

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT COMMUNITY CARER, ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS AND SUPPORTED LODGINGS ROLES

Becoming part of our **Supported Lodgings scheme** is a fantastic way to provide a temporary home for a young person on their journey to independent adulthood.

The three roles we offer mean that there is something that **everyone with a spare bedroom** could do. Whether you're a professional looking for a full time role, or looking to offer a room and basic support, read on to find out more.



HOW OLD WILL THE YOUNG PEOPLE BE?

They will be aged between 11 and 18+. Young people living with Community Carers will be aged 11-17. Young people living in Enhanced Supported Lodgings and Supported Lodgings arrangements will be aged 16-18. If a young person staying with you reaches 18 and becomes an adult, they may continue to live with you. This would be under a separate, mutual agreement, if both you and the young person wish to continue the arrangement.

I'M SINGLE/ MARRIED/ LIVING WITH A PARTNER/ GAY, CAN I UNDERTAKE THE ROLE(S)?

Yes! We welcome interest from people from all walks of life and household composition. We want to create a diverse community of hosts.

WHAT SUPPORT DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

All hosts will be asked to provide the young person with a clean, comfortable bedroom, including a bed, bedding, storage such as a wardrobe, drawers and desk, and provide an evening meal. They will support the young person to increasingly develop their independence skills. This could include learning to budget, travel independently, manage their health (i.e. booking doctors and dentist appointments), prepare meals and develop life skills, to eventually maintain an independent household.

COMMUNITY CARERS

Will be approved as Foster Carers who will provide a high level of additional support, aiding the young person's transition from residential care into a family environment. They will work closely with the wraparound team at The Lighthouse, to ensure the young person receives regular speech and language, psychological, health and educational support from the multi-professional team, Portfolio Leads and Outreach Workers, as required. Community Carers will meet children through completing sessional paid work at The Lighthouse residential provision and if suitably matched to a child, they will move to live with the Community Carers following a robust transition period.

ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will provide an enhanced level of support to the young person, utilising the Portfolio Leads and Outreach Workers from The Lighthouse to support them as and when required. Enhanced Hosts will meet children through completing sessional paid work at The Lighthouse residential provision and if suitably matched to a child, they will move to live at the host's home following a robust transition period.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will provide a basic level of support, focussing on providing the young person with a bedroom and positive home environment that they can model when eventually living independently. They will be matched with a young person via an internal matching process and consultation with you as the host.



WHAT SKILLS, EXPERIENCE OR QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED?

All hosts will need enthusiasm for supporting young people to make positive transitions into adulthood and independent living. All roles will require an understanding, patient and non-judgemental approach.

COMMUNITY CARERS

Will need experience of working with young people with complex backgrounds and needs. This role is a hybrid between residential care work and fostering, and will incorporate both elements. Some of the time you will be working at The Lighthouse, where you will develop a relationship with the young person, who will then come to live with you. As you will undertake a full fostering assessment, you will need to meet the standards of the national fostering regulations. You will need to live in or near Warrington and be a car driver. This role may suit people who may have previously been Residential Care Workers, Youth Workers, Foster Carers, Police Officers, Social Workers, Teachers or Probation Workers for example.

ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Do not need any specific professional experience, but ideally will have experience with bringing up and/or working with young people and working alongside professionals, partner services, record keeping and supporting young people through to independence.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Do not need experience. This role will suit people who are able to offer guidance to young people in developing independent living skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED, APPROVED AND REVIEWED AND HOW LONG DOES THE ASSESSMENT TAKE?

All hosts will usually make their initial enquiry via the Foster4 Team. This may be after you've seen an advert or read about the role online. The team will briefly discuss your individual circumstances, background and what you are looking to offer and provide you with some initial advice. If you are keen to progress in any of the roles, your details will be passed to the relevant team.

COMMUNITY CARERS

Will then have a full fostering assessment, which we aim to complete within 12-16 weeks. Your assessment will be presented to panel, who will make a recommendation as to whether you are approved. This decision will be ratified a few days later by our agency decision maker (ADM), which confirms your full approval.

ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will have a full supported lodgings assessment, which will consider your ability to support independence for young people. The assessment will be presented to a panel and the decision ratified by Head of Service.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will have a full supported lodgings assessment, which will consider your ability to support independence for young people. The assessment will be presented to a panel and the decision ratified by Head of Service.

WHAT TRAINING WILL I RECEIVE?

All Community Carers, Enhanced Supported Lodgings Hosts and Supported Lodgings Hosts will have an induction that will include access to the full programme of training available to our Foster Carers. Relevant courses can be accessed as deemed appropriate, relevant to the young people's needs and your areas of interest. Both face-to-face and online training is available, to enable you to complete training around any work or family commitments you may have.

Our training programme is interesting, exciting and delivered by partners including the NHS and Police, with many also being delivered by our expert Foster Carers and Social Workers. You'll learn about all areas of caring for adolescents, and discover how to support them positively, and without judgement. All with the aim of giving them that crucial stepping stone to a positive, independent adult life.

RELEVANT COURSES INCLUDE:

- ◇ Changes in Brain Development in Adolescence
- ◇ Transitional Safeguarding: Harmful sexual behaviour, criminal exploitation, sexual exploitation, peer on peer abuse, county lines
- ◇ Teenage health
- ◇ Positive Parenting for Teenagers
- ◇ Suicide and Self Harm
- ◇ Bereavement and Loss
- ◇ Adverse Childhood Experiences
- ◇ Emotion Coaching
- ◇ First Aid
- ◇ Data Protection, Confidentiality and Recordings
- ◇ Preparation for Independence
- ◇ Gangs, Criminal Behaviour and Knife Crime
- ◇ Independent Living Skills Programme workshop: Home cooking skills, managing your money, keeping safe, relationships, DIY and emotions.

IN ADDITION:

Community Carers will undertake Skills to Foster, the three day pre-approval course that all Foster Carers complete, plus the seven mandatory training courses required as part of a full fostering assessment. These can be completed during the assessment and/or within the first year of approval.

HOW WILL I BE SUPPORTED?

COMMUNITY CARERS

Will have an allocated Fostering Social Worker offering regular supervision, support and development opportunities relevant to the role. Community Carers will also have access to support via The Lighthouse team when a child comes to live with them. There is a mentoring scheme available to all approved Foster Carers.

ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will have an allocated supervisor who will offer supervision, support and development opportunities suitable to the role. As with Community Carers, Enhanced Hosts will have access to support from The Lighthouse team.

SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

Will have an allocated supervisor who will offer supervision, support and development opportunities suitable to the role.

WHAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

All hosts will be financially remunerated for undertaking their role in supporting a young person to independence. Allowances will be paid fortnightly in arrears.

COMMUNITY CARERS

- ◇ Your payments for this role depend on the type of work you are carrying out. You will however, be paid a continual **weekly retainer fee of £170** when no young person is living with you.
- ◇ When a young person is living with you, you will receive an additional **weekly fee of £500** and the retainer will be replaced by the child's age related allowance. **For 11- 15 year olds this will be £173 and for 16 - 17 year olds it will be £202).**
- ◇ When you work as a Sessional Worker, you are also paid **at least £10.62 an hour**, in addition to the above.

ENHANCED SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

- ◇ When a young person aged under 18 stays with an Enhanced Host they will be paid an enhanced rate at **£272 a week.**
- ◇ A maintenance allowance of **£57.50 per week** will be either paid to the young person or host, dependant on the care plan, to cover daily living costs
- ◇ Should the Enhanced Host also undertake work in the Hub as a sessional worker they will be paid at least **£10.62 per hour**

SUPPORTED LODGINGS HOSTS

- ◇ You'll receive an **allowance of £202/wk** when a young person aged under 18 stays with you.
- ◇ A maintenance **allowance of £57.50 per week** will be either paid to the young person or host, dependant on the care plan, to cover daily living costs

