

Essex Supported Lodgings Finance and Allowances - Providers and Young People

Supported Lodgings Sixteen and Seventeen Year Olds

Supported lodgings providers receive a payment based on the young person's level of need and the supported lodgings providers' level of experience and training.

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| • Low Need | £137.00 per week |
| • Medium Need | £190.00 per week |
| • High Need | £250.00 per week |
| • Emergency and Complex Needs | £250.00 per week |
| • Mother and Baby Placements | £370.00 per week |

6th April 2011 – 5th April 2012

The Allowance covers the cost of the accommodation/rent, food, utilities/services and support. The allowance also includes a £5.00 per week savings element that providers use to encourage young people to develop a savings ethos.

Allowances for the young person are provided by the young person's social worker in accordance with the Leaving Care Financial Policy.

The Leaving Care Finance Policy sets out a system of allowances and payments that are aligned with the prevailing welfare benefit rates (Income Support and Jobseekers Allowance – under 25 year olds) and with the requirements of the Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers Guidance 2011, which includes the Care Leavers Regulations 2011. Allowances include:

- Maintenance allowances;
- Travel allowances;
- Birthday/festival and Christmas allowances;
- Leisure and activity allowances;
- Education, training and employment allowances.

The primary aim of a supported lodgings placement is to help young people to develop independent living skills and to make a successful transition from care to independent living. As such, the majority of allowances are provided directly to the young person via the leaving care service to ensure young people are supported to develop independent living skills. Where young people are living in foster care the majority of the above allowances are provided to the young person via the fostering maintenance allowance provided to the foster carer.

Post Eighteen Transitions

In circumstances where young people have not moved to independent living by their 18th birthday, supported lodgings placements can be extended for up to 4 weeks in order to assist care leavers to make a transition to independent (housing authority, housing association and private sector) accommodation or supported accommodation (housing authority, housing association or registered social landlord). Where a young person chooses to remain with the supported lodgings provider post 18, this becomes a private arrangement. A Post 18 Planning Meeting is held with the young person, young person's social worker, Benefits Advisor, supported lodgings provider, Supervising Social Worker to agree on post 18 financial arrangements. Young people have a liability for rent payments which can be paid from employment or housing benefit. Young people should cover their personal needs from employment or a benefit claim depending on their circumstances. Should young people require

support, a referral is sent to Supporting People funded floating support such as SWAN, In Touch or Family Mosaic.