

# The Supported Lodgings/STAY process

If you think you could offer a young person a safe and secure home through Supported Lodgings/STAY or if you would simply like to find out more about what is involved, please get in touch. You can expect the process to involve:

- 1 Contact us**  
Get in touch with our experienced team who are available to answer all your questions.
- 2 Receive a call back**  
Within two days of contacting us, a social worker will be in touch.
- 3 Meet with your social worker**  
You can expect this to take place within ten days of your call back.
- 4 Apply**  
You should have all the information you need to submit your application.
- 5 Social work interviews**  
The interview will consider your background, your support network, your lifestyle, your family set up and your skills.
- 6 Supported Lodgings/STAY Panel**  
Your application will be presented and assessed by the Supported Lodgings/STAY panel.



**Northern Ireland  
Foster Care**

**Every child/young person  
deserves a safe and stable home.**

**0800 0720 137**  
adoptionandfostercare.hscni.net



SCAN ME



**We need people who  
can change young  
people's lives, we  
need people like you**

**Supported Lodgings/  
STAY prepares young  
people for adult life.**



**Supported Lodgings/STAY is accommodation provided in the home of an approved individual or family, known as a 'host', who offers a safe and secure home for young people in care. These young people are aged from 16 to 21 years and are not quite ready to live on their own.**

The young person may require accommodation as a move on from foster or residential care or they may be homeless or experiencing difficulties within their current home environment. Some young people are engaged in formal education or employment while others have an education package to meet their individual needs.

Some young people at university may also use this accommodation for holidays/weekend accommodation. They need emotional and practical support to help them develop their skills so they can move to the next stage of their lives to live independently.



## What do hosts provide?

- A family-based placement for care-experienced young people.
- Support to young people to develop social, practical and other independence skills.
- Support to young people to achieve their potential in relation to education, training and employment.
- A safe and supportive home; working in partnership with social workers and other professionals to promote the personal development of the young person.
- A positive adult role model to young people.
- Support to young people to make or re-establish links to their family and community.

**The focus is on improving outcomes for vulnerable young people, giving them the necessary supports and advice that they require in their journey to independence.**

## Who can be a host?

There is no such thing as a typical host and each application will be assessed individually. We welcome applications from all backgrounds, regardless of marital, employment or home ownership status, or whether you are a parent or not. Applications are considered regardless of race, religion, language, culture, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### It is important that hosts:

- like young people and enjoy their company
- can offer a young person a bedroom of their own
- have an understanding of the issues that young people face on a day to day basis
- are willing to teach the young person independent skills such as cooking, cleaning, basic DIY, managing money and household bills
- have a keen desire to make a difference in a young person's life in preparing them to live independently
- do not have a police record for violent or sexual offences
- are available to attend all relevant training
- are warm, caring and patient
- have a good sense of humour.

## What support do hosts receive?

- You will receive a weekly payment to contribute towards rent, food and utilities.
- An allocated worker to advise and support you.
- Opportunities to receive ongoing training.



**Sarah is a Supported Lodgings/STAY host and currently has Laura living with her.**

**Sarah says:** "We really enjoy spending time together; shopping, going for coffee and working out at the gym. I work full-time and being a supported lodgings host allows me to have the right balance between supporting Laura and having the freedom to work and have my own time. I have really benefited from the guidance I have received from my support worker and I love having Laura in my home."