

Staying Put Living Together Agreement

This Living Together Agreement provides a framework that sets out the house rules and expectations of young people and their carers where young people remain living with their former foster carer/s after their 18th birthday and under a "Staying Put" arrangement.

The Living Together Agreement should be based on the information set out in the preceding Placement Agreement Plan. Whilst the Living Together Agreement is a formal document setting out everyone's expectations, the majority of house rules and expectations will be the same as those in place prior to the young person's 18th birthday; so most of the requirements will remain broadly the same.

However, reaching the age of 18 and adulthood is a good opportunity to revisit all of this and see what needs to change.

The Living Together Agreement is a flexible document and should be used to set out tasks, expectations and house rules which help the "Staying Put" arrangement run smoothly. This should be reviewed every 6 months at the time of reviewing the Pathway Plan.

In order to ensure that everyone knows what is expected of them, this should be completed prior to a young person's 18th birthday and be signed and linked to the young person's Pathway Plan. Ideally it should be discussed and completed prior the last statutory CLA review meeting.

The Living Together Agreement contains three main areas:

1. Responsibilities of everyone who signs the agreement
2. House rules and support
3. Payments

The information in this document should cover all of the day-to-day arrangements that are needed to ensure that the positive aspects of fostering transfer to the "Staying Put" arrangement.

Please sign the Living Together Agreement after discussing and agreeing everyone's expectations. Signed copies of this document should be given to each person to keep and a copy should be placed in the young person's file.

Young Person:

Young Persons date of Birth:

Staying Put Carer:

Address:

Young Persons Mobile No:

Staying Put Carers' Mobile / Telephone No's:

Young Person's Social Worker/ Personal Advisor:

Contact Details:

Staying Put Carer's Supervising Social Worker:

Contact Details:

Date of Living Together Agreement Meeting:

1. Responsibilities

1.1 Young Person

- Engage in the support detailed in the 'House Rules and Support' Section (below) and the Pathway Plan in order to develop independence skills.
- Behave in a reasonable way, showing respect for the carer(s), their property, neighbours, other children/young people in the placement and the local community.
- Not behave in a manner that causes upset and/or harm to others or that would be deemed anti-social.
- Keep to any house rules set out in this Living Together Agreement.
- Pay rent each week, either from earnings or by claiming housing benefit or by a combination of earnings and housing benefit.
- Let your leaving care personal adviser / social worker and Staying Put Provider know in advance if you wish to end the Staying Put arrangement.
- Maintain your room, furnishings and fittings in good order (and be responsible for replacing any items that are damaged and/or stolen).
- Contact your leaving care personal adviser/social worker if you would like to change this Living Together Agreement or raise concerns/make a complaint.

Please detail any specific agreements in relation to the young person wishing to have another person staying overnight in the same bedroom. The arrangement/agreement to this will be included here, particularly if the Staying Put Provider is continuing to foster.

1.2 Staying Put Provider

- Provide a single fully furnished room to be paid for by the young person via earnings and/or housing benefit.
- Provide heating, hot water, lighting, food, house key, support and WiFi connexion.
- Inform the young person's leaving care personal adviser/social worker, fostering supervising social worker and the housing benefit department if the young person ceases to reside at the accommodation in order to prevent overpayment of benefits.
- Respect confidentiality (within agreed parameters) at all times regarding personal details of the young person.
- Ensure the accommodation is of a good standard and allow annual household health and safety checks to be carried out.
- Inform the young person's leaving care personal adviser/social worker as soon as possible of any significant incidents and if the arrangement is likely to be disrupted/ end prematurely.
- Provide adequate notice to end the "Staying Put" arrangement.
- Ensure there is adequate insurance in place to cover acts of accidental damage, deliberate damage or theft.
- Ensure relevant staff /agencies are made aware if the young person is absent or missing.
- Ensure (in conjunction with Children's Services) an appropriate 'Safe Care'/'Safeguarding Plan' is in place to manage the impact on other / younger children in the household of any changes to the household.
- Provide support (as detailed below in the 'House Rules and Support' Section) to prepare the young person for independent living and adulthood.

1.3 Leaving Care Team

- Inform Staying Put Provider(s) of any likely risks and advise on risk management and safe care.

- Carry out a DBS check for the young person and other household members prior to them reaching the age of 18.
- Advise and assist the young person with a housing benefit claim.
- Advise and assist the young person with any other benefit claims and financial matters in order to maximize income.
- Advise and assist the young person with any applications for moving on to other accommodation.
- Advise and suggest house rules (in addition or variance to those below).
- Visit at regular intervals until the end of this Staying Put arrangement to provide support.
- Review this arrangement as part of the young person's Pathway Plan review.
- Review this Living Together Agreement and the 'House Rules and Support' Section (below) at least every six months.

2. House Rules and Support

The points and headings set out below are not intended to be a definitive list; they provide a broad set of topics which should be discussed, clarified and expectations set out. It will be important to add other topics relevant to the individual Staying Put household. Each household will have different rules and expectations, some of these will depend on who else lives in the household, for example, where younger foster children are living in the house, it may not be appropriate to have a boyfriend or girlfriend stay over.

Suggested Topics for discussion: Issues regarding privacy, for example when it is acceptable to enter the young person's bedroom, which parts of the house are private, shared etc.

- What time is the young person expected to return in the evening, what are the arrangements if the young person is going to be late, or wants to stay out overnight etc?
- What are the arrangements for ascertaining the young person's whereabouts if they do not return on time?
- What are the arrangements for reporting the young person missing if they cannot be located, how long would you continue to try to contact them before reporting them missing?
- What are the arrangements for the young person having visitors and/or for friends staying overnight and/or boyfriends/girlfriends staying overnight - what is deemed acceptable?

- What are the arrangements if the young person smokes, what are the rules on consuming alcohol?
- What are the rules and arrangements regarding the young person having a mobile phone contract, credit arrangements, catalogue cards etc?
- What are the expectations of the young person in relation to their bedroom, the carer's bedroom, other young people and household members' bedrooms and the communal spaces in the property?
- What are the arrangements if the young person breaks or damages the carer's goods or property?

Arrangements for helping with the development of life skills:

1. Cooking and food preparation
2. Laundry, ironing & household chores
3. Budgeting & money management
4. Arrangements for dealing with administrative tasks & officialdom renewing housing benefit claims
5. Returning official forms (e.g. electoral roll register)

Arrangements for helping with any health needs

6. Setting up and attending appointments
7. Any specific health needs

Arrangements for education, training or employment activities

8. Support with college work / assignments
9. Attending 6th form college or university open days etc

Arrangements for support with maintaining contact with family and friends

10. Support with maintaining contact with family and extended family members
11. Support in maintaining appropriate friendships

Arrangements for hobbies, leisure interests & sports activities

12. Support with maintaining activities
13. Support with identifying and trying new activities
14. What are the appropriate behaviour codes and the safer caring arrangements?
15. Is the young person registered on a local authority housing list?
16. What is the proposed move on plan from 'staying put'?
17. What are the arrangements for ending 'staying put'?
18. Other issues to be added

3. Finance:

Staying Put Fee:

What does the payment cover:

- Young Person Rent Payment:
- Young Person contribution to household expenditure:

What happens if the young person is temporarily away, such as at university or on holiday:

What happens if the young person temporarily loses their entitlement to benefits through imposition of a sanction:

How payments will affect benefit entitlement and tax liabilities, and who will advise the carer and young person in this respect:

When will payment cease:

When will payment be reviewed: