



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Trafford Supported Lodgings Scheme
Key Supported Lodgings Providers
Description and Person specification

Supported Lodgings

The Supported Lodgings Scheme is located within the Children in Care Service under the directorate of Trafford's Children, Families and Wellbeing (CFW).

The Supported Lodgings Scheme recruits householders who can offer accommodation and a supportive environment within their own homes to vulnerable young people who are either care leavers or presenting as 'homeless' and who are aged between the ages of 16-21.

Supported lodgings are:

- A form of supported accommodation for vulnerable young people who are not ready to live independently
- Provided by private individual (Supported Lodgings Providers) who offer a room in their home and varying levels of support.
- A placement which offers a safe and supported environment which provides an opportunity for young people to develop independent living skills

Supported Lodgings services provide young people with an opportunity to live in a family home and to experience domestic life in a shared and supportive environment. For care leavers the placement provides an opportunity for young people to make a graduated transition from care to independent living.

During 2017 the scheme expanded to be able to offer two different types of supported lodgings:

- General supported lodgings
- Key supported Lodgings

This person specification is for Key Supported Lodgings Providers (KSLP's) only.

Key Supported Lodgings

Key Supported Lodgings requires a higher level of support from the providers than general SPL's. Key Supported Lodgings providers will support young people into achieving positive outcomes in a homely environment who may not otherwise have had the opportunity because of their higher level of need. The accommodation and support would be provided in your own home.

Key Supported Lodgings providers will provide placements for young people who may have experienced many placement disruptions and who have a high level of need.

- have challenging and emotional behaviour;
- have experienced at least one, if not multiple, placement breakdowns;

- in most cases are currently living in residential care.

Young people likely to be placed with Key SLP's providers may present with some of the following:

- They may be very vulnerable, possibly with a history of traumatic life experiences that have impacted on their confidence, presentation and behaviours.
- They may have experienced numerous placement breakdown and struggle to find a sense of belonging
- They may be currently living in a children's home, foster placement, with family or friends, and are receiving support from social care and other agencies such as health services.
- They may have complex and additional needs, and present with difficult and challenging behaviours. These which may include behaviours relating to poor emotional health; such as self-harm or depression.
- They may be subject to Court or Police bail or remand, and require high levels of support and supervision.

Person Specification and Criteria for Applicants

Key Supported Lodgings providers must have the understanding, skill, resilience, capacity, commitment and availability required to meet the needs of young people placed.

The scheme wants to recruit 'Key Supported Lodgings Providers' who can provide suitable, safe accommodation and high levels of support to young people.

We need to continually recruit Key Supported Lodgings Providers from all backgrounds including single people, couples, single parents, gay couples and two parent families as well as black and minority ethnic individuals and families.

Key Supported Lodgings Providers will need to engage in formal supervision and be available to receive regular feedback and appraisal. They will need to engage with frequent visits from their allocated coordinator and work with workers from different organisations to support the young person placed.

Key Supported Lodgings Provider Specification/Criteria:

Desirable qualification/ Training

- Basic literacy and numeracy
- Child protection/ safeguarding

Experience

- Minimum of 12 months experience of direct work with children and young people.

Knowledge

- Children Act and Leaving Care Act
- Governing Policies and legislation regarding children, young people and care leavers
- Services available in the community for children and young people.

Skills and Abilities

- To provide emotional and practical support to young people.
- Good verbal, communication skills
- To provide weekly written summaries
- To support young people to adapt to new situations and environment
- Report writing skills.

Additional Requirements

- An understanding of the difficulties faced by young people and a genuine interest in helping them.
- To be warm and caring.
- To have a reasonable expectation of a young person's capabilities and limitations.
- An understanding and commitment to equal opportunities.
- An understanding of and commitment to confidentiality.
- Commitment to attend training all mandatory training as required.
- Commitment to personal self-development.
- Agreement to be vetted (enhanced DBS check/Local Authority checks) and supply references.
- Understanding of basic health and safety issues within the home and agreement to comply with any current legislation.
- That full or part time employment is not undertaken, which may prevent you from being available to offer additional support required.

Main Duties and responsibilities

- Provide support to the young person to prepare for independent living, in accordance with their Pathway Plan, working alongside other organisations to support the personal development of the young person. Activities should include:
Teaching and supporting the young person to develop their life skills and ability e.g. assistance with life skills such as cooking, cleaning, budgeting;
Practical and emotional support to the young person;
Setting up bank accounts;
Assisting the young person to manage their finances appropriately;
Providing assistance in looking for suitable jobs, further training and education

- To provide and maintain adequate and safe accommodation in accordance with the scheme's regulations.
- To provide a single, fully furnished room, breakfast and an evening meal and access to communal area e.g. kitchen, bathroom, sitting room.
- To work with the scheme co-ordinator, aftercare personal advisors and social workers in developing a support plan for the young person.
- To comply with and sign the Lodgings Agreement.
- To collect weekly rent from the young person and accurately record all payments.
- To support and accompany young people to attend appointments i.e. medical, legal housing and benefits, as and when required.
- To maintain regular contact with the scheme co-ordinator via phone calls, supervision and visits.
- To attend induction training and other training courses that become available in negotiation with the scheme co-ordinator.
- To draw up and monitor house rules for the young person.
- To be committed to equal opportunities and abide by Trafford CFW equal opportunities policies.
- To adhere to the scheme's confidentiality policy in respect of personal details and backgrounds of young people referred to the scheme.
- To immediately notify the scheme co-ordinator in the event of an emergency.

Minimum standards of accommodation and services

All Key Supported Lodgings Providers are expected to provide the following accommodation and services:

- Single, fully furnished room per lodger
- This furniture should include a bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers, storage space together with bedding and curtains
- Breakfast and evening meal (part board)
- Adequate heating and lighting
- Access to hot water, bath or shower
- 2 sets of bedding and towels (2 hand towels and 2 bath towels)
- Access to laundry facilities
- Access to common areas of household (including kitchen and living room)
- Cleaning of communal areas and a secure, safe environment
- Front door key
- Available and appropriate support
- Confidentiality
- Two weeks' notice wherever possible
- Two months' notice of any holidays that are going to be taken.

You will also be expected to attend Supported Lodgings Provider forums and compulsory training on the role of the Supported Lodgings Provider, protection from abuse, young people's rights, complaints and diversity.

Equal Opportunities

The Trafford Supported Lodgings scheme is wholeheartedly committed to ensuring equal opportunities for all people. The scheme positively and actively welcomes Supported Lodgings Providers from a wide variety of backgrounds – single people, couples, employed, unemployed, people with disabilities, and people from black and minority ethnic communities.

The scheme is determined to make all efforts to prevent discrimination or other unfair treatment against any of its staff, potential staff or users of its services regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, responsibilities for dependants, age, physical disability or offending background.

The scheme is fully committed to providing fair and equal treatment for all of the people who use its services.

We intend to provide a fair and equal service for everyone regardless of race, gender, sexuality, responsibility for dependants, age or disability.

The Supported Lodgings Scheme expects that Supported Lodgings Providers will respect and uphold Trafford's guidelines and principles. The scheme will only recruit Supported Lodgings Providers who show a commitment to these guidelines and who are prepared to carry them out in their everyday support of their Supported Lodger.

Statutory Checks and References

As a key Supported Lodgings Provider you will have access to vulnerable young people and as such certain checks will be required before you can be approved.

The administrative staff will arrange for the following checks to be made on all members of the household aged 18 and over: Disclosure and Barring Service, Probation, Health Trust, Education, Children's Services, and whether the applicants have a right to work in the UK. Where the applicants live or have lived outside the local authority area, the checks will be made with the local authority and health trust where the applicants live/have lived in the last ten years.

1) Statutory Checks

- An enhanced DBS disclosure for all people in the household over the age of 18
- An enhanced disclosure for any person over the age of 18 that visits the house on a regular basis
- N.S.P.C.C
- Probation Service
- Department of Health

2) References

- Two character references, one of which should be an employer
- References cannot be from relatives or friends

3) Health Check

Applicants will be provided with the relevant medical form to fill in with their details and the service will send this to the GP with a covering letter requesting that the GP complete the Form and return it to the service

4.) Financial Information

Applicants are required to provide evidence of a secure home and will be asked for copies of mortgage or tenancy agreements.

Contact Details

The Scheme Coordinators are based within the Trafford Children in Care Service, and can be contacted on 0161 912 3507/3521.