

# Heart and Home

## Frequently Asked Questions



The **Benjamin** Foundation

### What is Supported Lodgings?

Supported Lodgings is stable, settled and supportive accommodation for young people leaving care or facing potential homelessness who are usually aged between 16–18 years of age, but sometimes up to the age of 25 if this is agreed.

### Who can become a Supported Lodgings Host?

We encourage a wide range of Hosts to meet the different needs of young people; you must have a spare room and access to a bathroom and kitchen. Importantly, you would need to be supportive, tolerant and understanding. Central locations with good transport links are desirable but some young people prefer to be in a rural setting.

### I live on my own, could I become a Host?

Yes, we welcome individual Hosts as well as couples and families. We also look for Hosts with specialist skills and knowledge who may be able to provide Parent & Child lodgings and support young people with higher needs.

### How much money will I receive?

You will receive approximately £125.00 a week from The Benjamin Foundation but payments are enhanced for Parent & Child lodgings, higher need young people and for annex accommodation.

### Will the financial support I receive from you affect my benefits?

The service functions under the Government 'Qualifying Care Relief', which allows you to be in receipt of £11,000 per annum before paying tax. However, some benefits may be affected and we advise you to contact your local benefits team and tax office if you have any queries.

### How old/young do I have to be to become a Host?

Our minimum age requirement is 21 years old. There is no maximum age.

### I work full time, can I be a Host and continue to work full time?

Yes, you will pursue your own lifestyle, including daily routine, work, holidays and weekends away.

### Do I need to own my own home?

No, you can rent your home privately or from a registered social landlord or from the council but we advise you contact your mortgage lender or landlord to tell them you are providing supported lodgings.

### I don't have any experience; can I still become a Host?

Yes, life experience is key and in-depth training, advice, guidance and support will be provided to you before a young person is placed and throughout their stay.

### Will I receive any training?

Yes, you will receive in-house training on matters such as Professional Boundaries, Confidentiality, Communication and you will be trained in Safeguarding Children first and foremost. You will be offered training in specialist areas as appropriate.

### I have a criminal conviction; will this prevent me from becoming a Host?

We look at each applicant on an individual basis and we do not always rule out people with criminal convictions. Please talk to the Multi-Service Manager about any convictions or cautions you have.



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01603 886930 / 07825 130011

Registered Charity Number: 1124936  
Company Number: 3825425

As a service we operate Monday–Friday 9–5pm  
but also offer a weekend on-call service

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### My spare room is small, what size does it need to be?

There is no size requirement; however, the room must have a bed, wardrobe or hanging space and a chest of drawers.

### Does it matter where I live?

No, we welcome Hosts from all locations.

### I have pets, will this affect my application?

No, we need to know what pets you have to enable us to match the right young person in your home.

### What are the house rules?

These are discussed on an individual basis; they are agreed with the Host and the young person and House Rules are drawn up.

### I have a health condition/impairment; will this prevent me from becoming a Host?

No not necessarily, as long as you can provide basic support for a young person and you communicate with us about your health needs and any changes.

### Do I have to have locks on the bathroom?

Yes, this is for the privacy of everyone in the house.

### I smoke in my house; will this prevent me from becoming a Host?

Not necessarily but we need to know if you smoke in your house to enable us to match the right young person in your home. We would encourage smoking to be outside wherever possible.

### If my circumstances change and I can no longer be a Host, what happens?

We would require as much notice as possible, preferably a minimum of 4 weeks to enable us to work alongside Children's Services to try and suitably rehouse the young person.

### Why is the young person homeless or looking for Supported Lodgings?

There are a number of reasons why a young person is homeless, which can include family relationship breakdown, bereavement or moving back into the area. Many of our young people are looking for their next step on from foster care or a residential home.

### What support will the young person need?

If the young person is not in education, employment or training then his/her Social Worker and Support Worker will be meeting with them regularly to support them in finding something.

### What happens if there are problems?

You will have a designated Placement Coordinator who will be checking in with you weekly to ensure that any potential issues can be smoothed over quickly and who is there to offer you guidance. You will have points of contacts and procedures for any issues out of normal working hours.

### How long will the young person lived with me?

Sometimes a young person just needs somewhere safe to stay for a few weeks, but normally placements last around 18 months whilst some last several years. We look for Hosts who can provide Short Stay or Respite too.

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