

## ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HOSTS

### Role of the Host

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

It would be 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. We seek to acknowledge that each individual's needs are likely to be different and determine the kind of support made available accordingly. 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, as well helping them 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

The role of the host is not to be a surrogate parent, but carries more responsibility than a landlord, thus providing nurturing and **supportive lodgings** for the young person.

As a Host you will bring many skills which you developed from your family or occupational background and the learning from your Skills to Fostering training. It is important to remember that there will be lessons to learn, and skills to develop throughout your journey as a Host.

There is an extensive range of supports available to you and together along with the STAY team we can ensure our young people reach their full potential. You will be able to watch the many positive developments once the Young Person, receives the appropriate support and is made to feel safe.

## Host Responsibilities

- To report to the Young Person's Social Worker / Personal Adviser and STAY Support Worker if the Young Person is not living in placement, if the Young Person is unwell and any concerns you may have relating to the Young Person's welfare
- To report to the Young Person's Social Worker / Personal Adviser and STAY Support Worker if the Young Person is not attending education, training or employment
- Hosts must attend training including the regional Child Protection and Adult Safeguarding procedures, and ensure they put these procedures into practice.
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## Expectations of what a Host will deliver

- Practical and emotional support to the Young Person
- Attend reviews and LAC meetings
- Complete mandatory training and engage in ongoing training and development
- Maintain the required standards of Health & Safety within their property
- Have patience, understanding and a good sense of humour
- A spare bedroom / sole use for young person also use of kitchen, laundry facilities, bathroom and access to communal facilities / areas
- Inform the Young Person's Social Worker of any concerns / issues or changes in the Young Person's circumstances

## Minimum Standards of Accommodation

- Accommodation to be secure, safe, warm and friendly
- Young Person to have his/her own bedroom
- Host should provide a bed, hanging space for clothes
- Meals – Young Person to cook and prepare a meal once a week. A contribution of £20 per week is given to the Host from the Young Person for food expenses
- The accommodation should be heated
- The accommodation is compliant with Health & Safety legislation and Fire regulations