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**FAMILY SOLUTIONS**

**TEAM**

**INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR HOMELESS 16-17 YR OLDS**

**FST Worker: ………………………..........**

**Tel No: ………………………………..........**

**\*\*This refers to 16 yr. olds that are leavers**

* Whilst in a Night stop placement you will not be provided with a key and you will usually be expected to be out of the home between 08:30 and 18:00.
* You will need to sign a placement agreement in order to access supported lodgings.
* You will receive continued support via a YMCA support worker
* Your rent will be paid via housing benefit and there will be further payment you make to the Host from your income support
* The Host will usually provide breakfast and evening meals unless you request otherwise.

The alternative to the YMCA supported lodgings scheme is a hostel placement. A hostel would involve living with other young people, you would have a support worker based within the hostel and the procedure to access a placement is a similar to the process above.

**3. Foster Care**

Finally, you could be assessed for the suitability of a foster care placement. This would involve being referred to Children’s Social Care and an assessment would be completed with you and your family. Anybody who has parental responsibility for you would be consulted and involved in the process.

You would have a Social Worker allocated to you and once in foster placement, you would be visited regularly by your Social Worker.

There would be regular meetings which you and anyone with parental responsibility would be invited to.

Living with a Foster Carer would be more like living with a family and the Foster Carer would take on the role of a parent.

If it is identified that foster placement is required, this would be provided immediately. The Family Solutions Team may remain involved in order to work with relationships between you and your family with a view to you returning home if appropriate.



The Family Solutions Team believe that young people are usually best looked after by their own families, however sometimes this is not possible and other support is required. This leaflet will tell you about the support available from the Family Solutions Team.

If you have been referred to our team because you are currently homeless or likely to become homeless there are three main ways we will try to help you;

1. Return to family
2. Semi-independent living
3. Foster Care

Please be aware that we may ask you personal questions about your life. This is to help us make informed decisions to help you keep safe and access any other services you required.

**What is a Host Carer?**

A host Carer is family or individual who rents a room to young people.

In order to access this resource, your FST worker would complete an application.

Often in cases of emergency you would be placed in a Night Stop Placement (similar to a Host Carer). An application would then be made on your behalf for a longer term supported lodgings arrangement. This would usually last three days and during this time you would need to;

* Complete a Ship referral and assessment with FST
* Provided your NI number and ID.
* Attend an appointment with an under 18’s advisor at the job centre. This will enable you to claim income support.
* You will need to complete ES9 with Connexions. In order to be in a placement, you will need to be in education/training/employment.

1. **1. Return to Family**

Firstly, we will ask you where you have been living up until now. If you have been living with family, we will offer you support in speaking to them and doing some work around relationships as we feel young people are usually best looked after by their own family. If this is not possible, we may ask you about other family members or friends who you could possibly live with. It is important that you share any concerns with us which might highlight any risks. It may be that we make calls to your family or even make a visit.

1. **Semi Independent Living**

In the event of no suitable family placement, semi-independent living can be explored. Semi-independent living usually means living in a supported lodging placement or in a hostel

Supported lodgings are provided via a project run by the YMCA and would mean living with a Host Carer.