








## **STAYING PUT–INFORMATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **What is “Staying Put”?**

If you are about to leave care you probably want more independence but might not be ready to leave home.

Staying Put allows you to remain with your foster carers beyond your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday providing that they agree for you to do so. Remaining with your foster carer prevents disruption to your living arrangements and allows a gradual change from care to independence.

Whilst Staying Put you can access support from your provider with things such as: -

-  Shopping
-  Cooking
-  Managing money
-  Keeping contact with friends and family
-  Encouragement with education, training or work
-  Talking through problems
-  Friendship.

There will be a “Staying Put” agreement between you and the provider, which will outline the support you will receive and what is required of you.

### **Who can Stay Put?**



If you want to stay with your foster carer after 18 years and you're carer agrees, then you can Stay Put.


We will fund a Staying Put arrangement until your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday or until you complete a programme of education started before you were 21.

### **What does it cost and who pays what?**

If you are in education on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday the Leaving Care Team will fund the arrangement until the end of the academic year in which you turn 18 as long as you continue with your course.

After this time, there are three parts to the cost

-  Food and Utilities (gas, water and electric)  
To be paid to the Provider from either your benefits or wages.
-  Room rent –To be paid by you through benefits or wages. If you cannot claim all of your rent from Housing Benefit because of your earnings, the Leaving Care Team will pay the difference.

-  Support Costs – To be paid to the provider by the Leaving Care Team.

### **What other support will I get?**

You will continue to get support from your Leaving Care Worker. They will meet with you and your provider regularly to make sure everything is going well and help sort out any problems that may arise.

**What is the difference between Foster Care and “Staying Put”?**

Foster carers provide support and care to children and young people who cannot live with their own families. Once you turn 18 you are no longer a child and so the basis on which you stay with your foster carer will change.

“Staying Put” is about a different type of relationship with your provider .It aims to provide safe and supportive accommodation where you can be independent but get help when you need it.

As you are renting a room you become an Excluded Licensee but this should not mean that you are treated any differently from before. (An excluded licensee has very limited rights and can be evicted quite easily for more information see Shelters web site: - [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk)).

**Still interested?**

Please speak to your Leaving Care Worker who will be able to give you more information or a copy of the full policy and procedure guidance issued to social workers about Staying Put.

**If you would like copies of this publication, in a different language or format.**

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**Nottinghamshire  
County Council**

Children's  
Social Care  
Service

**The Children, Families and Cultural Services (CSCS)**  
**Department Ambition Statement**

*We want Nottinghamshire to be a place where young people are safe, healthy and happy, where everyone enjoys a good quality of life and where everyone can achieve their potential.*

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