

# Supportive Lodgings Scheme



ISLINGTON

# What is the supportive lodgings scheme?

Supportive lodgings carers offer a home to young people aged 16 -21 helping them with their transition to adulthood. These young people cannot live with their own parents but do not want the restrictions of foster care. You would offer a listening ear, teach them how to budget, shop and cook, helping them to become fully independent by the time they move on to their own place.

# How is supportive lodgings different from foster care?

Supportive lodgings carers do not act as parents, like foster carers do. They do not give young people money, as this comes from the Independent futures leaving care service or from the benefits agency. They offer support and guidance but young people will be free to make their own decisions subject to the Supportive Lodgings Agreement which is planned before a young person moves into their home.





## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people of all backgrounds who can offer a local home to an Islington young person. You may be a busy family or work full time but must be able to offer the young person their own room. Young people will need lots of positive encouragement as this has often been missing in their lives.

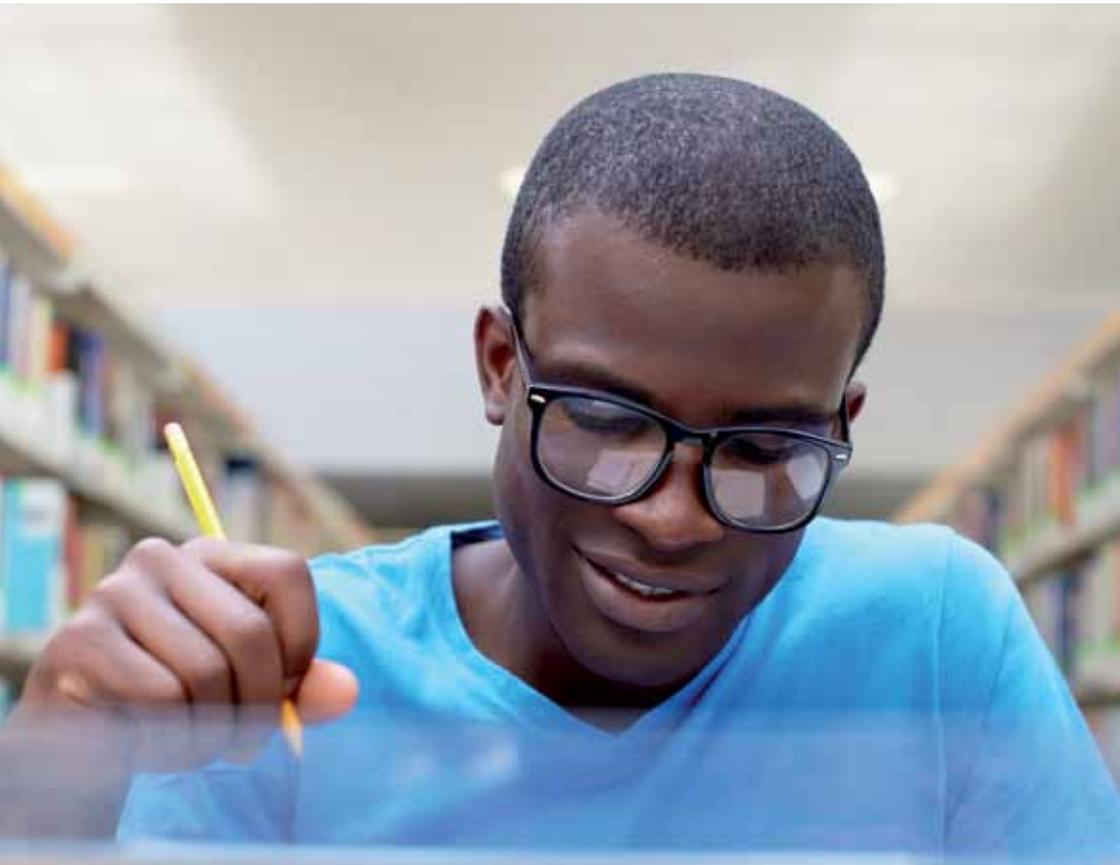
## What can I expect?

You will receive a fee paid by contributions from Islington fostering and placements service and housing benefit. If a young person under 18 is placed for whom the council has parental responsibility, all the payments will come direct to you from the council. The payment will cover costs such as rent, council tax, fuel bills etc.

You will be invited to all the training that foster carers attend and have monthly support meetings to help you in your role as a supportive lodgings provider. You will also need to work with social workers and the Supportive lodgings service.

# Will being a Supportive lodgings carer affect my benefits or tax?

If the young person is under 18 and in the care of the council, this allowance may be treated as a fostering allowance and disregarded by the housing benefit service. If you are a tax payer, HMRC's Rent a room scheme allows for £4250 per year of tax free rental payments. If you aren't sure please contact your local benefits agency or tax office for more advice.



# Insurance and health and safety

The council holds public liability insurance in respect of placements made to cover claims made as a result of the supportive lodgings scheme. However the council would expect each carer to inform their own insurers when a young person moves in. The Supportive lodgings scheme would want carers to follow basic guidance to ensure that the arrangement is a safe one for everyone.

## Who else will be involved?

The young person will have a Young persons advisor from Independent futures, our leaving care service and a social worker too if they are under 18. You will also have a supervisor from the Supportive lodgings service who will keep in touch to support you and offer guidance.



# How do I become a Supportive lodgings carer?

Soon after you have received your information pack you will be contacted by a supportive lodgings supervisor. We will arrange a visit to your home where you will learn more about how the scheme will work and be able to ask any further questions you may have. We will visit you several times to get to know you and your family and to take up references, including a CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check to prepare for a young person joining your household.





Please contact us on  
**0800 073 0428** or email  
**supportivelodgings@islington.gov.uk**  
to find out more.

**Please contact us if you would like this document  
in large print, Braille or in an audio format.**

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