

# EMERGENCY SUPPORTED LODGINGS

## HOST INFORMATION PACK





# WHAT IS SUPPORTED LODGINGS?

Supported Lodgings offers young people between the ages of 16 - 21 who are at risk or experiencing homelessness, the opportunity to fulfil their potential and move towards an independent and positive future. Supported Lodgings prevents homelessness through community hosting. It helps people who are in immediate housing crisis by providing safe accommodation in the homes of trained, vetted, and paid hosts.

Supported Lodgings is a Depaul UK project. Depaul UK manages a range of accommodation for homeless young people, as well as providing resettlement, pre-employment training, and other support services for homeless and socially disadvantaged young people. This document aims to answer some frequently asked questions about one particular type of accommodation, Supported Lodgings.



## How does it work?

Emergency Supported Lodgings placements are organised for an average stay of 7 nights. Most placements will be organised during working hours. However, on some occasions, out of hours placements will be organised in the evening. All young people are thoroughly risk assessed before being accepted onto the service. The host will provide food, a listening ear, a shower, laundry facilities and a spare bedroom. The host could be a single person, part of a couple, or live in a family environment with one or more children. All the accommodation is in Lambeth and the surrounding boroughs.

While the young person is using Supported Lodgings, we will support them to find a suitable housing solution. This could mean helping the young person find independent accommodation or supporting them to move back home. If we have not found a solution for the young persons housing situation within a week, we will organise a placement with another host. If necessary, we will help the young person to build their support network and engage in work or education to create more sustainable progress.

Hosts will receive £134.61 per week they are available. This is to compensate them for their availability, food and utility costs. This scheme is funded by Lambeth Council.





# ROLE DESCRIPTION

## What you need to do?

Supported Lodgings hosts will:

- Provide a safe, clean environment for a young person to live where they can be safe from harm
- Have a spare room for a young person to use exclusively as their own during their stay
- Have a strong interest in the welfare of young people and a desire to help homeless and disadvantaged young people in particular
- Provide basic emotional support through listening and talking with a young person

## Skills and Knowledge

Supported Lodgings providers will be:

- Approachable, friendly, accommodating and be able to relate well to young people on a one-to-one basis
- Non-judgmental and able to treat young people with respect.
- Have a commitment to attending initial and ongoing training and meetings with the Supported Lodgings team in order to consolidate the role
- Able to deal with challenging situations and be able react calmly and appropriately in emergency situations
- Aware of the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries and sharing information as required with the staff team





- Supported Lodgings hosts do not need to own their own home and it is not necessary that they have had previous experience. All applications will be considered with regards to the personal qualities of the applicant and their attitude toward young people.

## Support and Supervision

Supported Lodgings hosts will be provided with support as follows:

- All new hosts will be required to complete a training programme prior to commencement of the role (approximately 5 hours, depending upon the size of the group)
- Six monthly face-to-face supervision sessions and regular telephone contact provided by staff
- Additional training opportunities on young people's issues will be offered at regularly
- Social activities and consultation events with other hosts
- Access to an out-of-hours emergency on call service
- Regular mail outs to keep hosts informed of project developments and news (including the Supported Lodging's monthly publication and Safe and Sound newsletters)
- Invitation to The Depaul UK annual staff conference
- Options to become involved in fundraising activities, local publicity events and peer support
- Participation in the development of the project through consultation activities and events
- Presentations and training sessions on relevant subjects
- Up to £7,000 in retainer fee payments.



# EQAULITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

Depaul UK, as an organisation with a Vincentian ethos, believes that it is essential to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity.

"For people considering signing up as a host, I'd say do it! I don't think you will regret it."

**Leslie, host**





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Who can be a host?

Our hosts come from all walks of life. As a host, you could be:

- A family, single person, or couple
- From any racial, cultural, or ethnic background
- Heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender
- Disabled or non-disabled
- Working full or part-time, or not working
- A homeowner or tenant

Being a host is not about having particular qualifications – it's about having the skills and qualities to help someone reach their full potential. These could be gained through your work, because you have had children and a family of your own, or from many other life experiences.

## What does a host need?

- A spare room
- An understanding and respect for young people
- An ability to interact with young people fairly, honestly, openly and objectively
- A calm, relaxed and friendly attitude
- A good sense of humour
- An ability to work with other professionals as part of a team
- To be able to keep information concerning a young person confidential
- To believe in equality of opportunity, regardless of difference
- To be committed to ongoing training and development provided by Supported Lodgings







## **What kind of support will I provide?**

You will not be expected to give advice or intense life skill support to a young person during a placement. However, there is an expectation you are warm, welcoming and make a young person feel comfortable in your home. This could involve showing the young person their room, laundry facilities, and bathroom when they arrive, or inviting the young person to watch tv or eat dinner with you. You will provide breakfast, lunch and dinner for the young person.

It is also important to provide a listening ear for the young person if they want to open up to you. However, a young person may want their personal space and spend time in their bedroom.

## **What are the young person responsibilities?**

Young people are expected to engage fully with the support that is available provided by Supported Lodgings Staff.

Young people must adhere to the terms of the Supported Lodging rules. They must show respect to the host and their property and possessions, and arrive at the hosts home on time.

## **What training and support is provided?**

You will receive training to help you learn about and deal with some of the issues facing young people. We believe that training and support must be made available for people to carry out their role and develop their skills as a host. Whilst preparing to be a host you will be required to complete initial training as part of the assessment process. This will cover areas such as young people's issues, confidentiality, safeguarding, boundaries and communication.

To support hosts, we have quarterly Supported Lodging Host Forums. At these, all the hosts get together, and there is also representation from the Supported Lodgings Coordinator to discuss the service and its development. It can be really helpful to share any difficulties or problems with other hosts who may be able to offer support.



You can contact Supported Lodgings staff if you need any advice or support with the young person. We will also provide you with details of an out-of-hours number, in case there are any problems outside our usual working hours.

If you have a placement, we will check in with you daily to make sure everything is going smoothly. We will also complete six monthly supervisions, which gives hosts the opportunity to discuss any issues that have arisen and training needs.

The Lambeth Supported Lodgings team thoroughly risk assess the needs of young people referred to the service. We ask questions about their situation and look into their personal character and behaviours. We receive referrals from Lambeth Council who have often known the young people for a long time. If they have not, we ensure we seek further references, speaking to professionals who have known the young person for a significant amount of time, and can give informed answers.



## **What payment will I receive?**

Supporting young people in this way is an exciting and rewarding experience in itself, but we will, of course, pay you for your services. In return for providing accommodation, Supporting Lodgings will pay you up to £7,000, which will compensate you for your availability and expenses incurred, such as food costs. .

The amount you receive is dependant on your availability. Each week you are available you will receive £134.62, even if we do not place a young person with you.

## **Will I have to pay tax?**

You will be eligible for the HMRC Rent a Room exemption scheme. This means in each financial year you can earn up to £7,500 tax free from rental income. It is the responsibility of the individual host to declare these earnings as part of their tax assessment.

All Supported Lodgings hosts are required by law to register themselves with the HMRC (Her Majesties Revenue and Customs) as having 'self-employed' status and you must contact your local office directly before you embark on your first placement.

## **Will payments affect my benefits?**

If you are receiving benefits, payment for Supported Lodgings must be declared and could be taken into account as income and therefore affect your eligibility. It is advisable to check with the relevant benefits office.

## Do I need to inform my landlord or mortgage provider?

We advise that you inform your mortgage lender if you are a homeowner, or your landlord if you are tenant.

## Will my insurance be affected?

You will be required to advise your insurer that you have taken in a young person and what the scheme entails. You will need to ensure you have adequate insurance cover and show us proof of this.

Some insurers will not cover the letting of a room under a conventional policy. Supported Lodgings staff may be able to advise you if your current insurer cannot provide this.

Young people are entirely responsible for their own belongings.





## Will my home need adjustments?

We will carry out a home assessment as part of the recruitment process to ensure the accommodation you can offer is suitable and meets the required health and safety standards.

We will require you to have a gas safety check (renewed annually) and an electrical safety check (an Electrical Installation Condition Report, renewed every 5 years) and provide us with a copy of your certificates. If you are in rented accommodation your landlord should provide this.

## What does the recruitment process involve?

Lambeth Supported Lodgings has a duty to make sure that all Support Lodgings hosts can offer young people a safe and supportive environment. The assessment process will ensure that you are committed to providing support and guidance which is of the highest quality.

Once you contact us to say you would like to join the Support Lodgings Scheme as a host, Supported Lodgings staff will contact you to discuss the provider role and give you an application form.

Once the application form is completed, Supported Lodgings staff will arrange to make an initial home visit to you and any other members of your household to continue the assessment process.

Generally speaking, we will be interested in finding out about:

- You, the others in your household and your home
- Any skills or experience you may have of working with young people
- What your expectations of a young person would be
- What you would be prepared to offer a young person

This will be an ideal opportunity for you to ask anything you are unsure about.

The assessment process will normally involve three visits in total, including the home assessment described above. Supported Lodgings staff will also need to speak to other members of your household (e.g., any children) to ensure that they are also on board with Supported Lodgings.



As part of the assessment process, you will be asked to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service form (DBS) for all members of your household over the age of 16, and we will ask you to provide two personal references. These will include relevant employment you have had and cannot include family or friends. For couples applying to the scheme, you will be asked to provide a joint reference in addition to this.

Finally, you will be asked to complete/attend the initial training which also forms part of the assessment process.

Once all of the information is gathered, Supported Lodgings staff will write a report for an approval panel whom will review your application and references

Following this, we will inform you of the decision within three working days. All information we receive will be treated in strictest confidence.


The purpose of the checks is not to exclude people from providing Supported Lodgings; however we may not be able to consider you if you have, for example, been convicted of an offence against a child.



# STAY IN TOUCH!

If you have any more questions, we will be happy to answer them.  
Please contact us by phone or email.

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