

Wiltshire Council Families and Children's Services Staying Put Policy –

Updated June 2025

Introduction

- 1 The Children & Young Persons Act 2008 and Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers 2010 (Regulations and Guidance) require a Local Authority to have a Staying Put Policy that sets out arrangements which enable young people to remain in their foster care placements beyond their eighteenth birthday.
- 2 The Staying Put policy in the UK is designed to support young people who are leaving foster care. It allows them to remain with their foster carers beyond the age of 18, until they are ready to move out independently, typically until they are 21 years old (or longer if they are in full-time education). The policy aims to provide stability and continuity in their living arrangements, promoting better outcomes for young people transitioning to adulthood.

Who does the staying put policy cover

- 1 – The procedures apply to all young people in the care of Wiltshire Council when they turn 18, including those with council-approved foster carers, Supported Lodgings providers, or Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carers.
- 2 - The policy also includes Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) turning 18, though financial support is reviewed individually.
- 3 - Young people in residential placements are excluded from the Staying Put Policy.

Foster Carers Continuing to Foster

Can remain under the supervision of Placement Services, and their approval will be reviewed and updated via the Foster Panel.

Young people remaining with a foster carer post-18 and in a Staying Put arrangement will become adult members of the household and will require a valid DBS.

Ongoing Support for Young People

A personal advisor will continue to support the young person, managing their pathway plan, reviews, and ensuring they understand the Staying Put agreement.