



# STAY

Supported Transition  
& Accommodation  
for Young people



**Handbook for **STAY Supported Lodgings**  
in Northern Ireland**

## INDEX

INTRODUCTION	Page 3
STAY PROCESS	Page 6
RECRUITMENT, ASSESSMENT, TRAINING AND SUPPORT OF HOSTS	Page 7
YOUNG PERSON'S ACCESS TO STAY, REFERRAL AND MATCHING	Page 11
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	Page 13
SUPPORTS TO YOUNG PEOPLE	Page 16
GUIDANCE FOR HOSTS	Page 18
ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENDING PLACEMENTS	Page 20
PLACEMENT EVALUATION	Page 22
REPRESENTATION AND COMPLAINTS	Page 23
REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY OF TERMS	Page 24

## INTRODUCTION

*Supported lodgings is accommodation provided in the homes of approved individuals or families - **Hosts** - who offer a safe and secure home for care experienced young people. These young people are aged between 16 and 21 years and are not quite ready to live on their own.*

In N. Ireland, this supported lodging model is known as **STAY** -Supported Transition & Accommodation for Young people.

*STAY Hosts support the young person to develop their independent living skills to enable them to successfully move from care into independent living.*

*The provision of a range of accommodation and support options to enable young people leaving care and those who present as homeless at age 16/17 is a requirement on the HSCB, the Trusts and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. This STAY project is being funded by these agencies and is initially for a two-year period, with a goal of recruiting 40 Hosts across N. Ireland by the end of the period. An evaluation of the projects being developed will be undertaken during the two-year period and will inform decision making about future delivery and provision.*

*The Children (Leaving Care) Act clearly sets out HSC Trusts responsibilities to ensure the delivery of suitable accommodation to support young people's transition to the community. It stresses the need for interagency working with the NIHE in the provision of accommodation options for vulnerable young people.*

*The Minimum Standards for Supported Lodgings for Young People and Young Adults aged 16-21 in N. Ireland need to be adhered to in the development, implementation and delivery of supported lodgings in each Trust area to ensure the provision of high quality supported living arrangements.*

### **The Statement of Purpose for STAY Supported Lodgings:**

The aim of supported lodgings is to provide young people with a safe and suitable living environment which will offer appropriate support to the young person to enable them to develop the practical, emotional and relationship skills needed for a successful transition to independence and adulthood.

Supported lodgings offer an alternative to mainstream care placements and is provided under *Article 27 (2) (f) of the Children (NI) Order 1995* to those aged 16 and 17. It can also provide an alternative model for care experienced young adults aged 18-21 years who are at risk, or in need of protection, and whose needs can best be met in a family living environment that provides them with appropriate experiences in preparation for adult life.

The STAY supported lodgings scheme provides an alternative placement choice for young people. It is one model of accommodation and support available for vulnerable young people who require a supported living arrangement in their transition to greater independence in the community. Young people placed in supported lodgings should be carefully matched with Hosts to ensure that assessed needs can be appropriately met and supported within this model of supported living.

It is a stepping stone to independence which provides tailored supports based on a young person's needs in order for them to develop practical and emotional skills while balancing their independence so they can progress on successfully to independent living.

Within STAY supported lodgings we want young people to be placed in a safe, suitable and supportive placement within their own local area.

Evaluation of the STAY Supported Lodgings scheme will be built in from the outset via statistical information; feedback from all key individuals and by use of the Outcomes STAR with all young people placed.

The Outcomes STAR covers eight key areas: accommodation; work and learning; people and support; health; how you feel; choices and behaviour; money and rent and practical life skills. These key areas correlate very closely with the identified goals in the Children and Young People's and the Supporting People strategies.

### **The Aims of STAY:**

- To ensure that young people's support and care needs are met and that their right to choice and independence is respected.
- To ensure that placements promote stability and positive outcomes for young people by working in partnership with Hosts, young people, their social worker and other professionals involved in care planning and service delivery to the young person.
- To enable STAY Hosts to provide support, encouragement and guidance to young people within placement via ongoing support and training from within the service.
- To deliver the outcomes of the *Children and Young Persons strategy 2017-2027: and the Supporting People Strategy 2020 - 2023:*

*To live in a society that respects their rights; where they have equal opportunities; are healthy, stable and safe; where they can experience learning, leisure, and overall well-being; where they will enjoy economic security, live independently and make a positive contribution to society.*

*The STAY scheme is about providing planned placements to already known looked after and care experienced young people. It does not provide emergency placements and so the STAY scheme will allow for more choice and opportunities to best match young people with Hosts to achieve best outcomes for everyone.*

### **The Positioning of STAY within HSC TRUSTS:**

The structure and organisational location of STAY supported lodgings within the Trusts is crucial to making sure the key aims are achieved.

The STAY service is located in each Trust's respective Leaving Care Service model; it is also very closely aligned with the fostering service. Positive working relationships and professional accountability between both of these services are critical to ensure good governance and adherence to Departmental Standards and Trust policies and procedures. This structure ensures that there is robust communication between professionals, it helps to make sure Hosts and young people are well informed and supported and the best outcomes are achieved for young people.

## • THE STAY PROCESS

### Recruitment

- Recruitment will be progressed through, the regional adoption and fostering recruitment team and via desktop drives, attendance at recruitment events alongside Fostering services.
- Interested Hosts contact fostering team who will go and provide potential hosts with information about STAY. Then the assessment process commences with a social worker from fostering.

### Assessment of Hosts

- Fostering Social Workers will assess, vet and present potential STAY hosts to the STAY panel.
- Stay Panel is made up of a number of professionals involved in the care of Young People. The panel will consider applications of STAY Hosts and once a host is approved they will have access to support from the STAY Support worker and attend training suitable for their new role.

### Young People Who need to access STAY

- If a young person requires a placement in STAY their social worker refers them to the Trust Resource panel to assess if STAY meets their support needs and the Resource Panel will seek the views of the Young Person in regard to the potential placement move.
- If STAY is suitable the community living manager will begin the process of matching a Young Person and a Host. Information is shared with the Host and an introductory visit can take place.

### Moving to STAY

- An introductory visit will take place with young person, Host and social worker if all parties are agreeable to the placement, a date for moving in will be agreed.
- A meeting will be held to agree settling in dates, support plans and placement contracts, this meeting will look at everyone's role and timescales.

### Reviews

- Yearly Reviews take place for Hosts through the STAY panel, which Hosts at Feedback from Young People & Social workers will be sought for this review.
- LAC OR LCAC Reviews for young people, these take place as required, min every 6 months.
- Outcomes STAR Analysis framework will be used to capture the outcomes of young people who have used this service.

## RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, APPROVAL AND SUPPORT OF HOSTS

- Recruitment drives are carried out jointly with Fostering and the STAY service, this allows potential carers / Hosts to learn about the different types of fostering and to work out where their interests lie and what best fits their lifestyle.
- The Fostering service team undertake the initial visits and the assessment of potential Hosts. During the assessment the Hosts also meet with the STAY support worker. This allows them to gain more information on the STAY project, and for a seamless transition from the fostering service over to the STAY project.
- A written report will be prepared on the assessment of the applicant(s). This assessment will take into account the outcome of all requisite checks and references and the applicant's ability to work within the principles of the Scheme. The completed assessment is presented to the STAY panel for approval. The STAY panel is chaired by a Head of Service and comprises of senior managers from the Fostering service; 16 Plus; STAY and NIHE. The assessing social worker will present the assessment report to the STAY Panel and the applicant will be invited to attend the Panel meeting during consideration of the report.
- The applicant will be notified in writing of the Panel decision together with reasons. In the event of a refusal of the application, the applicant will also be informed of the right to make written representations to the Panel within 28 days of the receipt of the decision.
- Once a Host is approved, training is then undertaken with the STAY support worker: Child Protection, safer caring, safeguarding, STAY process, pathway planning information, etc. Further training specific to supported lodgings and the Hosts' role, is then undertaken, to help explore issues in more depth i.e. trauma; working with professionals, dealing with teenage behaviours etc. Training and ongoing support offers Hosts the opportunity to develop skills and to build the confidence they need for their new roles.

- The registration of the Supported Lodgings Hosts will be reviewed by the panel on an annual basis. They will also be reviewed in the following circumstances: if a serious allegation or complaint is made against the supported lodgings Host or if there is any significant change in the personal circumstances of the Host. The Host reserves the right to deregister and/or cease being a host.
- The Host will be notified in writing of Panel decisions together with reasons. In the event of a decision to de-register, the Host will also be informed of the right to make written representations to the Panel within 28 days of the receipt of the decision.

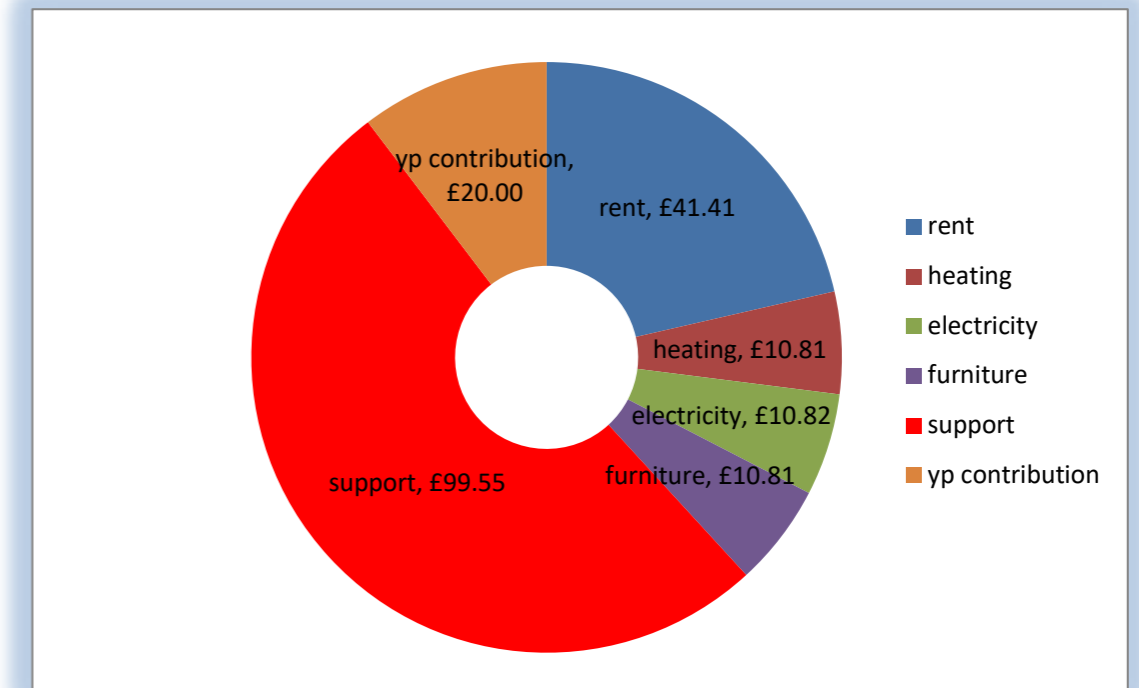
### Support to Hosts

*The STAY support worker provides responsive and flexible support to Hosts and is integral in acting as the link person within the professional support network. This will include telephone contact and regular visiting, including evening /weekend visits, if required.*

- The Outcomes Star method of evaluation will be completed for all young people in placement. The STAY support worker will play the main role in the ongoing completion of the Outcomes Star with each young person placed. This will be done in conjunction with the young person, the Host and other relevant people and will ensure everyone is working towards the same goal.
- Hosts and young people in placement will also receive regular and timely visits from the Social Worker / Personal Adviser and others from the multi professional wrap around support network involved with the young person.
- Out of hours support can be accessed as required.

### Financial support (as at 31/10/2020)

Hosts receive £193.40 per week, made up as follows:



If a young person is not residing in placement full time due to further /higher education a retainer rate will be paid where this is the vacation accommodation of the young person and where the Host is providing a level of support / contact with the young person during their studies.

### HM Revenue & Customs

Hosts will need to link in with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) for guidance in regards to their status as a STAY Host. This will be supported by the STAY Support Worker.

### Insurance

As Supported Lodgings, Hosts should inform their household and car insurance broker that they are an approved Host and that young people supported by the HSCT will be residing in their home and at times could be travelling in their car.

Hosts are asked to claim against their own insurance for accidental damage within the home, in the first instance, and if there are any resulting increased premiums, these should be covered by the Trust. Issues arising in placement with cost implications such as malicious or deliberate damage are likely to be handled on an individual basis by the Trust.

### **Mileage**

Hosts can claim mileage associated with supporting a young person placed within supported lodgings. You can discuss journeys which can be claimed for and the mileage rate in more detail with the STAY Support Worker.

## **YOUNG PERSON'S ACCESS TO STAY - REFERRAL AND MATCHING**

Young people who are eligible for STAY need

- To live in the respective Health & Social Care Trust area
- To be aged 16-20 at time of referral
- To be or have been Looked After
- To be in or working towards education, training or employment
- To be flexible and be prepared to work with the Host and professionals to achieve positive outcomes for themselves

### **Referral Process for Young People**

A young person's Social worker will discuss STAY with them and they will decide if this type of placement could meet their needs. The social worker will then complete a referral to and then attend the Trust Resource Panel where it will be decided if STAY is appropriate based on the assessment of the young person's support needs. The Community Living Manager will then commence the process of matching a young person to a suitable Host.

If the Resource panel does not approve the young person's placement in supported lodgings, the social worker will advise the young person of the decision and the reasons. The young person can appeal this decision with the Chairperson of the panel. The young person can also access the Trust's Complaints procedure.

Young People consistently report that the relationship between them and those supporting them is one of the most important aspects of any service. This is very true in relation to all those working with care experienced young people, and possibly even more so when a young person is living in the home of one of their main support individuals.

During the **Matching Process** the Community Living Manager will consider:

- The wishes and feelings of the young person
- The young person's type and level of need
- Any shared interests
- Any particular conditions specified by the young person and the Host
- The proximity of the placement to the young person's college, work or training with a view to minimising disruption to an established routine
- The young person's cultural, religious and linguistic background

Once a potential match is identified the Host will be contacted and provided with initial information about the young person. If the Host is in agreement with the placement, the young person's social worker will then be informed.

The social worker will then inform the young person of a matched placement and will provide them with information about the Host so they can decide if they wish to proceed with the Supported Lodgings placement.

If a planned move to a Supported Lodgings placement is agreed, a date will be agreed for the Introduction Meeting when the young person will be introduced to the Host, accompanied by their social worker. If the young person agrees to move to the placement, a date will be set for the move and a plan will be put in place for who will support the young person and Host during this move. A placement agreement will also be completed before the move to outline everyone's roles during the placement.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN STAY

### **Role of the Host**

*Learning the process of negotiation is so important in ensuring young people know that they are being respected as young adults and in helping to establish trust, compromise and negotiation within the relationship.*

It is impossible to provide an exhaustive description of the way in which a Host is expected to work with a young person due to the variety of circumstances which can arise in such a setting. Below are some guidelines and examples of how Hosts can support young people:

- Build a positive relationship with a young person whilst providing them with a safe and secure living environment.
- Offer practical support and help a young person develop domestic and life skills in preparing them to live independently and achieve their potential.
- Be responsive, flexible and sensitive in supporting a young person and provide emotional support through listening and talking with a young person.
- Support the young person to access other services such as education, training and employment and to establish social networks within the local community.
- Respect the young person as unique, worthwhile and capable of taking control of decisions and actions in respect of their own lives.

### **Hosts Responsibilities**

Hosts must keep the young person's social worker and STAY Support Worker updated about the young person's progress and any concerns that may arise.

Hosts are required to attend training and meetings about the young person and to maintain the required standards of Health & Safety within their property.

**Child Protection** - Hosts must attend training on the regional Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding procedures, and ensure they put these procedures into practice.

All children and young people have a fundamental right to be safeguarded from harm. The welfare of children and young people must be promoted and they must be given every opportunity to develop to their full potential, free from harm through abuse, exploitation and neglect.

**Co-operating to Safeguard Children & Young People in N. Ireland 2017** is the overarching policy framework for safeguarding children and young people in the statutory, private, independent, community, voluntary and faith sectors. It outlines how communities, organisations and individuals must work both individually and in partnership to ensure children and young people are safeguarded as effectively as possible.

### **Adult Safeguarding**

Most adults in Northern Ireland live independent, comfortable and secure lives, free from exploitation or neglect. However, there are some adults who may have been harmed or may be at risk of harm. Adult Safeguarding is the term used for activities which prevent harm from taking place and which protect adults at risk (where harm has occurred or is likely to occur without intervention).

### **Role of the Social Worker/ Personal Adviser**

- The social worker must share all relevant information and risk assessments with the Trust resource panel and the STAY manager and contribute to the matching process in order to allow a safe match to be made with the most appropriate Host.
- They will accompany the young person to the Hosts home on the first visit. They will move the young person into the Supported Lodgings placement on an agreed date and visit the young person, thereafter as often as required and in keeping with legal requirements.
- They will ensure the young person has signed the Consent Form for Sharing Information and a copy is placed in the young person's file and is reviewed annually.
- They will complete the Placement Agreement and the placement Support Plan, working alongside the young person, the Host and the STAY support worker.
- They will review and implement the young person's care / LCAC plans and ensure that the young person receives their financial entitlement in a timely manner.

- They will liaise with the Host and STAY Support Worker and report and address any issues or concerns. They will contribute to the completion of the Outcomes Star evaluation process.
- At end of placement, they will assist in moving the young person on to their next placement, to ensure a smooth transition.

## SUPPORTS FOR THE YOUNG PERSON

Each young person placed in supported lodgings will have regular, ongoing direct support from their social worker, personal adviser, STAY support worker, and other professionals as required and agreed in their placement plan.

- Young people under 18 years of age, receive support financially from their social work team at the rate of £71.70 per week, the young person gives £20 to the Host and the remainder is for their own costs i.e. clothing, etc. They may receive additional financial support in respect of education.
- Young people over 18 years of age, will submit an application for Universal Credit. They will continue to pay a £20 weekly contribution to their Host.

## **Responsibilities of the Young Person**

Young people moving into a STAY placement must be in agreement with moving into Supported Lodgings and with the matched placement. They will have had the opportunity to meet with the Host and their family, to learn about the rules and expectations of the Host.

We want this to be a positive experience for both the young person and the Host - progress will be evaluated throughout the placement by completion of the Outcomes Star with the young person.

These young people must be/or are about to be, actively involved in some form of Education, Training or Employment.

Each Host will have their own specific house rules; however, it will generally be expected that young people in placement will

- Contribute towards food and household products (£20 to be paid to the Host weekly).
- Prepare and cook one meal per week (with support of Host where appropriate).
- Ensure safety and keep their room clean, taking care not to cause any damage .

- Be mindful of others within the home and not act in a manner which may be an annoyance or nuisance to other household members and / or neighbours.
- Be responsible for the safekeeping and replacement of any keys to the room and dwelling and return same to the Host when a placement ends.

## **GUIDANCE FOR HOSTS DURING PLACEMENTS**

### **Absence from Lodgings**

A young person can plan to stay at family/friends up to 2 nights per week and it is important that clear guidelines regarding periods of absence are agreed by the young person, and relevant professionals. On occasions (holiday periods) young people can request to stay with family and friends for longer periods and this will need to be agreed in advance with the young person's Social Worker.

If a young person does not return to placement at the agreed time and Host is unable to contact the young person, they should notify Regional Emergency Social Work service and notify the Social Worker the next working day.

### **Holidays**

If you are planning a holiday you should inform the STAY Support Worker /Social Worker as soon as possible, giving as much notice as possible for appropriate arrangements to be made for the young person in placement. Where possible we try to match a young person to a Host they can use on an ongoing basis for short breaks.

### **LAC / Review Meetings**

#### *Schedule of Looked After Child (LAC) Meetings:*

- The Initial LAC Review is held within 14 days of a young person becoming a Looked After Child.
- The second LAC Meeting is held 3 months after the Initial Review and every 6 months thereafter until the young person is 18 years old.
- Post 18 years, a young person's pathway review is conducted through Pathway Reviews. Pathway reviews are more informal meetings and can take place at a chosen venue or the young person's placement.
- The first Pathway review will be convened 3 months after the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and at subsequent 6 monthly intervals (or earlier if required) until the young person is 21 years old.

These meetings will be arranged by the young person's social worker/Personal Adviser.

The support needs of the young person and risks, if any, will be reviewed during the course of the placement via Looked After Child Review Meetings or Pathway Support Plan Meetings. These meetings will involve the young person, parents of young person (if appropriate), Chairperson, Host, young person's social worker, the STAY Support Worker and any other professional(s) working with the young person. These meetings will take full account of the young person's views, progress and aspirations.

## ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENDING OF PLACEMENTS

The following guidelines cover some of the important issues which arise at the end of the placement, these are not exhaustive and the STAY support worker can provide further advice and support. The goal should be to end these placements as positively as possible for everyone.

At the end of all placements, interviews will be held with young people and Hosts to ascertain their views and to take on board any learning, and inform service improvement.

### *Planned endings*

When a placement ends as part of the young person's pathway plan they will have identified accommodation to move on to such as an independent flat, returning to live with their family or moving to attend University. Whatever the plans there are still important practical issues to consider at the end of the placement:

- Packing up - The Young person is responsible for packing their own belongings, and their personal possessions should not be left behind, even temporarily, after the agreed end of a placement.
- If a young person does leave things behind, the Social Worker/Personal Adviser will take responsibility for ensuring that the young person's belongings are packed and removed from the lodgings. A list of items that have been packed should be made.
- Keys - Arrangements should be made for the young person to return their door key at the end of a placement. If they do not, please inform STAY Support Worker or Social Worker immediately.
- Finance - your allowance is paid up to the Sunday after your young person leaves. It will be important to ensure that the young person pays their contribution to the cost of the lodgings to the end of the placement.
- Young Person's Post - If you have the young person's move-on address, you should redirect their mail to their new address. This does not require a stamp. If you don't have a move on address please redirect to the STAY support office. It is not appropriate to open the young person's mail.

### *Unplanned Endings*

If the young person is in breach of the placement agreement it will be necessary for the Social Worker to be involved in discussions regarding the breach. This may lead to notice being given (usually 28 days). A young person should be given a minimum of 28 days' notice so that alternative accommodation can be secured. It is the aim of the service to ensure that the use of leaving procedures are avoided as far as possible and that any issues are identified and resolved at an earlier stage. Notice should only be given to the young person following discussion with the STAY Support Worker and the young person's Social Worker.

### *Emergency endings*

In exceptional circumstances, a placement may end with immediate effect. In these situations, it is vital that the all relevant staff work together, with the Host and the young person to try and resolve the issues or make alternative arrangements.

If the situation arises in office hours, contact the social worker or Support Worker. If the situation arises outside of office hours, contact: (i.e. from 5pm-9am weekdays and on a 24-hour basis at weekends and bank holidays).

### **Regional Emergency Social Work Service Out of Hours**

**028 95 049 999**

If there are incidents of violence or other illegal activities, you may need to contact the police.

The decision to remove a young person immediately from lodgings will be taken by a Social Work Manager, the Duty Social Worker or the Police after discussions with you.

## EVALUATION OF PLACEMENT

Each placement will be evaluated throughout, the STAY support worker will undertake completion of the Outcomes STAR with the young person, the Host and relevant others. This will be done at the beginning of a placement and regularly reviewed and updated thereafter. The Outcomes STAR will focus everyone's involvement with the young person and help support them to achieve their goal of independence.

After each supported lodgings placement, evaluation forms are completed by everyone involved in the placement but most importantly the Host and young person. This information will be used to inform service development and improvement.

## REPRESENTATIONS & COMPLAINTS

If you are unhappy with how you have been treated, you have the right to raise a concern or a complaint. Or if you wish to pay a compliment about a positive experience, please contact your local Health & Social care Trust complaints manager who can provide you with help and information.

### **Belfast HSC Trust**

Complaints Office, McKinney House (7th Floor), Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast, BT9 7JB. Telephone: 028 9504 8000  
Email: [complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net)

### **Northern HSC Trust**

Complaints / Service User Experience Office, Northern Health and Social Care Trust Headquarters, Bretten Hall, Antrim Area Hospital Site, Bush Road, Antrim, BT41 2RL. Telephone: 028 9442 4655  
Email: [user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net)

### **South Eastern HSC Trust**

Complaints Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital, Church Street, Newtownards, BT23 4AS. Telephone: 028 9056 1427  
Email: [complaints@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:complaints@setrust.hscni.net)

### **Western Trust**

Complaints Department, Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Glenshane Road, Londonderry, BT47 6SB Telephone: 028 7134 5171 ext 214142  
Email: [complaints.department@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:complaints.department@westerntrust.hscni.net)

### **Southern Trust**

Service User Feedback Team Southern Health and Social Care Trust Beechfield House, Craigavon Area Hospital site, 68 Lurgan Road, Portadown, BT63 5QQ Telephone: 028 3756 4600  
Email: [complaints@southerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:complaints@southerntrust.hscni.net)

## REFERENCES & GLOSSARY

### *Legal:*

#### **The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995**

This specifies under Article 27 (2) the living arrangements in which looked after children can be placed. These arrangements, such as residential care and foster care are governed by associated regulations and standards. Article 27 (2) (f) also allows for the provision within legislation of "other" arrangements that "seem appropriate to the authority and comply with any regulations made by the Department." The placement of young people in Supported Lodgings is operated under this legislative provision.

#### **The Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002**

This was implemented in September 2005. This Act introduced new and enhanced duties on Health and Social Care Trusts in relation to financial responsibilities for 16 and 17 year olds and furthermore held as one of its core objectives **that children falling within the entitlements of the Act should only leave care when they are ready and prepared to do so.** The Act therefore sought to stem any potential for young people to leave care prematurely or for Trusts to abdicate responsibilities, including financial responsibilities to these young people. Transition from care could well be assisted by the supported lodgings model of provision which affords the young person continuity and stability beyond aged 18.

The Act identified that certain children and young people aged 16 and 17 years old may cease to be looked after before reaching 18 years of age and consequently where they are unable to return to family, may require accommodation in the community. For these situations the Act specifies that for this category of "**relevant**" young people, the Trust must ensure placement in "suitable" accommodation unless the Trust is satisfied that their welfare does not require it.

Article 34C (10) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and regulation 10(2) of the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (NI) 2005 define suitable accommodation as accommodation: which so far as reasonably practicable is suitable for the young person in the light of his or her needs, including health needs and any needs arising from any disability;

Following the Southwark Ruling in England and the Treacy Judgement in Northern Ireland there is an increasing need for suitable and safe accommodation for young people aged 16 /17 who are not looked after, or previously looked after but present as homeless.

Some of these young people may require immediate access to suitable accommodation for the purpose of assessment and potentially for a longer period based on the outcome of the Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment and determination of the legal status and pathway of the young person. Supported Lodgings may provide a suitable accommodation option in such circumstances.

#### **The Housing (NI) Order 1988**

This sets out the NI Housing Executive's responsibilities towards people who are homeless or who are likely to become homeless.

The Regional Good Practice Guidance between the NIHE and HSC Trusts on Meeting the Accommodation and Support Needs of Vulnerable Young People, 2015 provides detail on the respective roles and responsibilities of housing and social work staff and how these should be fulfilled where a young person aged 16-21 is in housing need or presents as homeless.

#### **Definitions of the 4 categories of young people referred to in the Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002**

**Eligible Child:** a young person aged 16 or 17 who has been looked after by an HSC Trust for a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and is still looked after.

**Relevant Child:** a young person aged 16 or 17 who has left care and before leaving care was an eligible child.

**Former Relevant Child:** a young person aged 18-21 (or beyond if, being helped with education or training) who, before turning 18 was either an eligible or relevant child, or both.

**Person Qualifying for Advice and Assistance:** any young person (including those who do not fall into any of the 3 categories above) aged under 21 years (under 24 if in education or training) who leaves care after the age of 16.

#### **Child Protection -Co-operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland 2017**

Safeguarding children and young people is everyone's business, however, this policy is of particular importance to, and must be adhered to by, those who provide services to children, young people and families. It applies to those who work with children and young people, whether in paid or voluntary capacities. All children and young people have a fundamental right to be safeguarded from harm. Those who work with children, young people or families, in whatever capacity, have a particular responsibility to promote their welfare and ensure

they are safe. All organisations and agencies working with children and young people must discharge their functions with regard to the need to safeguard children and young people, must have procedures in place for safeguarding, and ensure these are adhered to.

The HSCTs work in partnership with other statutory agencies and with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that children and young people are safeguarded and their welfare is promoted. In particular HSCTs work closely with Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) given their shared responsibility for child protection investigations.

Where a potential risk to a child has been raised, it is the responsibility of the Gateway Service or Children's Services in the relevant HSCT to assess the risk to the child and his/her needs and determine what response is required.

#### Raising a Concern

Anyone with an immediate concern about the safety or welfare of a child or young person should contact the PSNI without delay so that an emergency protective response can be made. A referral may also be made directly to the PSNI where a crime is alleged or suspected.

Anyone with a concern about the safety or welfare of a child or young person in circumstances other than an emergency should contact their local Health & Social Care Trust.

#### Adult Safeguarding

Adult Safeguarding is the term used for activities which prevent harm from taking place and which protect adults at risk (where harm has occurred or is likely to occur without intervention).

Health and Social Care (HSC) agencies along with police, play a lead role in preventing, detecting and providing protection to adults at risk of harm.

If someone tells you they have been hurt or are afraid, you should listen and respond sensitively. Do what you can to make them safe.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know has been harmed, exploited or neglected, it is very important to tell someone.

Contact your local Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust, they will listen to your concerns and advise you on what will happen next.

#### Glossary of Terms

**Host:** An individual who has been approved to provide supported lodgings for a young person.

**Host Information Pack:** Pack containing all relevant information to inform potential Host's about the provision of supported lodgings to a young person.

**Lead Commissioner:** A Health and Social Care Trust and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive or a Health and Social Care Trust.

**Matching Policy:** The process by which a young person is allocated a suitable placement within the home of an approved Host.

**Placement Agreement:** An agreement between the young person their Lead Worker and the Host which sets out what the young person can expect from the placement and the house rules during the placement.

**Placement Support Plan:** A plan setting out the support required by the young person and how this support will be delivered.

**Supported Lodgings:** is a service which can allow an individual to live in a family home, experiencing domestic life in a shared and supportive environment.

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# STAY

Supported Transition  
& Accommodation  
for Young people



Health and  
Social Care