



# Pembrokeshire Supported Lodgings Scheme

## Quick Guide for Young People



# What is Supported Lodgings?

Supported Lodgings is where you live as a lodger within someone's home.

Living as a lodger means that you will have your own front door key and separate bedroom. You will share the kitchen, bathroom, living room and washing machine with the Supported Lodgings Carer and their family.

You are expected to be able to do quite a lot for yourself, more than you would have done when you were in foster care or in residential unit.

Supported lodgings provide a safe, supportive environment in which you can gain and further improve some of the practical skills you will need for when you move into your own flat.

You will practice how to cook your own meals, do your own food and toiletry shopping, learn to budget for bills, wash and iron your clothes, etc.

It is called “supported” lodgings because the Supported Lodgings Carer is there for you to talk to if something is worrying you, or if you are unsure of anything, e.g: they can help you fill in forms or show you the best way to cook something if you are not sure.

# Eligibility criteria

The scheme is open to young people, aged 16 to 21, who have been “looked after” by Pembrokeshire Children’s Services, e.g. you may have been living with foster carers, in a residential home or a supported accommodation before your 18th birthday.

Supported lodgings will suit you if whilst in residential or foster care, you have started to take responsibility for:

- Cooking some of your own meals.
- Learning to budget.
- Doing some of your own food shopping.
- Washing and ironing your own clothes.

# Living together agreement

Before moving in, a “living together” agreement and “house rules” will be drawn up between you and carer, your social worker and the accommodation officer will help with this. The agreement will clearly state what you need to do during the placement in order to get ready for living on your own.

The agreement will also outline what tasks the carer and social worker/PA will undertake during the placement e.g. the social worker/PA will continue to meet with you offering support and advice, and will also identify your move-on accommodation.

The living together agreement will also list all the rules of the house e.g. you cannot play music loud after 11 pm.

# How long can i stay in supported lodgings?

The length of placements will vary from young person to young person. It will depend on:

- Your needs and abilities,
- How soon you feel ready,
- You are being assessed as being ready to move into your own place.
- The length of time you spend in your lodgings will also depend on when your accommodation becomes available.

Shortly before moving in, a provisional moving out date will be set. At each review this date will be reconsidered to see if you need to stay longer or can move out sooner than anticipated.

You may be asked to leave your accommodation sooner than planned if you deliberately damage the carer's property or behave in a threatening manner towards them.

# How will my stay in supported lodgings be paid for?

If you are under 18, Pembrokeshire Children's Services will pay your rent. If you are over 18 and in receipt of benefits, your rent will be paid by housing benefit and a contribution from Pembrokeshire Children's Services. If you are working or have large savings and cannot receive housing benefit, you will be expected to pay a contribution towards your rent out of your wages or savings.

Once you are 18 years of age, young people will be expected to pay a weekly contribution towards the cost of their food and bills whatever their income.

## Carers

All carers are assessed by Children's Services' workers to find out if they are suitable to offer supported lodgings to young people. They receive training to help them to support young people. All carers, and anyone over the age of 16 who live with them, will be police, health and social services checked to ensure that they do not pose any risks to young people.

# **Will i meet the carer before i move in?**

Yes. You will certainly have the chance to meet them at least once before moving in, the first time will be informal giving you both the opportunity to see if you could live together. Neither you nor the carers are under any obligation to agree to the placement going ahead if, after this meeting, you feel that you could not get along.

# **Is supported lodgings like being in foster care?**

No. The carer is not there to act as a parent and you will not be expected to be part of their family. By choosing to live in supported lodgings you are saying that you do not need as much support and looking after as you did when in foster care, or when in a children's home.

# **Will information be given to the carer about me?**

Yes. Some information will be given to help them decide whether or not they could offer you, with your individual needs, accommodation and support. Before passing on any information your Social Worker/PA and the Supported Lodgings Coordinator will tell you what will be said about you.

# Who can i talk to if i am unsure about anything?

You can get more information about supported lodgings from your social worker/PA or by talking to the Supported Lodgings Coordinator on 01437 774673 or writing to :

Supported Lodgings Coordinator  
Pembrokeshire County Council  
Family Placement Team  
Customer Service Centre  
Argyle Street  
PEMBROKE DOCK  
SA72 6HL

# Useful contacts:

## Voice for Care

Voice offers advocacy to children in care, making sure that they are listened to and their views are taken seriously.

Phone: 0808 800 5792      [www.voiceyp.org](http://www.voiceyp.org)

## Childline

Childline is a counselling service for all children and young people. You can contact them about anything. No problem is too big or too small.

Phone: 0800 11 11 (free 24 hours)      [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

## NSPCC

Phone: 020 7825 2500

## Lawstuff

Phone: 0808 8020 008

[www.lawstuff.org.uk](http://www.lawstuff.org.uk) Website from the Children's Legal Centre full of information about your rights.

## Who Cares Trust

The Who Cares Trust is a voice and champion for children and young people living in care.

Phone: 0500 564 570      [www.thewhocarestrust.org](http://www.thewhocarestrust.org).

## Social Worker

Phone: 0300 333 2222 Out of hours social workers  
(Emergency Duty Team)