**Supportive lodgings**

Islington children’s service wants our young people to have safe, secure, suitable and affordable accommodation for including care leavers with the right level of housing support is provided.

We know that the right preparation prevents tenancy breakdowns for young people who have left care.

The supportive lodging scheme is an alternative accommodation option for young people leaving care in Islington. When a young person is ready to move on, their social worker assesses what accommodation best suits their needs. There will be several options open to them at this point and living in supportive lodgings may be the best option to support a young person to develop the independence/ life skills they will need as an independent young adult. Our supportive lodgings Scheme is for young people aged 16 -21yrs Young people may have outgrown foster care or are not able to live with their families but have not quite developed all the skills to move on to full independent living and need a supportive environment to help them make that step. Most placements will last up to a year. It will depend on how ready the young person will be for independence.

Support requirements will vary for different young people and an individual support plan will be in place. The aim of support is to enable the personal development of the young person, and to prepare them for moving on to living independently.

Here are some examples of typical support needs:

* Advice on budgeting/ managing money
* Advice/ support day to day living skills
* Guidance and support in accessing local services
* Providing a “listening ear”
* Help with preparing meals, shopping
* Practical and emotional support

Training

All supportive lodgings providers have access to range of training training and a 6 weekly support group is held for supportive lodging providers to meet each other and learn together . Dates for this group can in the training section of the foster carers handbook.