

key things that should be in place to welcome a young person into their own supported accommodation under the Staying Close regulations:

- A furnished property that is clean, safe, and ready for the young person to move into. This includes having all utilities set up and functioning.
- An initial meeting at the property so the young person can view it, choose their bedroom, ask questions, and start to feel comfortable.
- A "welcome pack" with basic supplies like toiletries, towels, cleaning items, some groceries/food staples, etc. to help the young person settle in.
- A tenant handbook (Welcome Guide) that explains policies, provides contact info, and helps orient the young person to the accommodation and services.
- Introductions to the staff members who will be supporting the young person, with clear explanations of each person's role.
- A meeting to collaboratively develop an initial support plan outlining goals related to independent living skills, education, healthcare, social needs, etc.
- Providing any assistive technology or disability accommodations that the young person may require.
- Helping the young person decorate their bedroom and personalize the accommodation so it feels like home.
- A welcoming event like a housewarming party with the young person's choice of food, music, and guests.
- Confirming the young person understands how to access support 24/7 in case of emergencies.
- An orientation to the neighbourhood and local community, including public transportation options, shops, services, recreation areas etc.
- Introductions to neighbours and community groups/programs the young person may want to get involved with.

The key focus should be making the young person feel comfortable, supported, and empowered as they transition into greater independence.