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**Contact**

**Fostering Assessment and Recruitment Team**

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[**www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering**](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/fostering)

## WHAT ARE SUPPORTED LODGINGS?

Supported lodgings provide a young person with a room in a home environment, and the support and guidance of an adult or adults living there. Support and guidance can cover a huge range of areas, from helping young people develop life skills, through to simply allowing them to experience the ups and downs of living in a family group. It can involve helping them to use public transport on their own, helping them manage their own health, and more challenging areas such as making sure they keep to the terms of probation or curfew.

## WHO ARE THE YOUNG PEOPLE?

The greatest need in our area is for accommodation to suit young people from 16 to 18 who mainly require supported lodgings but the service supports 16 to 24 if the young person is in higher education.

There are many different reasons for young people needing supported lodgings. Some may have been living with their families, but find it impossible to continue because of challenging circumstances. Some are unaccompanied young people seeking asylum. Others may be former foster children or have learning disabilities or mental health problems. Some need accommodation and support for a few days in an ordinary home as a better option than a young offender’s institution.

CCC Colour

**Supported**

**Lodgings**

**Scheme**

CCC Colour

## WHO CAN OFFER SUPPORTED LODGINGS?

Cambridgeshire is a diverse county comprising of people from all racial and cultural backgrounds and as the young people will reflect this mixture; we would welcome applications from everyone. Providers of supported lodgings can be one person or a couple, or a family. You can be working or unemployed, married or unmarried.

**WILL I BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE YOUNG PERSON?**

You will not be asked to take parental responsibility for the young person; they will be a lodger in your home. However, we would ask you to provide guidance and support to help young people become independent, confident adults. We believe that it is in supported lodgings that young people can learn how to take responsibility for their own lives, and learn how they have a responsibility for the lives of others as well. They will discover how their actions affect not only themselves, but have a knock on effect on others they are living with.

Young people may also need help with acquiring practical skills. Using a bank account, household budgeting, learning to shop for food and cook it, cleaning and gardening, simple DIY, using public transport, organising leisure time. In other words learning all the skills involved in everyday living.

**WILL MY HOME BE SUITABLE?**

There are no set rules as to what the accommodation should be like. As long as there is a clean and safe spare bedroom for the young person to use, then the home can be large or small, old or new, rented or owned.

To make sure that there are no problems having a lodger in your home it is good to check with the following:

* **Council or Registered Housing Association tenant**

You can probably take a young person without any problem: if you are not sure check with your landlord or landlady.

* **Private tenant**

This will depend on the terms of your tenancy, if you are not sure, ask your landlord or landlady, or ask at your local Citizen’s Advice Bureau.

* **You have a mortgage**

Check whether you need the lender’s permission. You should make it clear that you will be living there and that you will be sharing the accommodation with a young person rather than offering them a tenancy.

* **You own your own property**

If you own your property outright you have the right to have who you like living with you. If you own it leasehold you should check the terms of the lease just in case you need permission.

**HOW MUCH WILL I GET PAID?**

The payments will vary depending on the needs of the young person and are up to £200.00 per week (an agreed part of this will be paid by the young person). Payments can be made weekly or biweekly and either paid into your bank account or given to you by your support worker on their regular visit. The young person will be required to make a contribution towards this amount for their stay. This can be paid directly from the young person or the department will pay it and deduct it from the young person’s allowance.

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