

## **Appendix K: Information for Foster Carers Considering Staying Put**

Staying Put is to enable eligible young people to stay with their foster carer's post 18, up until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Young people who are assessed as needing a service from Adults Social Care can access the Shared Lives scheme run by Adults Services. This may meet the young person's needs more fully than Staying Put and should be considered.

Staying Put is to develop independence skills, improve self-care skills, enhance life skills, improve social resilience, enhance employability and protect against vulnerability.

If the young person is eligible for the scheme there are many similarities to that of fostering, but many significant changes.

- The Staying Put provider receives £227.90 per week (or £137.48 per week if formerly a pre-accredited foster carer) for Support costs from Children's Social Care;
- The provider will also receive £60 for rent (from Local Housing Allowance and/or the young person) and £20 towards utilities and food (from the young person).

The total weekly amount paid (£302.95 or £213.78) will be made through the following four elements:

Responsibility for the payment of each of these elements will be made as follows:

	Weekly Amount	Who Is Responsible	Funding Options
Rent	£60	Young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earned Income</li><li>• Benefits</li><li>• Section 23C Funding, if UASC awaiting leave to remain</li></ul>
Support	£227.90 £137.48	NYCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 23C Funding (Children's Act 1989)</li></ul>
Utilities	£10 (suggested amount)	Young Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benefits</li><li>• Earned Income</li></ul>
Food	£10 (suggested amount)	Young Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benefits</li><li>• Earned Income</li></ul>

- It is recommended that where payments for food, utilities and/or rent are being paid directly to the carer by the young person, a record is kept as proof of receipt of payments;

- The young person would have a genuine rent liability. The LCCW will support the young person make and maintain any benefit claims, and help with budgeting;
- Out of the support costs the carers would **not** be expected to fund mobile phone contracts, toiletries, clothes or leisure pursuits. This is the young person's responsibility;
- Care leavers may be able to access financial support from Leaving Care for a range of areas. Requests are considered on a needs led basis. (details in the Core Offer to Care Leavers);
- There is no formal respite within the Staying Put scheme;
- The LCCW will provide a birthday and Christmas allowance to the young person;
- If a carer decides to no longer be a registered foster carer (i.e. they have no other foster children) they will no longer receive support from their Supervising Social Worker in this case the Staying Put Co-Ordinator will be the primary support;
- The Staying Put young person will need a DBS check if there are younger children in the household;
- If the carer is in receipt of welfare benefits in their own right, there would not be any impact on these as the Staying Put allowance is disregarded for benefit purposes;
- If the carer faces financial detriment as a result of Staying Put for example losing their single person council tax reduction then the loss will be compensated for;
- The tax exemptions under the Qualifying Care Relief system remain the same for Staying Put providers as they do for foster carers;
- The young person becomes an 'excluded licensee' in the eyes of the law, and the carer becomes the landlord/lady. However, if the arrangement were to break down there is no eviction process to follow due to the excluded licensee status, so the young person could leave immediately in extreme circumstances;
- The carer should inform their insurance companies that the relationship has changed from a fostering arrangement to a staying put arrangement;
- In reality the relationship between the carers and the young person is often the same as it was at 17 years and 11 months;

- Staying Put has proved massively successful in helping young people to move onto the next stage of adulthood;
- Staying Put provides young people with the security of the on-going relationship with their carer's. It cannot be under estimated how beneficial this is for the young person.

Valerie Mills  
Staying Put Staying Put Coordinator  
01609 532899 [valerie.mills@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:valerie.mills@northyorks.gov.uk)