

SERVICE DESCRIPTION FOR REFEREES

What is Supported Lodgings?

Supported Lodgings is shared accommodation where the landlord/lady (known as Supported Lodgings Provider) provides a Young Person (Lodger) with practical and emotional support with a view to increasing their confidence and readiness to move into their own home.

From the age of 16 some Young People decide that they want to leave the care of the Local Authority but yet are apprehensive about living alone as they may not have the skills or awareness to successfully live independently. Supported Lodgings therefore offers the Young Person the opportunity to leave care and experience elements of independence in a supportive and encouraging environment.

Supported Lodgings is semi-independent accommodation, which provides a stepping stone between leaving care and living independently.

Who are the Lodgers?

Young People aged 16 and above (25 at the eldest), who were previously in foster or residential care.

They may be leaving foster care, residential care or have been in homeless accommodation. These Young People come from a range of backgrounds and therefore have varying practical and emotional support needs. It is recommended that Lodgers are in education, training or employment and are therefore occupied through the day but this may not always be the case.

Who can offer Supported Lodgings?

Some experience of having teenagers would certainly be useful but most of all we need Supported Lodgings Providers who can appreciate the difficulties, which these Young People have encountered. As a result of their experiences, some Young People can present quite challenging behaviour and therefore Supported Lodging Providers need to be able to offer commitment, patience and a sympathetic ear.

We are looking for people who:

- Live in various locations in Highland
- Have a Spare Bedroom

- Have a genuine interest in supporting Young People and are able to dedicate time to do this.
- Are willing to undertake training
- Are willing to support Young People alongside Barnardo's and Social Work Services.
- Are willing to adopt and reflect on Barnardo's Values and Principles, the SSSC Code of conduct (copies of which will be supplied).

It does not matter whether the Prospective Supported Lodgings Provider is working or unemployed. They can either be single, married with or without children.

Prospective Supported Lodgings Providers must be willing to open the rest of their home to a Lodger, including the kitchen, bathroom, living room and laundry facilities. They must also be willing to provide the Lodger with a key to the property.

What type of support will I be expected to offer?

Emotional, practical and the provision of meals where appropriate.

Prior to any Supported Lodgings Placement, as a Supported Lodgings Provider you will receive relevant information regarding the needs of the Young Person and the support that you will be required to provide. This will enable you to determine if this is an appropriate Supported Lodgings Placement for you to support. It is envisaged that more support will be needed within the early stage of each Supported Lodgings Placement, decreasing once the Young Person becomes more confident and is managing more independently.

The provision of meals may be required under exceptional circumstances i.e. due to a Lodger being ill. Lodgers will require access to cooking facilities to prepare their own meals, while receiving support from the Supported Lodgings Provider in undertaking this.

You will be required to offer your Lodger direct support and contact each week. This can vary from cooking a meal together, budgeting for their shopping, supervising and encouraging them to maintain their room, to having a chat over a cup of tea. The emotional support offered throughout the Supported Lodgings Placement is vital to the Supported Lodgings Placement's success. The type and level of support required will be specified in the Placement Agreement.

The Supported Lodgings Placement Agreement is a statement committed to by all parties, which outlines everyone's responsibilities prior to the Lodger being placed. The overall aim is to help your Lodger develop the life skills necessary for taking responsibility for their own future accommodation.

You will be expected to maintain regular contact with your Lodger's Barnardo's Project Worker and/or Social Worker. You are also required to attend and participate in relevant meetings and training.

How long will a Lodger stay with me?

Supported Lodgings is a short-term accommodation arrangement, as its emphasis is to prepare a Young Person to move-on. Supported Lodgings Placements therefore tend to last a minimum of three to a maximum of two years.

Acknowledgements

Barnardos Springboard would like to thank The Moray Council's Throughcare and Aftercare, Supported Lodgings Project for sharing their documents and Policies and Procedures with us. Some of which we have implemented but have changed to meet the needs of our service.

This information has been designed to provide you with an insight in to the requirements of those offering Supported Lodgings Placements and the needs and issues of the Young People using the Supported Lodgings Service.

Included with this service information leaflet is a reference form and stamped addressed envelope, which we have been asked to send to you in support of the named applicant.

We hope that the information provided is sufficient to enable you to provide a reference. However, if you have any queries, please feel free to contact a Supported Lodgings Link Worker, who will be happy to assist.

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