

**What Makes The Difference?
TOOLS and RESOURCES**

NAME OF TOOL/RESOURCE

Payments to supported lodgings providers for accommodation and additional support – taken from Hull City Council Finance Policy.

NAME AND REGION OF AGENCY/ORGANISATION THAT DEVELOPED THIS TOOL/RESOURCE

Hull City Council – North East.

Purpose and brief description of tool/resource:

Financial support for supported lodgings providers helps to ensure stability and continuity for young people. Hull recommends supported lodgings as the preferred high support option from which young people leave the looked after system and sets out payment schedule and expectations of supported lodgings providers.

Publication Date: Unknown

Contact details for further information about this tool/resource

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Evidence for the effectiveness/ impact of this tool/resource

Positive impact of this tool/resource:

1. Unknown
- 2.
- 3.

Payments to supported lodgings providers for accommodation and additional support

The intention is that every young person who ceases to be looked after aged 16 — 18 years old, but is still living with carers, is given the option to remain with the carers.

As a young person cannot legally be fostered once they are no longer looked after, the carers will be actively encouraged to join the Supported Lodgings Scheme, through which they will continue to get support, the placement will be reviewed and their needs as supported lodgings providers assessed.

Supported lodgings is intended to be the preferred high support option for young people to leave the looked after system. It can delay the leaving of a settled placement or offer vulnerable young people another chance to live in a family environment. Such placements should promote the budgeting and independence skills of young people, by making them responsible for paying supported lodgings providers an element of the costs (the amount will depend upon the financial status of the individual young person) It also requires the carer to spend focused time with the young person, helping them to develop further their practical and inter-personal skills and emotional well being.

At the 15 + Review, foster carers should be informed that should a young person (aged 16 or over) remain with them after they cease to be looked after, they will no longer be funded from the Boarding Out budget as foster carers. The accommodation and support they provide will be viewed as supported lodgings, but they will receive payment equivalent to the mainstream foster care rate. Carers should be informed that if they are in receipt of benefits themselves, these cannot be disregarded by the Department Of Work and Pensions once they cease to be foster carers and become supported lodgings providers.

It should also be pointed out to carers that young people will no longer get pocket money, clothing or birthday/Christmas allowance when they cease to be looked after. Some of these elements may be met from the Leaving Care budget; but the amounts will be less than they receive whilst looked after. For example, young people will not receive a regular payment for clothing or pocket money, as they will have their own Personal Allowance or another source of income once they leave care.

The only exception to the above is those young people where Care Orders have been discharged whilst they are aged 16/17 by agreement and the financial package will stay in place until they are 18.

As carers will continue to receive the same level of funding as main stream foster care,

(including the contribution from the young person), it is expected that the carer(s) will pay for:

- all food for the young person
- bills — heating, lighting, water rates
- buy birthday/Christmas presents — in addition to what YPSS provides

The young people should pay for clothes and travel out of their own income.

Cost of supported lodgings accommodation:

Supported lodgings providers will be paid the same amount as mainstream foster carers, (anticipated to be £ per week for the financial year 06/07). The young person must make a contribution to this based on their income. The minimum they need to contribute is £25.00. This is broken down as follows:

Young person's contribution

Heating (own room) £3.00

Lighting (own room) £2.50

Cooking £18.00

Water charges £1.50

Sub total £25.00

Payment from care leaver's budget; £173.11

TOTAL £198.11

Means testing young person living in supported lodgings/foster care that is in employment

It is important that young **people begin to make a reasonable contribution towards** their care in order to assume responsibility for themselves in their progression towards independence. For those in employment, they will need to pay the £25.00 minimum to the supported lodgings provider/caret plus 50% of any earnings over £100 per week, up a maximum contribution of 88.00 per week.

For example, a young person is earning £170.00 per week and would need to contribute £25.00 + £35.00 = £60.00.