

**‘Staying Put’ – Living Together Agreement**

The Living Together Agreement sets out the house rules and expectations of the young person their carers when the young person remains living with their former foster carers after their 18th birthday in a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement.

The Living Together Agreement replaces the Placement Plan. It is agreed at a Living Together Agreement meeting, and is drawn up between the Young Person, Social Worker, Personal Advisor, Staying Put Carer and Supervising Social Worker.

The Living Together Agreement should be based on the information set out in the preceding Placement Plan and the agreements set out in any ‘Delegated Authority’ framework. The Living Together Agreement is a formal document setting out everyone’s expectations of one another. The majority of house rules and expectations will be the same as those in place prior to the young person’s 18th birthday. Reaching the age of 18 and adulthood is a good opportunity to revisit all of this and see what needs to change to enable everyone to carry on living together.

The Living Together Agreement is a flexible document and should be used to set out tasks, expectations and house rules which help the “Staying Put” arrangement run smoothly. This should be reviewed every 6 months at the time of reviewing the Pathway Plan. However, early meetings to review the arrangements can be arranged as necessary to ensure it is fit for purpose and ensure any issues are swiftly addressed.

In order to ensure that everyone knows what is expected of them this should be completed prior to a young person’s 18th birthday and be signed and linked to the young person’s Pathway Plan.

The information in this agreement should cover day to day living arrangements, capturing what has been working well, and what will change to support the young person as they become more independent.

Signed copies of this document should be given to each person to keep and a copy should be placed in the young person’s electronic record.

1. **Responsibilities:**

1.1 Young Person

Engage in the support detailed in the ‘House Rules and Support’ Section (below) and the Pathway Plan in order to develop independence skills.

Behave in a reasonable way, showing respect for my carer(s), their property, neighbours, other children/young people in the placement and the local community.

Not behave in a manner that is causes upset and/or harm to others or that would be deemed anti-social.

* Keep to any house rules agreed in this Living Together Agreement.
* Central Bedfordshire Children’s Services will pay your Staying Put Carer (s) directly.
* Your Personal Advisor will work with you to access any benefits/grants which you may be entitled to.
* Let your leaving care Personal Adviser know in advance if you wish to end the Staying Put arrangement.
* Maintain your room, furnishings and fittings in good order (and be responsible for replacing any items that are damaged).
* Contact your Personal Adviser/Social Worker if you would like to change this Living Together Agreement or raise concerns/make a complaint.
* You will have sole use of a bedroom and whilst you’re Staying Put Carer has full right of entry into that room as the householder, they will respect your right to privacy and give reasonable notice to enter.
* You have a right to use the shared facilities and rooms in the property; this will include the kitchen, bathroom and WC, lounge and laundry facilities. You do not have the right to access to the other bedrooms in the property.
* If for any reason you need to be moved to an alternative bedroom either permanently or as a temporary measure, the reasons will be explained by your Staying Put Carer in the presence of the Social Worker/Personal Adviser, so you are aware of the reasons for the move.

1.2 Staying Put Carer

Provide a fully furnished bedroom for by the young person.

Provide heating, hot water, lighting, food, house key, support and Wi-Fi.

Respect confidentiality (within agreed parameters) at all times regarding personal details of the young person.

Ensure the accommodation is of a good standard and allow annual household health and safety checks to be carried out.

Inform the young person’s Personal Adviser/Social Worker as soon as possible of any significant incidents and if the arrangement is likely to be disrupted/ end prematurely.

Provide adequate notice to end the “Staying Put” arrangement.

Ensure relevant staff /agencies are made aware if the young person is absent or missing.

Ensure (in conjunction with Children’s Services staff) an appropriate ‘Safer Care Plan’ is in place to manage the impact on other / younger children in the household of any changes to the household.

 Provide support (as detailed below in the ‘House Rules and Support’ Section) to prepare the young person for independent living and adulthood.

Please detail any specific agreements, for example, how any other younger children are to be safeguarded.

1.3 Fostering Team/Provider / Leaving Care Team

Inform Staying Put Carer of any likely risks and advise on risk management and safe care.

Where the Staying Put Carer will continue to foster when the Young Person turns 18, the Fostering Team or IFA will carry out a DBS check for the young person prior to their 18th birthday.

Advise and assist the young person with a housing benefit claim.

Advise and assist the young person with any other benefit claims and financial matters.

Advise and assist the young person with any applications for moving on to other accommodation.

Advise and suggest house rules (in addition or variance to those below).

Visit at regular intervals until the end of this Staying Put arrangement to provide support and advice.

Review this arrangement as part of the young person’s Pathway Plan review.

Review this Living Together Agreement and the ‘House Rules and Support’ Section (below) at least every six months. Reviews may take place as and when needed as part of the support provided to the Staying Put Arrangement.

ogether Agreement

**Living Together Agreement**

*This form is the agreement between the Staying Put Carer, Young Person, CBC Leaving Care Service and CBC Fostering Team.*

1. **Parties to the Agreement**:

Staying Put Carer Details:

Name:

Address:

Contact Telephone Numbers:

E-mail Address:

 Young Person’s Details:

 Name:

 Date of Birth:

 Contact Phone Number:

 E-mail Address:

Young Person’s Social Worker Details:

Social Worker’s Name:

Team and Address

E-mail Address:

Leaving Care Workers Details:

Leaving Care Workers Name:

Team and Address:

Telephone Contact Details:

E-mail Address:

Emergency Duty Team Contact Details:

Fostering Service Details:

Supervising Social Worker:

Team and Address:

Telephone contact details:

E-mail Address:

1. **Timescale**

Date Staying Put Arrangement Due to Commence:

Proposed Period of Arrangement:

Date of First Review:

1. **Household Rules and Support**

*Each household will have different rules and expectations, some of these will depend on who else lives in the household, for example, where younger foster children are living in the house, it may not be appropriate to have a boyfriend or girlfriend stay over.*

* + In what circumstances is it acceptable to enter the young person’s bedroom? i.e. when there are concerns regarding the well-being of the young person.
	+ Which areas of the house are private? e.g. Other bedrooms.
	+ What time is the young person expected to return in the evening, what are the arrangements if the young person is going to be late, or wants to stay out overnight?

* + What are the arrangements for ascertaining the young person’s whereabouts if they do not return on time?
	+ What are the arrangements for reporting the young person missing if they cannot be located, how long would you continue to try to contact them before reporting them missing?
	+ What are the arrangements for the young person having visitors and/or for friends staying overnight and/or boyfriends/girlfriends staying overnight - what is deemed acceptable?
	+ What are the arrangements if the young person smokes, what are the rules on consuming alcohol?
	+ What are the rules and arrangements regarding the young person having a mobile phone contract, credit arrangements, loan agreements, catalogue cards etc?
	+ Where there are younger foster children in placement what are the expectations of the young person in relation to being a positive role model, behaviour and timekeeping?

1. Arrangements for helping with the development of life skills.
	* + Cooking and food preparation:
		+ Laundry, ironing and household chores budgeting and money management:
		+ Completing and returning official forms (e.g. electoral roll register):
		+ Any specific health needs, including supporting with medication and helping with any health needs setting up and attending appointments:
		+ Arrangements for education, training or employment activities:
		+ Support work college work/assignments, attending 6th form college or university open days etc:
		+ Arrangements for support with maintaining contact with family and friends:
		+ Arrangements for hobbies, leisure interests and sports activities, support with maintaining activities:
		+ What are the safer caring arrangements?
2. Any other areas identified.

*This may include proposed plan for the young person to move on from Staying Put.*

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Young Person’s Financial contribution to the Staying Put Carer:

SIGNATURES:

Signed (Young Person) Date:

Signed (Staying Put Carer) Date:

Signed (Social Worker / Personal Adviser) Date:

Signed (Supervising Social Worker) Date:

Review Date for Staying Put Arrangement: