed and is designed to enable you to become independent.



What are the Boundaries?

- Return times after time out of house.
- Suggested time you must be out of bed / up / organised / dressed
- If you will be home later than arranged, then you should contact the Host and let them know, rather than not returning at all. What is the latest time that you should call?
- Noise level in the house – is there a time that stereos / TV's / musical instruments should be turned down/off?
- Friends and visitors to the house. Is there a maximum number, should they leave at specific time's etc?
- Are you required to ask permission or advise the Host for visitors to visit / and when they can visit?
- Are visitors allowed in the Host's absence?
- Are there any people who you or Children and Young People in Care Service do not want visiting this address?
- Your domestic responsibilities e.g. keeping own room tidy, washing beds, linen, emptying bins, dusting and vacuuming, ironing, etc?

- Will meals be provided or will you prepare/cook your own and with what support? (frequency of arranged support and provision e.g. menu planning, shopping, hygiene, etc)
- Use of laundry facilities – how often/who does what, etc? (Who is responsible for purchasing powder and softener?).
- Rules re smoking within the house.
- Are you allowed to keep any pets within the accommodation and if so, what restrictions apply?
- There should be an inventory / inspection of items provided within your accommodation, which you are required to sign?
- What are the arrangements in respect of breakage's and damage to the property and furnishings?

Reviews

Reviews should be kept as informal as possible. Every opportunity should be given to you and the Host to feel that you have an element of control within this process.

An initial Review should be called within an appropriate period after you move in, in accordance with the needs of both you and the host, i.e. within four weeks. If all is working well, then subsequent Reviews should be called every 4 to 6 weeks or more frequent if required. You, your Host, Social Worker and the Supported Lodgings coordinator should attend Reviews. When there are particular difficulties within the Supported Lodgings Home, the Supported Accommodation Manager may attend.

At times of difficulty, an emergency Review should be held within 5 working days. When planned, a Closing Review must be held at least one week prior to your departure.

Rights and Responsibilities for Young People

Everyone has rights and responsibilities no matter where you are or what you are doing in life.

Young People, Hosts and the Supported Lodgings Service as a whole have to take responsibility for their own actions and treat others with respect. This will make living together more pleasant.



Young Persons Rights

Whilst accessing the Supported Lodgings Service and/or Supported Lodgings Home, you will have the right to...

- Be given information that you understand in writing and in discussions with your Host, your allocated Social Worker and/or YPA about the Supported Lodgings Service.
- Be involved when compiling and have access to a Support Plan that is right for you and meets your needs for preparation for independence.
- Receive a confidential service and have the bounds of confidentiality explained to you.
- Read the information that is written about you (you have the legal right to access information from your files, although there may be circumstances where this may not be possible).
- Be treated fairly.
- Be treated with respect by Hosts and members of the Supported Lodgings Service.
- Feel safe and free from abuse and punishment.
- Have concerns listened to, taken seriously and dealt with quickly.
- Complain if you think you have been unfairly treated or if you do not feel you have any of the above rights.

Young Persons Responsibilities

Whilst you are living with your Host, you are required to meet your responsibilities.

- To make contributions towards your living costs and keep receipts as proof of payment.
- Attend any appointments with the Host and/or Social Workers and make yourself available to the Hosts to undertake the Support Plan to evidence your progression towards independent living.
- Use the help of the Host(s)
- Advise those supporting you of any difficulties encountered.
- You are responsible for your visitor's behaviour and the consequences of irresponsible behaviour.
- Give the Hosts AND the Support Worker seven days' notice in writing if you no longer want to live there.

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No Supported Lodgings Home should be used for ordering mail order catalogues, obtaining loans, store cards etc.

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Insurance

You are responsible for insuring your own possessions as required.

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Policy on illegal substances

NO ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES WILL BE ALLOWED IN ANY SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOME.



Policy on Medication

As a young adult you will be expected to look after your own prescribed and over the counter medication i.e. paracetamol and self-medicate.

An alternative arrangement can be made under special circumstances and should be discussed with the Host prior to the Supported Lodgings home.

Planned Endings

The Supported Lodgings Service aims for you to move on in a planned way and when you are ready for independence. Alternative accommodation should already be identified in the appropriate move on process.

Unplanned Endings

The Supported Lodgings Service recognises that there may, be situations where it is necessary for you to leave with immediate effect e.g. inappropriate behaviour, personal circumstances.

Where this happens unexpectedly, and cannot be resumed, you will be required to be moved to alternative accommodation immediately.

A Supported Lodgings Home Review would then proceed as soon as possible and attended by all those relevant



Struggling to cope

The Home Agreement, which is completed prior to you moving in, is an important document. Should a situation occur where you or your host are struggling to manage, discussions will take place between you, your Host, Social Worker and /or YPA. If the Supported Lodgings Service determines that further resolutions are required, the following action will be undertaken:

- One Verbal Notification
- Two Written Notifications

If a third discussion is required or a serious incident occurs whereby your host feels that they can no longer offer you somewhere to live, we will give you 28 days notice and support you to leave.

The Supported Accommodation Manager will hold all the formal discussions and make any final decisions in discussion with your Social Worker or Young Persons Advisor.

Termination / Notice to Quit

(Supported Lodgings Providers)

If your Host decides that they can no longer offer you somewhere to live, the Host is requested to provide the Supported Lodgings Service and/or the Supported Accommodation Manager with a minimum of 28 days' notice in writing.

Complaints

If you wish to make an informal or formal complaint in relation to the service provided by the Supported Lodgings Service, you may intimate this to the Supported Accommodation Manager. The complaints leaflet shall be made available on request.

If a Host receives a complaint from you or a third party this must be intimated to the Host within 24 hours of receipt of the complaint. Thereafter the Host may carry out any investigation it deems necessary.

Advocacy

Should you wish for someone to advocate on your behalf, you can contact **The Children's Society Black Country Advocacy service**.

Telephone: **0808 169 9954**

Website: **www.childrengssociety.org.uk**

Emails: **BCA.Referral@childrengssociety.org.uk**
or **Kulvinder.dhillon@childrengssociety.org.uk**

If you are unable to access advocacy support from this service please contact **Always Heard** on **0808 800 5792** – we will make sure you get an advocate

Get in touch

We'd love to hear from you...

If you would like to find out more about becoming a host, please email:

supportedlodgings@wolverhampton.gov.uk

or visit:

www.fosteringforwolverhampton.com
/supported-lodgings

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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