

# STAYING PUT



Information for  
Professionals and  
Carers



Leicester  
City Council

## WHAT IS STAYING PUT?

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Staying Put is an arrangement whereby a Young Person in Foster Care remains with their Carer(s) after their 18th birthday.

As the Young Person is now an adult, the current living arrangement must change – they are no longer in-care and their carer(s) are no longer fostering the Young Person; rather the Young Person is now a lodger and the carer(s) are effectively landlords.

Staying Put is designed to promote a gradual transition from care to adulthood; to ensure that Young People do not experience a sudden disruption to their living arrangements and lives.

## WHAT ARE THE STAYING PUT CRITERIA?

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**Education** – the Young Person is in education and wishes to remain with their former foster carer in order to complete their current education or training course.

**Vulnerability** – the Young Person is displaying significantly delayed maturity and extreme difficulties regarding preparing for independence, (and remaining with their carer(s) will assist them to prepare for moving on).

**Planned Move-On** – Young Person is actively bidding for a Local Authority tenancy.

**Disability** – the Young Person has met the eligibility criteria for Adult Services involvement and the carer(s) have been approved under the Shared Lives Scheme.

## HOW DOES STAYING PUT LINK TO THE PATHWAY PLANNING PROCESS?

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Any discussions about a possible Staying Put arrangement must form part of the Pathway Planning and Review process.

Discussions should start at the earliest possible opportunity, and potential Staying Put arrangements should be mentioned when completing the Young Person's Pathway Assessment and Initial Pathway Plan (around the Young Person's 16th birthday). The first Pathway Review meeting after the Young Person's 16th birthday should discuss and record what arrangements are being considered.

If Staying Put is the preferred plan for the Young Person, then a clear recommendation to this effect should be taken to the Pathway Review meeting immediately after the Young Person's 17th birthday.

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STAYING PUT PROFESSIONALS MEETING?

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To ensure that the carer(s) have all the information that they require, to consider whether they wish to offer a Staying Put arrangement.

This will include; ensuring that the carer(s) understand the changes in their funding arrangements and the potential impact on their income tax, welfare benefits and national Insurance responsibilities and liabilities. (The carer(s) will need to seek specialist independent advice around these issues).

The meeting should be attended by the Young Person's Social Worker, Carer(s) and their Supervising Social Worker. For Independent Fostering Agency placements, the meeting should also include someone from the Placement Commissioning Team.

If Staying Put is recommended and agreed at the Pathway Review meeting (following the Young Person's 17th birthday), then a second Staying Put Professionals meeting should be held to confirm all arrangements.

## WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAYING PUT?

- Support payments of £80.00 per week to the carer(s) from Children's Services.
- Housing Benefits payments (current rate is £86.30 per week). If the carer(s) are in receipt of any means-tested benefits themselves, then Children's Services will pay the Young Person's rent element to the carer(s).
- A contribution from the Young Person of £25.00 per week.
- **Totalling: £191.30 per week.**

## INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCY PLACEMENTS

Requests to extend a Young Person's Independent Fostering Agency placement will be considered against the same criteria as the in-house Foster Carer placements (vulnerability, education, disability, moving-on).

Negotiations should commence with the Independent Fostering Agency when a Young Person reaches the age of 16; regarding whether they would accept the Staying Put rate which would be paid after the Young Person's 18th birthday.

## **WHAT ARE THE OTHER KEY ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED?**

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- A DBS check for the Young Person (where other children live in the same household).
- Support for the Carer(s).
- Licence Agreement.
- Service-Level Agreement.
- Independent Advice for the Carer(s).
- The Young Person should ideally have their own bedroom.
- Living Together Agreement(s).

## **WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SECURE AN AGREEMENT FOR A STAYING PUT ARRANGEMENT?**

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- Following a recommendation from a Pathway Review meeting that a Young Person should 'Stay Put' with their current carer(s), an agreement for funding this arrangement needs to be agreed from the Service Manager of the LAC Service. The Allocated Social Worker should then complete a Staying Put Funding Request Report/Referral, and forward it to the 16+ Team Manager and to the Service Manager for approval.

- The Staying Put arrangement cannot be considered to have been formally agreed until the Service Manager has signed off the request.
- Along with the Staying Put Funding Request Report/Referral, the Living Together Agreement needs to be completed with the Young Person, the Carer(s) and by the Social Worker/Personal Advisor. The agreement should set out clear expectations and responsibilities of all involved with the Living Together Agreement. This Agreement should also be incorporated into the Young Person's Pathway Plan.

## WHAT ARE THE REVIEWING ARRANGEMENTS FOR STAYING PUT?

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Staying Put arrangements will be reviewed every 6 months, in-line with the Young Person's Pathway Plan meetings (in order to reflect on their progress towards independence).

If you require any more information, or a full copy of the policy and guidance material please follow the link below:

**<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adoption-and-fostering/looked-after-children/leaving-care-support>**

