

**Your
kindness
will make
all the
difference**

**“It’s nice to have choices
like everyone else, I
didn’t feel ready to live
alone at 18 and it was
good I had the freedom
to choose when I was
ready.” Ahmed, 20yrs**



Supported Lodgings Information Guide

Caring for people, our places and the planet



**For further information: 020 8359 6274
www.barnet.gov.uk/supportedlodging**

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH



Welcome

**“Learning life skills
has helped me enter
the business world
with confidence and
support.”**

Alice, 21 yrs

Thank you for requesting information about our Supported Lodgings Scheme. We hope this information pack will provide answers to any questions you may have. This guide is designed to provide you with information to help you make the decisions about how you can support young people and that are right for you.

Being a Supported lodgings host is the chance to offer older young people (16+) who are unable to live with their families the opportunity to live in an environment that supports them to become independent, confident young adults. It is a steppingstone for them towards independent living. You would offer emotional support and the chance for young people to learn life skills in a safe place. We provide our hosts with a package including allowances, training and regular professional support.

The opportunity to nurture, encourage and support a young person to independence is a challenging but always rewarding role and this scheme allows us to create environments with you that best suits some young people to flourish and learn. Being part of any child's journey is a privileged position and we are hopeful that you will want to be part of that team.

What is Supported Lodgings?

Our Supported Lodgings hosts work with Barnet Family Services to offer young people a safe, supportive and secure environment so that they can continue to develop their independent living skills. This is an opportunity for them to gain confidence so that they do not have to live independently before they are ready.

As a Supported Lodging host you will offer the young person a room within your home and meals. The young people will be assessed as to whether they are 'ready' for the scheme and what support requirements they have as this may vary between young people. It is useful to keep in mind that the long-term aim is to enable the personal development of the young person and to prepare them for independent living. You will not acquire the same responsibility as a foster carer as you will host them and work alongside them to develop their independence but not be a primary caregiver.

As a host you will offer young people:

- a welcoming home environment
- direct access to their accommodation
- a room of their own
- utilities such as bedding, towels, hanging space for clothes and storage space
- use of shared facilities, including the bathroom, kitchen, lounge/dining room
- advice and support on life skills such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting, shopping, laundry
- a non-judgemental and supportive home environment with space to learn.



Who can be a host?

Barnet is a culturally diverse Borough and we are looking for Supportive Lodgings host from all backgrounds to reflect the community and the diversity of our young people.

- as a host you will need to have a spare room
- you can be in full time or part time employment or retired
- you can offer Supported Lodgings if you are in receipt of means-tested benefits (We would advise you to clarify your individual circumstances with your benefits agency or the Citizens Advice Bureau)
- you will need to be over the age of 21 years. There is no upper age limit for hosts
- you can become a host whether you are single, married, divorced or co-habiting.

A good Supported Lodgings host will need to:

- enjoy being around young people and have some understanding of the challenges they may experience
- be a support and encourage a young person in their efforts to develop independence
- be compassionate and not make judgements about a young person
- be upfront and consistent about acceptable behaviours in their home and set clear boundaries and expectations for everyone within this care arrangement
- respect the confidentiality and privacy of any young person living in their home.

Young people need to:

- be between 16 – 24 years old
- be in some form of education, training or employment*
- have a desire and willingness to develop their independent living skills
- participate in planning and discussions about the care arrangement so that a contract and agreed standards of behaviour can be negotiated before they move in
- treat the property and its contents with respect and should have regard for the security of the property
- the young person should take responsibility for his or her behaviour both inside and outside the host's home.

Typical support needs include:

- providing a “listening ear” and being a trusted adult to the young person
- advice and support with budgeting, finances, food shopping and cooking
- instruction in the safe use of household appliances e.g. washing machines
- assistance with arranging and keeping appointments
- support and encouragement with maintaining attendance at training, education or work
- support them to continue to develop internet safety
- support in maintaining and building relationships with family/friends/neighbours and support in managing visitors
- encouragement to comply with “house rules” including maintaining the security.

** The aspiration is for every young person to be in education, employment or training.*

The Application process

Step one

At the point you have decided that you would like to be a Supported Lodgings host, you complete an initial screening form with a member of the recruitment team and schedule an initial visit, which may be face to face or virtual with a member of our team. They will guide you through the process and advise of any initial questions you may have.

Step two

You complete the application form. You or you and your partner will then be invited to attend our local skills training course. The course is run by our social workers and members of our team. You will also have the opportunity to meet young people who have experienced being in care.

Step three

This is your Supported Lodgings assessment. You will meet with your assessing social worker over an average period of three months in order to complete this assessment. We will support you throughout this process and you will be partnered with an established and experienced carer to learn more about roles and expectations.

Step four

Once you have completed your assessment, the assessing social worker presents a report to the Director of Children Social Care setting out reasons and recommendations on your approval as a host.

Step five

Once a match has been identified between you and the young person, a meeting will be arranged for the young person to meet you, with the professional involved, to discuss the proposed care arrangement and the next steps.

Checks include:

- DBS or Police checks will be completed on all adults living in the household. Having a criminal record may not rule you out as a Supported Lodgings host however it will require a thorough risk assessment
- you will be asked to provide two referees to provide references
- you will be asked to complete a medical check with your doctor to confirm there is no known medical reason why you should not participate in the scheme. Having a medical condition may not rule you out but your permission will be sought to discuss any medical history with your GP.



We feel it was a professional and well executed assessment. We thank Kathy for being professional and supportive throughout.

Andrew



Thanks to those involved in the process, we are confident that with all this new knowledge we will be a wonderful Supported Lodgings family

Susana



The 3 of us can't wait until we get the blessing and honour to support young people and help them achieve in a safe, warm, and loving environment.

Imani



“Staying in a family environment gave me the confidence I needed to believe in myself, I have now started university, I feel more confident and ready to live independently.”

Sarah, 19yrs

Once you are approved as a Supported lodgings host, consistent and ongoing support will be offered from the Fostering Support Team. During the assessment process any training needs will be identified, and a plan put in place to meet these requirements. Additional training will also be made available to you through the annual Fostering Training schedule.

After the young person has moved in, they will have a Social Worker or a Personal Adviser from Children Services. This worker will work alongside the young person in accordance with their individual Pathway Plan that sets out the needs, services and frequency of engagement for the young person.

You will be allocated a Supervising Worker, who is your support and who will help you problem solve around issues, will answer your queries and will ensure your development as a host is progressed. As you get to know the young person well, you may have concerns about them and these should be discussed with the Supervising Worker who will then liaise with the professionals supporting the young person.

From time to time, there will be a Pathway planning review where you, the young person, your Supervising Worker and the professionals working directly with the young person meet to discuss how things are going for the young person and to set the goals needed to achieve independence.

Other considerations

Financial arrangements

You will receive an allowance of £250 each week. Part of this will come from the Housing Benefit received by the young person.

We cannot guarantee placements, so it may not be appropriate to rely on income from the provision of accommodation.

Insurance & Income Tax

The allowance you will receive includes the provision for you to upgrade your household insurance. It is important for you to inform your insurers what the scheme entails.

Supported Lodgings Hosts need to register with HMRC as self-employed and may have to pay tax on income received through this scheme.



The past couple months have been nerve-racking but enjoyable as we got to learn so many new aspects about the world of Supported Lodgings

Jane

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Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our Supported Lodgings hosts scheme.

To find out more or if you wish to be assessed please speak to a member of the Barnet Fostering Team:

Email: supportedlodgings@barnet.gov.uk

Call: 020 8359 6274

