

Supported Lodgings Providers



Supported Lodgings Providers (SLP)

Supported Lodgings is a stepping stone to provide young people, age 16yrs+ who are leaving care or homeless, with safe accommodation and support whilst they develop their skills to live independently. This can include practical support with food planning and cooking, budgeting, using the washing machine, cleaning, help with employment, training or education, accessing housing or benefits, or emotional support around relationships, self esteem, family dynamics etc.



You will need:

- A spare room
- To be able to engage with young adults and have some understanding of the issues and challenges that they may face
- To be keen to help a young person learn to cook, budget, use a washing machine, access training, further education, work and eventually support them to move to their own accommodation.
- To want to make a difference to a young person's life
- To be realistic, patient, tolerant, flexible and positive

We will:

- Provide you with weekly payments to cover rent, food and utilities
- Support you with your own SLP social worker
- Hold regular support groups with other experienced supported lodgings providers to enable you to access regular channelled support
- Offer a comprehensive training programme to extend your skills

What is SLP and what is unique about the role?

"It's about helping young people make that great leap into independence. For many of us from stable family backgrounds we had parents in the background for support.

The teenagers we support don't generally have that and this is their opportunity to get things right in a safe environment".



What do you enjoy about SLP?

"The most enjoyable part is having a hand in the young persons achievements such as when they get their first job, pass their driving test or successfully hold down a place in further education. You get to live their achievements with them"

What would you say to somebody who is thinking of offering SLP?

"I would say go for it. There is no downside to trying SLP and its hugely rewarding. Most of the skills you need you probably already have and with the support of the local authority and the training which is provided it can become a career in itself".

"You need to be supportive but not controlling and understand the challenges that young people face. Without doubt you will need patience, the ability to keep calm in any situation and above all a sense of humour. It is so rewarding and you get a great sense of personal achievement".

Comments above from Jonathan Lewis who has been offering supported lodgings provision for approximately 10 years, and Julie Powell, who initially fostered but has provided SLP now for about 13 years.

Interested?

If you'd like to make a difference, its quick and easy to get in touch and find out if being a Supported Lodgings Provider is right for you.

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