



Stockton-on-Tees
BOROUGH COUNCIL

If you need housing advice or are homeless: Leaving Care

We believe that our care leavers should expect the same level of care and support that others would expect a reasonable parent to give.

For young people leaving care in Stockton, the transition to adulthood will be based on their individual need following assessment and planning rather than being based solely on the age of the young person at a particular point in time. For those young people who have complex and additional needs, they may require ongoing support from Adult Services.

Financial Support for Leaving Care

If, when a young person reaches the age of 16 years and Stockton Council have looked after them for at least 13 weeks during the last two years, then Stockton Council will be responsible for their financial support whilst they are 16 and 17 years old.

Stockton Council Children's Services are the child or young person's primary source of income. This means they will not be able to receive Income Support, Job Seeker's Allowance or Housing benefit during this time.

Lone parents and disabled young people will continue to be eligible for benefits including Job Seeker's Allowance, Income Support and any other benefits due to them because of their disability or parental status. However, they will not be able to claim Housing Benefit. The Local Authority will pay their accommodation costs.

Transition Learning Mentors

The Youth and Leaving Care Team have a "Transitional Learning Mentor" whose role is to work with Year 11 young people who are looked after to make the transition from school to education, training or employment.

This involves liaising with other teams, such as schools, colleges, training providers, Youth Direction and employers, so that the best possible outcomes are available for our young people.

Supported Lodgings Scheme

The Supported Lodgings Scheme aims to provide care leavers with additional options for accommodation. This can include emergency accommodation when there is the chance of homelessness or planned long term accommodation with their previous foster carers.

The scheme will provide a stepping-stone on the pathway to independent living and help enable young people to maintain and sustain their own tenancies.

If you have a spare room and would like the opportunity to help a young person make the first step to independence, to offer security and support then you should consider making an application. In return you will receive a financial incentive, training and support from the supported lodgings team. If you are accepted onto the scheme, your details will form a register of householders who can provide suitable accommodation for young people who do not have a home of their own.

Before being able to offer supported lodgings or an emergency stop-over we will carry out police checks and obtain references, you will not be able to offer these services if you have committed offences against children.

If you are interested in making a supported lodgings enquiry, please contact the Looked After Children Service.

Address: Looked After Children Service, 70 Norton Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2DE

Telephone: 01642 527860

Stockton homelessness floating support

The Stockton floating support service provides tenancy support for people experiencing homelessness, who may be at risk of homelessness or who have previously been homeless.

The scheme helps people aged 16 and over in Stockton to manage and maintain a tenancy. It develops personalised support plans between clients and their key worker and offers support on a wide range of issues, including:

- money management
- accessing mainstream services
- tenancy management
- being a good neighbour.

Support is available from staff between 8.30am and 7.30pm every day. The service is available for an initial six-week period, but this could be extended after discussions with commissioners.

Move-on options

We can refer clients to other organisations which can provide specialist support - this helps to ensure people can remain independent.

How to apply

Referrals to the service are made through Stockton Borough Council's Housing Solutions.

More information

Stockton floating support is funded by Stockton Borough Council.

For more details about the service, please contact tel: 01642 524305.