



Milton Keynes
City Council

Supported Lodgings Finance Policy 2026/2027.

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Introduction

This document outlines the financial support to Supported Lodgings Carers for Milton Keynes City Council.

Supported Lodgings provides young people, who are leaving care, the option to live within a family environment but, with their own independence.

It is a form of supported accommodation for vulnerable young people who are not ready to live independently but have been assessed by their social worker to have the necessary independent skills to live in a supported lodgings arrangement.

Supported lodgings differs from foster care, as the supported lodgings carer or host provides a room in their home to a young person.

Supported lodgings carers or hosts as they are referred to, will provide up to 10 hours of support and guidance to ensure young people gain additional independent skills for successful transition to adulthood.

This includes:

- Providing a supportive home environment
- Supporting a young person to continue education or secure employment
- To support a young person to learn, or continue to learn, life skills
- Supporting a young person to access health services
- To be someone a young person can rely on
- Support a young person into independent adulthood

It is expected that the arrangement will provide places for young person aged 16 to 21 years. If a young person is undertaking a higher education course supported lodgings carers may be available up to their 24th birthday.

Legal Framework

The Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023 is the statutory framework for all Supported accommodation and includes supported lodgings carers.

Children Act 1989 statutory duty upon local authority to accommodate and support children and young people.

A set of provisions have been introduced under the framework to ensure supported lodgings carers or host provide the following

- Encourages the young person to gain independence and life skills.
- Actively promotes the young person's physical and mental health.
- Ensures a safe, stable environment that keeps the young person secure from harm.
- Supports the youth's progression into education, training, or employment

Supporting Young People – Supported Lodgings

Supported lodgings services provide a young person with a room of their own in a private home where they are a member of the household.

The householder, or host, provides a safe and supportive environment, working alongside professional services to help and support the young person in gaining skills for independent adult life.

There are two broad types of supported lodgings service, those which offer:

- a response to a crisis in the home life of a young person by housing them for a short time (between one night and six weeks) while efforts are made to resolve the crisis in a way which enables them safely to resume living with their family or move in with extended family or friends
- a lodging for up to two or three years for a young person while they develop skills and confidence and prepare for adult life.

Financial Support

Supported lodgings carers will receive the following per week

Total:	£282.61
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Former relevant Care leavers can continue living with supported lodgings carers after their 18th birthday and until their 21st birthday if all parties agree.

Once the young person is 18 if they are eligible for housing benefit, they will be supported to apply for this.

The housing benefit will go directly to the supported lodgings hosts and the amount deducted from what the Local Authority pays, which means in total the combined amount the hosts will receive will be **£282.61**.

If the young person is not eligible for housing benefit due to income, then they will be expected to contribute towards the rent. This will be means tested and will be no more than £70 a week.

The amount the young person pays the carer will be deducted from the £282.61 the Local Authority pays. This means that in total the combined amount the carers will continue to receive is £282.61.

If the young person is not eligible for housing benefit due to their legal status, then the Local authority will continue to pay the carers £282.61 until this is resolved or the young person turns 21 years old.

When a young person is aged 16- 17 years old they will receive a young person's allowance from the Local Authority, this can continue to be paid for up to 5 weeks after the young person turns 18 to allow for Universal Credit to be applied for.

Accommodation

The young person should have their own bedroom with a lock. This is their personal space and should be respected by the host who should ask permission to enter.

The host should have a spare key for use in an emergency. The young person should be able to personalise their room in agreement with the host.

The host is expected to provide furniture and bedding for the room. It is the young person's responsibility to look after this and to keep their room clean and tidy.

The young person is expected to undertake their own washing as part of their independence skills.

The kitchen, living /dining space and toilets/bathrooms are shared with the other people in the household. The young person is expected to tidy up after themselves in the communal areas.

Meals

The young person should be encouraged to shop for themselves and cook their own food. They will receive a weekly allowance for this. If the young person lacks confidence or skills in cooking the host can provide the food when the young person first moves in.

A payment of £20 per week being included as part of the young person's weekly allowance to the host is suggested until the young person is confident and able to buy and cook their own meals.

Additional Financial Support for Under 18's

If a young person is under 18 when placed consideration can be given to an additional allowance being paid for the first week of placement to cover the cost of essentials such as clothing.

Additional financial support can be discussed and requested via supervision with your supervising social worker. All requests for under £250 will require approval of Fostering Operations Manager and the requests for over £250 will be approved by Head of Service.

Support that a former relevant young person receives after their 18th birthday is documented within the Local Offer and can be accessed via the following link;

[Care leavers Local Offer | Milton Keynes City Council](#)

