

STAYING PUT –Information for Providers

What is staying Put “?

The Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers 2010 (regulations and guidance) require every local authority to have a “Staying Put “Policy.

Staying Put allows young people to remain living with their former foster carers beyond their 18th birthday. This enables them to make a gradual transition to adulthood and independent living and ensures that they do not experience a sudden disruption to their living arrangements or education. There are three types of arrangement

What is expected of me?

There will be a Staying Put agreement between you and the young person as the young person becomes an excluded licensee* lodging in the home.

This does not mean that the young person will be treated any differently than they were as a fostered child but the different status should be acknowledged.

Some young people who Stay Put may need help with cooking, shopping, managing money and living skills. They may need your support to maintain education or employment but most of all they will need your understanding and friendship.

The accommodation should be of adequate standard and you should be willing to partake in annual Health and Safety Checks.

All adults in the household will have regular Criminal Record Bureau checks.

*** An `excluded licensee` has very few tenancy rights making it easy for them to be evicted. For more information visit www.shelter.org.uk**

What will the payments be?

You will receive a support allowance from the Leaving Care Team. This is the fostering rate for 16 and 17 year olds minus clothing and pocket money and the young person’s contribution. In addition to the support allowance, rent costs are expected to be paid either by the young person from wages or by claiming benefits. The young person is also expected to make a weekly contribution of £30.00 for heating, lighting and food.

The Leaving Care Worker will give advice and guidance on fixing a suitable rent. They will also visit to draw up an agreement with the young person and help with claiming benefits if necessary.

Young people may be required to make relevant benefit claims or use wages to pay for their rent, food and utilities.

What is the procedure to become a Staying Put Provider?

Planning for Staying Put should begin as soon as possible after the young person's 16th birthday. This early planning will ensure that you have all the information you need and that alternative arrangements can be made for a young person's accommodation once they reach 18 if you do not feel able to provide a Staying Put arrangement.

Once it has been agreed that the young person can remain on a Staying Put arrangement the Social Worker will inform the Leaving Care Manager of the request in writing for approval.

Prior to the young person transferring to a Staying Put arrangement at 18 years, an agreement will be completed with all parties present and the support required will be assessed.

Health and Safety Checks may be carried out if necessary.

What else do I need to know about being a "Staying Put" Provider?

We advise that you inform your mortgage provider or landlord that you will be continuing to support a former foster child as a young adult under a Staying Put arrangement.

Rent arrears or damage – Liability rests with the young person not the Leaving Care Department.

Insurance Liability /Taxation /Benefit Issues –Are the responsibility of the provider who should get advice from their household insurers, Inland Revenue or benefit office.

Renting a room may be considered as income.

Will I get Support?

The Leaving Care Team will offer regular support.

If you require any more information or a copy of the full policy and procedure guidance issued to social workers about Staying Put ,or would like this leaflet in a different language or format please contact us:-

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Children's
Social Care
Service

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