

**STANDARDS FOR SUPPORTED
LODGINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS
(AGED 16-21) IN NORTHERN
IRELAND**

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Introduction

This document sets out the minimum standards for Supported Lodgings. Supported Lodgings aim to provide young people with safe, suitable and supportive places to live within a local familial type environment. Such an environment will offer tailored levels of housing and social care support to enable young people to develop the practical, emotional and relationship skills needed for a successful transition to independence and adulthood.

This model offers an alternative to mainstream care placements as described under Article 27 (2) (f) of the Children (NI) Order 1995 to children aged 16 and 17 as well as to vulnerable adults aged 18 – 21¹ where it is assessed their needs can best be met in a familial living environment that affords age and developmentally appropriate experiences of preparation for adult life.

Supported Lodgings can be delivered by an external provider based on joint commissioning arrangements between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the relevant Health and Social Care Trust (Trust) or delivered in-house by a Trust. The lead commissioner for the service is responsible for establishing appropriate monitoring arrangements with the provider to ensure that the requirements and conditions of the agreed service delivery model, as specified within the contractual arrangements, are met.

The standards will set a benchmark to be used by current and future supported lodgings service providers to ensure the provision of high quality social care and housing support. They will also be used by the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) in their inspection of the Supported Lodgings Service during a two year pilot and will be reviewed and amended as necessary on completion of the pilot.

¹ A young person once living in Supported Lodgings accommodation may remain until the age of 24 years where this is assessed as appropriate

Background

The development of a continuum of supported living options to assist young people's transition from mainstream care placements as they journey into adulthood is recognised as an essential element of the menu of provision. Supported Lodgings offer an integrated care and housing support model that is in keeping with the needs of young people leaving care, as a step-down from a core care setting.

Equally, and drawing on experiences from England and specifically from work undertaken by the Department of Communities and Local Government, Supported Lodgings was identified as a viable housing option for young people experiencing homelessness. This model provides a supportive domestic environment for some young people, in the transition towards increasing independence, which is more suitable than alternative options such as hostels or independent tenancies.

As the result of joint working between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland it was recognised that the housing related support needs and social care needs of older young people, whether leaving care or homeless, are interlinked. The NIHE, HSCB and the HSC Trusts accepted that there were shared benefits in adopting an integrated approach to planning and providing a model of Supported Lodgings and worked together to develop a model for Northern Ireland. Under the NI model a young person is placed in a Supported Lodgings placement which is a host arrangement with a family with the involvement of the Supported Lodgings Service Provider, the referring agent and where applicable the agency with primary responsibility for the young person.

Development of Standards

These standards have been developed in consultation with the HSCB, HSC Trusts, NIHE, Regulation Quality and Improvement Authority (RQIA), Council for the Homeless NI, Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC) and Fostering Network.

The standards have been developed taking account of the Quality Assessment Framework administered by NIHE and The Supported Lodgings Good Practice Guide (Four Agency Supported Lodgings Project 2011), The Standards for Young

Adults Supported Accommodation Projects in Northern Ireland 2012 and the National Minimum Fostering Standards (England and Wales) 2011.

Monitoring of Compliance with the Standards

Article 38 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Quality Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 (the HPSS Order 2003) confers powers on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to prepare, publish and review statements of minimum standards.

Under Article 35 of the HPSS Order 2003, the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority, as an independent body, has the power to inspect and report on a Supported Lodgings Service.

Each Supported Lodgings Service Provider must comply with these standards. They must also ensure they remain compliant with the requirements of the Quality Assessment Framework administered by NIHE.

Underpinning Values and Principles

The Standards are in keeping with the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Executive's 'Ten Year Strategy for Children and Young people: Our Children, Our Pledge', which seeks to ensure that all children and young people in Northern Ireland are living in safety and with stability. The principles underpinning the standards are:

Dignity and Respect

The uniqueness and intrinsic value of individuals is acknowledged and each young person is treated with respect.

Independence

Young people have as much control as possible over decisions which affect their lives whilst being safeguarded against unacceptable risks.

Rights

Young people's rights are safeguarded and actively promoted within the context of the accommodation provided.

Equality and Diversity

All young people have equality of opportunity and are treated fairly regardless of their legal status, disability, gender, sexual preference, race, cultural and religious identity. All services delivered by the provider are within a framework of equal opportunities and anti-discriminatory practice.

Choice

Young people are offered the opportunity to select independently from a range of options based on information that is clear and accurate.

Fulfilment

Young people are enabled to lead full and purposeful lives in order that their ability and potential can be realised.

Safeguarding

Young people are safeguarded and have stability and feel free from exploitation, neglect and/or abuse.

Privacy

Young people have the right to privacy and should be free from unnecessary intrusion into their affairs. There is a balance between the considerations of the young person's safety and that of others.

Confidentiality

Young people understand that information about them will only be disclosed to others when it is in the best interests of the young person's welfare or for the protection of others. Everyone involved in the delivery of the Supported Lodgings service respects confidential matters.

Partnership

Young people are central to informing and shaping the services that are available to them and are fully engaged in decision making processes about their care, accommodation and housing support arrangements.

Standard 1 – Provision of Information

The Supported Lodgings Service has an up to date statement of purpose and function. Young people and referral agencies have all the information they need to help them make decisions about using the service. Potential Hosts have the information they need to decide if providing a service is appropriate for them.

Criteria

1. A clear statement of core aims, purpose and function of the service is produced, reviewed annually, updated as necessary and shared with RQIA.
2. A young person's introductory information guide is available (See **Annex D** for the minimum content of Young Person's Guide).
3. An Information Pack is available for Hosts and for Referral Agencies (See **Annexes E** and **F** for content that should be included in Hosts and Referral Agencies Information Pack).

Evidence

- A written statement of purpose and function on the Supported Lodgings Service is available.
- The statement of purpose is reviewed annually and forwarded to RQIA.
- An up to date Young Person's Guide is available that covers the content set out in **Annex D** and is in an accessible, clear and easy to use format.
- An up to date Information Pack that covers the content set out in **Annexes E and F** is available for Hosts and referral agencies.

Standard 2 – Service Referral, Assessment and Placement of Young People

The initial referral and assessment processes will be undertaken in an open and inclusive way with young people, referrers, Hosts and other agencies. The placement of a young person is based on an assessment of need and risk which will inform the placement match.

Criteria

1. Arrangements exist for the referral, assessment and placement of a young person in Supported Lodgings which ensure the full involvement of the young person being referred.
2. Information sharing arrangements exist between the Supported Lodgings Service and referral agencies, which stipulate the forthright sharing of clear and relevant information at point of referral and as part of the assessment process.
3. Young people understand and sign a consent form to enable appropriate information sharing between agencies, the young person and with Hosts which informs assessment, matching, safe planning and ongoing support.
4. Each young person has an assessment of needs and risk to determine the suitability of the young person for a Supported Lodgings placement.
5. Each young person has a Lead Worker who has responsibility for informing the assessment and supporting the young person's placement.

Evidence

- Information for referral agencies includes how enquiries and applications are made, processed, and prioritised, and how decisions are communicated to referral agencies.

- An assessment framework exists and is appropriately applied.
- Case records of referral, assessment and matching reflect the young person's involvement in the process.
- Case records of planned visits and meetings involving young person and potential Host as part of the matching process and prior to placement arrangements are available.
- Each young person's file contains a written assessment of needs and risks and the steps taken to ensure a suitable placement match agreed with the young person.
- A written information sharing protocol is in place based on Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Regional Information Sharing Guidance.
- There is a signed consent form available on young person's file with evidence of annual review of this consent arrangement.
- Referral and assessment records demonstrate appropriate information sharing and assessment and clearly identify the young person's needs and risk factors and how the Supported Lodging placement is deemed suitable.
- Records of discussion between Service Provider and Hosts at point of placements demonstrate information sharing about needs and risk factors.
- The Lead Worker is identified on the young person's file.
- The young person's file contains records of contact and support by the Lead Worker during the initial stages and throughout the placement.

Standard 3 – Placement Agreement and Support Planning

All young people using the Supported Lodgings Service have a Placement Agreement and an individual Placement Support Plan appropriate to meeting assessed needs and to promoting the transition to adulthood.

Criteria

1. Each young person has a Placement Agreement which details the provisions of the placement and the respective roles and responsibilities of the young person and the Host.
2. The Placement Agreement incorporates arrangements for communication and contact between the Service Provider, Lead Worker, Host and the young person.
3. For planned placements each young person has a Support Plan which is agreed before a placement in Supported Lodgings.
4. A Placement Support Plan:
 - is formulated on the basis of an assessment of each young person's needs and presenting risks and is outcome focused;
 - clearly sets out actions to achieve outcomes;
 - takes account of and references any existing overarching plans in place for the young person; and
 - has full involvement of the young person in its development and is subject to regular review.
5. For unplanned or emergency placements, the Placement Support Plan should be agreed within 5 working days.

6. The Host is engaged in the development of the Placement Support Plan and understands their role in contributing to its implementation and the outcomes being sought.
7. The Placement Support Plan contains agreed communication arrangements with the Service Provider, the Lead Worker and the Host for regular update on progress and to address any concerns about the young person's placement.
8. Appropriate and up to date records are held on file in line with Data Protection legislation.

Evidence

- A written Placement Agreement is on the young person's file and is signed by the young person, Host and Lead Worker and sets out communication arrangements.
- A written up to date Placement Support Plan is on the young person's file and is signed by the young person, Lead Worker and Host.
- The young person has a copy of the signed Placement Agreement and Placement Support Plan.
- A record is held on the young person's file of implementation of the Placement Support Plan and discussion with the young person.
- A record of regular review of the young person's Placement Support Plan is held on file and reflects the involvement of the young person, Host, Lead Worker and Service Provider.
- The Placement Support Plan takes account of and appropriately references any other overarching plans relating to the young person that are in place.
- The young person's Placement Support Plan:

- reflects sensible and realistic boundary setting and age/needs appropriate level of support;
- clearly sets out the role and contribution of the Host, the Lead Worker and Service Provider in this aspect of the plan and this is agreed in consultation with the young person;
- incorporates interventions that promote and address practical, social, physical and emotional needs; and
- sets out how these will be met by the Host, the Lead Worker and other relevant agencies engaged with the young person.

Standard 4 – Ending or leaving the Placement

There is robust planning in place to support a young person's move from a Supported Lodgings placement.

Criteria

1. Robust planning, in keeping with the young person's Support Plan, is in place to enable the young person to make a smooth transition to an alternative living arrangement. This may include signposting to post placement support where appropriate and agreed with the young person.
2. In circumstances where a move is unplanned, contingency arrangements are agreed between the Service Provider and the Lead Worker in consultation with the young person to ensure that appropriate supports are provided in a timely manner.
3. End of placement interviews are offered to both the young person and the Host to ascertain their views and inform service improvement.

Evidence

- Support plans and review meetings demonstrate timely and robust planning for the young person's move from Supported Lodgings.
- The last review of the young person's Support Plan held on the young person's file details the outcomes achieved, including views of the young person about their experiences in Supported Lodgings and their readiness to move on, recommendations for further support and how this will be delivered to the young person.
- There is transparent decision making and contingency planning where a placement ends unexpectedly.

- Where a move is unplanned or against the young person's wishes, independent advice and/or advocacy support has been offered to the young person where appropriate to inform recourse and options available.
- End of placement interviews have been undertaken and are recorded. The Service can demonstrate how information from these interviews is used to inform service development and improvement.
- There is documented evidence that data on planned/unplanned moves is collected and reviewed quarterly by the Service Provider and improvement actions identified where appropriate and implemented.

Standard 5 – Safeguarding Young People

Arrangements are in place to safeguard young people and help them understand how to protect themselves from harm.

Criteria

1. The Service Provider has robust safeguarding policy and procedures in place that are consistent with the requirements of current legislation, and regional policy and procedures in respect of children, young people and adults at risk or in need of protection.
2. The Service Provider and Host understand and are aware of the regional policy and procedures in respect of children, young people and adults at risk or in need of protection and the actions required in the event of a young person in supported lodgings being deemed at increased risk of abuse or having suffered abuse.
3. All young people are informed, understand, and know how to report allegations of abuse.
4. There is a written protocol to be followed in the event of an allegation of abuse made about a Host, a Host family member or a member of staff.
5. All allegations and incidents of abuse or concerning behaviour relating to the placement are taken seriously and acted upon and appropriately recorded.
6. All staff, Hosts, members of Host families and non family members who reside in the Host's accommodation over ten years of age, are subject to appropriate Access NI checks.
7. Any staff or Hosts who are found to be unsuitable to work with children and young people are referred in line with Disclosure & Barring and Professional Regulatory requirements.

8. There are procedures to prevent Service Provider staff, Lead Workers and Hosts from personal benefit when working with vulnerable young people.
9. The young person is involved in discussion and decision making about his/her own safeguarding or protection including outside the placement or online.
10. There is written protocol that sets out action to be taken when a young person is missing from the placement.

Evidence

- Children, young people and adult safeguarding policy and procedures are in place consistent with regional safeguarding policy and procedures and all suspected, alleged or actual incidents of abuse are dealt with in accordance with policy and procedures. Established procedures and protocols are followed in the event of an allegation of abuse made about a Host, a member of the Host's family or a staff member.
- Hosts and staff demonstrate awareness of the risks of abuse and sexual exploitation for young people and know how to raise awareness of such risks. This is reflected in their induction and training records.
- The Young Person's guide includes information on safeguarding policy and procedures which is easily understood and accessible.
- A record is maintained on a young person's file of any allegation of abuse including details of any investigations, the outcome and any action taken.
- The Service Provider:
 - maintains a register of all untoward events and serious incidents including missing episodes;

- demonstrates the effective management and outcome of any such incidents in line with agreed policy including referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service and/or the relevant professional body if appropriate; and
 - adheres to HSC Trust and NIHE requirements for their formal notification.
-
- Records indicate Access NI checks have been completed on Supported Lodgings staff and Hosts and all members of Host families over ten years of age and renewal checks are undertaken every three years.
 - Records indicate that Hosts are notifying the Service Provider when a new person joins their household or an existing member of the household reaches the age for an Access NI check.
 - Hosts and young people are aware of the service's expectations in terms of appropriate and acceptable personal behaviour by adults towards young people and appropriate and acceptable behaviour by young people themselves.
 - Placement records show that young people have been informed of the importance of and ways to promote personal safety and protection.

Standard 6 – Engagement, Participation and Involvement

The young person’s rights, wishes, views and feelings are sought, understood, and taken into account in important decisions that affect their placement. The young person is encouraged to participate in reviewing, evaluating and improving the Supported Lodgings Service.

Criteria

1. A culture of participation exists which encourages young people’s participation in contributing to service planning and improvement.
2. Young people are encouraged to participate in planning and decision making about their support and placement arrangements.
3. Arrangements are in place that provides opportunities for young people to make representations; challenge or make a complaint about any decisions made in relation to them, which they are unhappy about.

Evidence

- A Participation Strategy is in place and there is evidence of discussion and meetings with young people about service planning and improvement.
- There is evidence that staff have been trained in engagement with young people.
- Clear evidence exists of young people’s views and wishes being taken into account in the development and review of their Placement Agreement and Support Plan.
- Records of meetings show evidence of young people’s involvement in influencing service planning and improvement.

- Processes are in place for formal feedback to young people about the outcomes and impact of their involvement/participation.
- Records demonstrate how young people are supported to access independent advice, advocacy and representation.
- Records contain information on the management and outcome of any representation or complaint made by a young person.

Standard 7 - Accommodation

The accommodation is suitable, accessible, well maintained and provides for the young person's privacy as well as affording the opportunity to experience a family environment. The accommodation is compliant with Health and Safety Legislation and Fire Regulations.

Criteria

1. There is a range of accommodation in a variety of localities, including in urban and rural areas, which is accessible or facilitates young people's access to the services they require.
2. The accommodation meets appropriate Health and Safety legislative requirements and furnishings are compliant with fire safety regulations.
3. There is a reasonable standard of decor throughout the accommodation.
4. There is a separate bedroom for each young person that is adequately furnished, provides sufficient storage for personal belongings and there is a communal area for use by the young person.

Evidence

- Evidence that recruitment activity is targeted at geographical areas of greatest need.
- Feedback from young person indicates that accommodation is accessible to transport, education, training and employment and where possible, proximity to family and friends and amenities.
- Records evidence home visits to undertake health and safety checks and suitability of bedroom and communal living area as part of the assessment

and annual review of approval process of the Host. This may include the following:

- A current gas safety certificate for any gas appliance; and
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors fitted and evidenced by Health & Safety check.

Standard 8 – Hosts

A range of suitable Hosts are in place who have the necessary knowledge, skills and training and who are supported to provide appropriate placements for young people.

Criteria

1. Recruitment practice is informed by identified needs, and recruitment activity is innovative and targeted to attract a suitable range of Hosts in the required areas.
2. Placement with a Host is based on a matching process with the aim of securing placement stability for the young person.
3. Clear and robust assessment, approval and ongoing monitoring and review processes are in place to determine the suitability of Hosts.
4. All Hosts participate in an induction programme which includes awareness raising about all aspects of the Supported Lodgings Service and training on safeguarding.
5. Ongoing training, which is also offered to family members, is provided to enhance their knowledge and skills based on an analysis of individual learning and development needs.
6. Arrangements are in place to provide ongoing support to Hosts through the appointment of a Named Worker to each Host by the Service Provider. Support arrangements also specify access to out-of-hours assistance.
7. A mechanism is in place for Hosts, including those who are not deemed suitable, to make representations or a complaint.

8. There is a written protocol to be followed in the event of an allegation being made about a Host. The young person and Host know how they will be supported in the event of an allegation being made.
9. Hosts receive advice on allowances payable for the provision of accommodation and support to the young person placed in their home in accordance with established financial policy and procedures, including implications for their personal income including tax implications.
10. Arrangements have been made by the Host for meeting any public legal liabilities as a result of a Supported Lodgings placement.

Evidence

- Evidence of a recruitment strategy, which takes account of equality and diversity, and a record of recruitment initiatives, their effectiveness and outcomes.
- There is an adequate supply of approved Hosts that facilitate a process of matching of Hosts with young people and which take account of equality issues and diversity of need.
- File records on each Host contains completed assessment, approval, Named Worker details, ongoing monitoring and review documentation in line with written policy and procedures.
- Training profiles for each Host provide evidence of their participation in induction and uptake of other relevant training in line with identified learning and development needs.
- Records indicate that Hosts receive regular contact and support from the Service Provider through a Named Worker and that Hosts are aware of the procedures to be followed to access out of hours support.

- Written record of complaints is maintained detailing the nature of the complaint, timeliness of response, resolution and outcome.
- Where an allegation has been made about a Host, records show that the written protocol is adhered to.
- Financial records evidence payment by Service Provider to Hosts in a timely manner in line with the financial policy and procedures. Evidence on file that, in advance of any placement, each Host has home insurance in place that fully takes account of their role as a Supported Lodgings Host.

Standard 9 – Staffing

Suitably qualified and skilled staff and managers are employed to ensure that Hosts and their families are adequately supported in meeting the needs of young people.

Criteria

1. Robust recruitment, appointment and retention policy and procedures are in place.
2. All staff are properly managed, are clear about their role and responsibilities, and understand to whom they are accountable.
3. All staff undergo induction training which includes safeguarding.
4. Staff training needs are regularly analysed and appropriate training planned and delivered where necessary.
5. There are written policies and procedures for staff appraisal and supervision.
6. The Service Manager is suitably qualified, experienced and has the level of competence and skill to carry out the job and able to fulfil Named Worker responsibilities to Hosts.
7. The Service operates within the relevant legal frameworks and has an appropriate range of employment and operational policies and procedures.

Evidence

- Evidence of compliance with staff recruitment, appointment and retention policies.
- Staff Job Descriptions and Personnel Specifications are available.

- An Induction Manual is in place and Staff induction records are maintained which demonstrate that induction training, including training on safeguarding policy and procedures, has taken place.
- A Training Needs Analysis is in place for each staff member.
- A Staff Learning and Development Strategy is in place.
- Training plans and records of training attended indicate ongoing continuous development opportunities.
- Records show that staff have an annual appraisal with their line manager to review their performance and to agree personal development and training plans.
- Records show that there is regular supervision and follow-up with staff.
- Records show that Hosts are provided with ongoing and consistent support from the Service Provider and through Named Worker arrangements.
- Minutes of staff meetings are recorded and retained.

Standard 10 – Management and Governance Arrangements

Management arrangements and systems are in place that assures the Supported Lodgings service is delivered to a high standard and is underpinned by a clear accountability and governance framework.

Criteria:

1. The service provider has a coherent and integrated organisational and governance strategy in place for the delivery of the Supported Lodgings Service. There are clearly identified lines of professional and corporate accountability which assure the effective delivery of the service.
2. There are structures in place to support, review and action the service provider's governance arrangements which include corporate, financial, health and safety, workforce planning, social care, housing support and information management.
3. There are systems for identifying and escalating risks and management structures in place to effectively respond to risk.
4. The service provider has systems in place to monitor, audit and review the quality of the service and to assess its effectiveness in delivering improved outcomes for young people.
5. The service provider submits regular reports to its executive / non executive board and to its commissioners on governance arrangements and on service activity and impact.
6. There is a certificate of insurance in respect of liability which may be incurred by the Supported Lodgings Service in the event of death, injury, public liability, damage or other loss.

Evidence:

- A suite of up to date relevant policies and procedures which are reviewed annually are in place to govern service delivery and safeguard the welfare and rights of young people and vulnerable young adults.
- Staff and management training records evidence the delivery of induction and training on effective discharge of roles and responsibilities within the governance framework.
- Findings of service monitoring, audit and review on the quality of the service are acted upon and used to inform service improvements.
- There is evidence of annual evaluation of the quality of the service and of actions taken based on evaluation recommendations.
- Outcomes for young people leaving the service are monitored and analysed to evidence service impact and to inform service design and improvement.
- Evidence exists of learning and actions taken to prevent recurrence of incidents of concern or of a serious nature reported through governance arrangements.
- A certificate of insurance in respect of liability which may be incurred by the Supported Lodgings Service in the event of death, injury, public liability, damage or other loss is in place.

Legal Provisions

The Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 specifies under Article 27 (2) the living arrangements in which looked after children can be placed. These arrangements, such as residential care and foster care are governed by associated regulations and standards. Article 27 (2) (f) also allows for the provision within legislation of “other” arrangements that “seem appropriate to the authority and comply with any regulations made by the Department.” The placement of young people in Supported Lodgings is operated under this legislative provision.

The Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 was implemented in September 2005. This Act introduced new and enhanced duties on Health and Social Care Trusts in relation to financial responsibilities for 16 and 17 year olds and furthermore held as one of its core objectives **that children falling within the entitlements of the Act should only leave care when they are ready and prepared to do so.** The Act therefore sought to stem any potential for young people to leave care prematurely or for Trusts to abdicate responsibilities, including financial responsibilities to these young people. Transition from care could well be assisted by the supported lodgings model of provision which affords the young person continuity and stability beyond aged 18.

The Act identified that certain children and young people aged 16 and 17 years old may cease to be looked after before reaching 18 years of age and consequently where they are unable to return to family, may require accommodation in the community. For these situations the Act specifies that for this category of “**relevant**” young people, the Trust must ensure placement in “suitable” accommodation unless the Trust is satisfied that their welfare does not require it. (See **Annex B** for definition of a “relevant” young person and for other categories of young people referred to in the Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002).

Article 34 (C) (10) of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and regulation 10(2) of the Children (Leaving Care) Regulations (NI) 2005 define suitable accommodation as accommodation:

- (a) which so far as reasonably practicable is suitable for the young person in the light of his or her needs, including health needs and any needs arising from any disability;
- (b) in respect of which the responsible HSC Trust has satisfied itself as to the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider; and
- (c) in respect of which the responsible HSC Trust has so far as reasonably practicable taken into account the young person's:
 - i. wishes and feelings; and
 - ii. his or her educational, training or employment needs.

Following the Southwark Ruling in England² and the Treacy Judgement² in Northern Ireland there is an increasing need for, suitable and safe accommodation for young people aged 16 /17 who are not looked after, or previously looked after but present as homeless.

Some of these young people may require immediate access to suitable accommodation for the purpose of assessment and potentially for a longer period based on the outcome of the Understanding the Needs of Children in Northern Ireland (UNOCINI) assessment and determination of the legal status and pathway of the young person. Supported Lodgings may provide a suitable accommodation option in such circumstances.

¹ R(on the application of G) v London Borough of Southwark [2009] UKHL26. The full transcript can be downloaded from tinyurl.com/gvsouthwark.

²

GB/Judicial%20Decisions/SummaryJudgements/Documents/Summary%20of%20judgement%20In%re%20JM%20and%20WM/j_sj_In-reJM-WM_081111.html

ANNEX B

Definitions of the 4 categories of young people referred to in the Children (Leaving Care) Act (NI) 2002

Eligible Child: a young person aged 16 or 17 who has been looked after by an HSC Trust for a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14, and is still looked after.

Relevant Child: a young person aged 16 or 17 who has left care and before leaving care was an eligible child.

Former Relevant Child: a young person aged 18-21 (or beyond if, being helped with education or training) who, before turning 18 was either an eligible or relevant child, or both.

Person Qualifying for Advice and Assistance: any young person (including those who do not fall into any of the 3 categories above) aged under 21 years (under 24 if in education or training) who leaves care after the age of 16.

Glossary of Terms

Host	An individual who has been approved to provide supported lodgings for a young person.
Host Information Pack	Pack containing all relevant information to inform potential Host's about the provision of supported lodgings to a young person.
Lead Worker	A member of staff who on behalf of a nominated agency that has primary responsibility for supporting the young person . This may be a Trust social worker, a personal adviser, a floating support worker etc.
Matching Policy	The process by which a young person is allocated a suitable placement within the home of an approved Host.
Named Worker	A member of staff primarily from the Agency Provider to provide support to the Host .
Participation Strategy	A process which encourages young people to participate in service planning and decision- making about their support and placement arrangements.
Placement Agreement	An agreement between the young person their Lead Worker and the Host which sets out what the young person can expect from the placement and the house rules during the placement.
Placement Support Plan	A plan setting out the support required by the young person and how this support will be delivered.

Referral Agencies	Organisations which refers the young person for consideration of a Supported Lodgings Placement.
Referrer Information Pack	Pack containing all relevant information about the referral of a young person to the Supported Lodgings Service.
Supported Lodgings Service Provider	Organisation contracted to provide a supported lodgings service with a clear accountability and governance framework in place.
Young Person's Guide	Pack containing all relevant information to inform the young person about using the Supported Lodgings Service.

STANDARDS FOR SUPPORTED LODGINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGED 16-21) IN NORTHERN IRELAND

YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

About Supported Lodgings

Who can apply

How to access the Service

Various stages in the process once an application is received

Decision making timeline

How to appeal

What happens if you are successful

Matching placement process

About the accommodation

Process of meeting and greeting your Host(s)

Provision of Information – roles/responsibilities/expectations

Sharing of Information

Financial Information

Representation & Complaints process

Young person's feedback

Leaving the placement

Safeguarding policies

Glossary of Terms

STANDARDS FOR SUPPORTED LODGINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGED 16-21) IN NORTHERN IRELAND

INFORMATION PACK FOR HOSTS

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

About Supported Lodgings

Who can apply

How to access the service

Process once application received

Decision making timeline

How to appeal

What happens if you are successful

Training Schedule

Provision of information – Medical/References

Health & Safety Checklist

Financial Information – including Tax, Insurance, Permissions

Matching Placement

Process of meeting and greeting young person

Provision of Information – roles/responsibilities/expectations

Supervision and Support

Complaints process

End of placement

Safeguarding policies

Glossary of Terms

STANDARDS FOR SUPPORTED LODGINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS (AGED 16-21) IN NORTHERN IRELAND

INFORMATION PACK FOR REFERRAL AGENCIES

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

About Supported Lodgings

Who can refer

Referral Process and proforma

Process of assessment and decision making

Decision making timeline

Matching process

Roles and Responsibilities

Information sharing including safeguarding