

Supported Accommodation Flow Chart

From October 2023 Supported Accommodation will become an Ofsted regulated service. This brings a new level of responsibility to the provider of accommodation to ensure they can safely meet the young person's needs. Supported Accommodation is primarily for young people aged 16/17 who have a degree of independence skills and can demonstrate they do not require the levels of care delivered in Children's Homes or Foster Care. Young adults (18+) can also be accommodated but careful matching must be considered. Adults will not fall under the inspection framework.

Ofsted's 2023 Supported Accommodation Standards & Regulations state that when living in supported accommodation the following principles apply:

Supported accommodation – key principles

1. I feel safe and secure where I live and in my wider environment.
2. My voice is respected, heard and advocated for, so I can influence the support I receive.
3. I have confidence that the adults who support me understand me, are skilled and work effectively together to best meet my needs.
4. I have my own space that I feel proud of and live in a comfortable, well-maintained, and stable accommodation.
5. I receive high-quality, tailored support that sustains my health and wellbeing.
6. I have strong, trusting, and meaningful relationships within my support system and can rely on the adults around me.
7. I feel supported to learn and apply skills for independent adult living.
8. I feel positive about my future and opportunities as a result of the support I receive.

A placement in Supported Accommodation follows the same process of that of Children's Homes/Foster placement. It is a placement in an Ofsted regulated service and it is therefore the responsibility of the placing authority to provide accurate information which allows the provider to determine if they can meet a young person's needs.

Young people known to us will be discussed in the 16 and 17+ predictor panel, however, young people accessing through NTS and in emergencies can be discussed directly with the Coordinator/Service Manager.

FLOW CHART

1. The indicator of Support vs Care

The Social Worker should use this document to demonstrate why they believe the young person is ready to move to supported accommodation. Key areas to consider are health, missing, engagement with professionals, budgeting, cooking, and risk factors. A discussion should be held with the Service Manager/Coordinator/Host.

2. Matching Document

Supported Accommodation has various accommodation types which ranges from shared living, single occupancy flats/bedsits with staffing on site and single flats in the community and supported lodgings. The matching document will help us identify skill levels of the young person and which accommodation they are best suited to.

3. Planning Meeting

Where both the indicator and matching document suggest a positive match, a planning meeting will be held with stake holders and the young person. We will discuss a visit to the accommodation and agree a

timeline for moving in. The license agreement and young person's guide will be shared. Risk assessment & Support Plan to be initiated.

4. Risk assessment and Support Plan

Before a placement can begin the Risk Assessment and Support Plan is to be forwarded to the Coordinator/Host. It should indicate levels of autonomy the young person can have, and key areas of support required based on the levels of oversight we can provide and the needs of the young person. A discussion should take place where content may require adjustments /clarification.

5. Move to Accommodation

Agree a move in date and meet with ISA's/Host. The young person will be supported to settle into their new home and be given advice on travel, shopping, and budgeting. Support to be given to register with health specialists and set up a bank account. On going support identified in both the Pathway Plan and Risk Assessment/Support plan to continue.

6. UASC & Emergency Placements

All accommodation is registered with Ofsted. Therefore, there is no distinction between young people coming through a planning process or as an emergency. In each scenario we must be able to demonstrate we can meet the young person's needs and ensure the safety of existing residents is maintained. Where young people are placed through the **Locality Team** contact must be made with the Coordinator/Service Manager immediately following any placement and a risk assessment/support plan submitted within 72 hours of the placement. Thereafter, it is imperative the 16+ service is kept informed of the plans for the young person through regular communication. High levels of missing episodes and police involvement are Ofsted notifiable incidents, and we wish to ensure that an accurate picture of the young person is gathered at the outset so we can meet their needs and in turn inform

appropriate actions to maintain their welfare. Where risks are identified which may place either the young person, peers, and staff at significant risk an urgent meeting must be held to discuss mitigating these risks. For UAS-young people the same time scale is requested for the implementation of a risk assessment/support plan.

Accommodation

We provide accommodation based on the independence skills of the young person.

Ofsted separates accommodation into categories:

Single Occupancy: which includes flats and bedsits either within staffed settings or in the community.

Shared accommodation: is where kitchens, bathrooms and communal areas are shared. HMO's also come under this category.

Supported Living: With a Host in a family setting.

The choice of accommodation should mirror the independence skills of the young person, i.e. the more independent they are the less oversight they may require. The Pathway Plan and Risk Assessment/Support plan should instruct on the level of oversight and intervention from the 16+ staff team/Host.

An important factor to bear in mind when placing young people is that supported accommodation is often not staffed to the same levels observed in children's homes/foster care. ISA staff will often lone work and rotate around properties. Hosts in supported lodgings may also live by themselves. Risks mitigated through staff oversight should be discussed with the Coordinator, Service Manager and Host before young people access the service as this will determine our ability to meet their needs.

