

Make a Difference – Supported lodgings for young people leaving care

Introduction

Supported Lodgings are safe and friendly places where young people aged 16 and over can stay while they learn how to live independently.

Supportive adults motivate, encourage and provide stability for the young person and help them to develop independent living skills and become fully responsible for themselves over time.

Supported lodgings make a real difference to the lives of these young people.

Why do young people need Supported Lodgings?

Most of the young people who need Supported Lodgings will have been looked after by the local authority until they are 16.

This might be because of bereavement, trauma or because they were at risk of harm. At 16, the young person is in the process of leaving care, however, they are usually not ready to live entirely independently and therefore, they need support and guidance to prepare for adulthood.

What would I have to provide?

The most important thing is that you care enough to make a difference to a young person's life.

There are, however, some practical considerations:

- You must be able to provide the young person with their own bedroom and food in a comfortable and hygienic environment
- Technically, you will be the young person's landlord, however, the role also involves providing emotional support and looking after their general well-being
- There will be an agreed period of lodging – you might be asked to be involved in planning the young person's next steps
- You must respect the young person's space and privacy, but respond sensitively when invited to share that space.

What kind of people can provide Supported Lodgings?

We are looking for people who have a genuine affection for young people and understand what motivates them. It's important, too, that you will encourage them as they move towards independent lives.

Ideally, providers need to be caring, reliable, trustworthy, energetic, adaptable, patient and non-judgemental, with a good deal of common sense and an ability to cope with young people who might have some degree of emotional need.

Supportive, fair, effective...

TORFAEN
COUNTY
BOROUGH



BWRDEISTREF
SIROL
TORFAEN

What do I get out of it?

There's a generous weekly allowance to cover the young person's accommodation and food. What's left is yours. Your 'lodger' would be responsible for all his/her other personal expenses.

We will provide you with all the support you need; you will be allocated a social worker who will advise and support you.

Most important of all, there's the reward of knowing that you are helping to make the difference in a young person's life. How do you measure that? And how do you beat it?

All adults who provide Supported Lodgings must undergo a medical and a Criminal Record Bureau check and provide the names of three referees who know you and your family. Other references may also be sought.

What do I do next?

If you are interested in providing Supported Lodgings for a young person or need more information please contact us.

We welcome all enquiries and would like to talk to you whatever you feel you can offer.

Our contact details

Telephone: 01495 766693

E-mail: familyplacementteam@torfaen.gov.uk

Our Address:

The Family Placement Team
Torfaen Social Care and Housing Services
Civic Centre
Pontypool
Torfaen
NP4 6YB

*This factsheet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.
Please contact us in order to arrange this.*