

Children, Young People and Families Services Fostering



A Guide to Staying Put Arrangements



Contents

What is this guide about?

This guide was created to provide foster carers with an understanding of the process of young people and carers in a staying put arrangement. Within the guide, information is provided about:

- What is a Staying Put Arrangement? **P2**
- What do Young People and Carers think about Staying Put Arrangements? **P3**
- Aims and Expectations of a Staying Put Arrangement **P4-5**
 - What can Foster Carers expect from the Fostering Team?
 - What can Young People expect from the Personal Advisor?
- What is the process for transferring to a Staying Put Arrangement? **P6-13**
 - Designated Portfolio Lead **P6**
 - Thinking **P6**
 - Eligibility
 - Planning
 - Long Term Planning Meetings **P7**
 - Initial Staying Put Planning Meetings **P7**
 - Staying Put Planning Meetings **P8**
 - Pathway Plans **P8**
 - Permanency Panel and Fostering Panel **P8**
 - Enhanced Staying Put Arrangements **P8**
 - Contracts **P9**
 - Adults Social Care **P9**
 - Staying Put Process Flowchart **P10**
 - During
 - Annual Reviews **P11**
 - Disclosure and Barring Service Checks **P11**
 - Health and Safety **P11**
 - Visiting Patterns of 'Children's Social Care' Workers **P12**
 - Needs Assessment of the Staying Put Carer **P12**
 - Out of Hours Support **P12**
 - AQA Unit Award Scheme and the 21 Life Skills **P12**
 - Pregnancy during an Arrangement **P13**
 - After
 - Ending Arrangements **P13**
- The Facts about the Finances **P14-17**
 - Carer Payments **P14**
 - Retainer Fees and Birthday and Christmas Payments **P15**
 - Pocket Money and Savings **P15**
 - Entitlements and Welfare Benefits **P15**
 - Young Person's Contributions **P17**
- Training Programme for Staying Put Carers **P17**
- Jargon Buster and References List **P18**

Who is this guide for?

The guide is created by the BCP Fostering Team. The guide is created specifically for foster carers, although it may be informative to other professionals and young people.

What is a Staying Put Arrangement?

A Staying Put Arrangement is when a young person, who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14, remains living with the foster carer with whom they were placed when they turned 18.^{i ii}

This kind of arrangement is based on the agreement of the young person and the carer to commit to each other for the purposes of stability and continuity for the young person.

Staying put is referred to as an 'arrangement' to differentiate it from a foster 'placement'. The young person staying put is no longer a looked after child after they reach 18 years of age. They are a young adult and a care leaver. They are entitled to support as a care leaver and up to the age of 25 and will be allocated a personal advisor.ⁱⁱⁱ A staying put arrangement is governed by the care leavers' legislation and statutory guidance rather than the fostering services regulation.^{iv}

The top ten most concerning factors about leaving care, reported by young people to the Children's Rights Director for the 2006 report, all relate to accommodation and young people's ability to cope with independent living:^v

- Being on your own
- Not being able to cope
- Not being able to get help when you most need it
- Not having enough money to live on
- Cleaning up after yourself
- Leaving care before you're ready
- Having nowhere to go/come back to
- Being put in a 'dodgy' place
- Having nowhere to live
- Not being settled anywhere and having to keep moving around.

A staying put arrangement is not the only option available to young people when they turn 18, however it is an option that can help address many of the concerns raised by care leavers.

What do young people think of Staying Put Arrangements?

We asked some of our current young people in Staying Put arrangements what they felt about the scheme and they told us that they felt a sense of belonging and stability within their Staying Put Arrangements and that this has positively impacted them on their progress in education.

The young people commented that the frequency of visits from their personal advisors was appropriate and they felt reassured that they could contact these workers at any time if they needed support. Some of the young people said they didn't feel it was a requirement to have visits from their personal advisors because they felt a strong sense of stability and were very happy with their staying put carers and their arrangement.

The young people said that they felt their financial contributions were manageable and didn't feel pressured with financial difficulties. They also commented that their carers and those within the family had helped to develop their independence skills including washing, cooking and cleaning. This had been further assisted by attending University.

What do young people think could improve Staying Put Arrangements...?

- Planning Meeting prior to the arrangement commencing
 - All the young people that were asked said that it would have been helpful having had a planning meeting before the start of the Staying Put Arrangement as this would have helped them to understand the purpose for all future meetings they were to be invited to and understand what 'Staying Put' meant; they said having these meetings would allow them to feel valued and listened to.
- Finding out what Staying Put Care is earlier in care
 - One young person said that they felt this would have helped them to settle within the placement a lot earlier.

What do Carers feel about Staying Put Arrangements?

Current Staying Put Carers have expressed that the benefits of a Staying Put arrangement can be immense for a young person if it is what they want. They feel it gives them those few extra but crucial years to develop their independence and grow as a person in a safe environment. They felt that it allowed the young person to continue to feel stable and enjoy a family life that they wouldn't have when moving out.

The main feelings from all carers we spoke to were that you wouldn't send your own child out in to the big wide world before they were ready, and the Staying Put Scheme allows them as carers to offer that same entitlement to Care Leavers who are not yet ready for independence.

What do Foster Carers think could improve Staying Put Arrangements...?

- Clearer and increased communication between the personal advisor and the carer to continue the circle of support for a young person
- Training requirements that are relevant to having an 18-year-old in your care but with an understanding that as a previous foster carer you already know a lot of information
- The option to undertake online training instead of face-to-face training
- Clarity around what the carer payments are for and what the retainer payments cover
- Visits from fostering support workers/social workers to be assessed based on the carer and the young person's needs at the start of the placement and to be continually assessed throughout the arrangement based on the changing needs

- Phone calls in between visits from the fostering social worker would be enough if the visits are less frequent
- Clarity on the expectations of the carer and of the young person in this arrangement
- A staying put planning meeting to be held before the young person turns 18
- For staying put and other options to be talked about from the age of 16 with the young person
- Clarity for the young person on the other options available to them as well as staying put for when they turn 18
- Annual reviews should have age appropriate forms
- Clarity around the young person's financial contributions to the arrangement

Aims of a Staying Put Arrangement

When a staying put arrangement is agreed upon by the young person turning 18 and their current foster carer, the aims of the provision are:

- For the young person to feel a sense of continued stability
- To create a normal experience for the young person in the transition to independence
- To support the young person in developing their independence skills with a trusted person

Expectations of a Staying Put Arrangement

The expectations of a Staying Put Arrangement are that the following independence skills be achieved over the course of the arrangement to prepare the young person for independent living:^{vi vii}

- How to shop for, prepare and cook food and eat a balanced diet.
- Laundry, sewing & mending, and other household skills.
- How to carry out basic household jobs such as mending fuses.
- Safety in the home and first aid.
- Household budgeting, including the matching of expenditure to income, the regular payment of bills, avoidance of the excessive use of credit and the cost of living.
- Health education, including personal hygiene.
- Sexual health, including contraception and preparation for parenthood.
- Applying for and being interviewed for a job.
- The rights and responsibilities of being an employee or an employer. (disabled young people may use Direct Payments to employ their own personal assistants)
- Applying for a course for education or training.
- Applying for housing and locating and maintaining it.
- Registering with a doctor and a dentist.
- Knowledge of emergency services (fire, police ambulance)
- Finding and using community services and resources.
- Contacting the social services department and other caring agencies.
- Contacting organisations and groups set up to help young people who are, or have been, in care.
- The role of agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, local councillors and MP's.
- How to write a letter a) of complaint, b) to obtain advice.
- Understanding healthy relationships and building emotional resilience.

Expectations of the Carer(s):

With the help and guidance of their supervising social worker/ fostering support worker and the young person's personal advisor, the carer is expected to support the young person in the staying put arrangement to develop the noted independence skills throughout the duration of the arrangement.

What can Staying Put Carers expect from the Fostering Team?

The Fostering Team will provide each carer an assigned Fostering Support Worker or Supervising Social Worker. In the event that the Staying Put Carer continues to provide care to a young person under the age of 18, the carer will be assigned a Supervising Social Worker. If the carer is solely approved under the Staying Put Arrangement they will receive support from a Fostering Support Worker. The support and guidance that the carer will receive from a Support Worker and a Supervising Social Worker will include:

- Regular visits from a Fostering Support Worker/ Supervising Social Worker (see page 12)
- Telephone support during working hours 8:30am – 5:15pm and from the Out of Hours Team outside of the working hours
- 2-weekly payments for each young person in the arrangement
- Relevant training for Staying Put Arrangements
- Annual carer reviews
- 1 unannounced visit from a Fostering Team Worker per review period

Expectations of the Young Person:

The young person is expected to fully engage with their carer to learn and develop the noted independence skills.

What can Young People expect from the Personal Advisor?

Once a young person ceases to be looked after at the age of 18 then the local authority will no longer be required to provide them with a social worker to plan and co-ordinate their care.

The local authority must, however, appoint a Personal Advisor (PA) to support them. The PA will act as the focal point to ensure that care leavers are provided with the right kind of personal support. All care leavers should be aware of who their PA is and how to contact them, so that throughout their transition to adulthood they are able to rely on consistent support from their own key professional.

The role of the PA is to:

- Provide advice (including practical advice) and support
- Participate in assessment and preparation of pathway plans
- Liaise with the responsible authority (BCP Council) in the implementation of the pathway plan
- Co-ordinate the provision of services and take reasonable steps so that care leavers make use of services
- Keep informed about care leavers' progress and wellbeing
- Keep full, accurate and up to date records of contacts with the care leaver and services provided

Section 23CA of the 1989 Act requires that young people previously eligible for leaving care services resuming programmes of education or training after the age of 21 are entitled to continuing support from a PA allocated from their responsible authority.

For more information please see Regulation 8 of the Care Leavers Regulations which sets out the functions of a PA for a relevant or a former relevant child.viii

What is the process for transferring to a Staying Put Arrangement?

Designated Staying Put Portfolio Lead

What is a designated staying put portfolio lead?

This is a member of the Fostering Team who can be contacted by staff and carers for information regarding Staying Put. The lead receives a monthly list of young people aged 16+ in care and contacts their workers to ask if staying put is being considered. If there is a possibility of staying put, then the carer's supervising social worker is asked to visit the carer to complete the Initial Staying Put Planning (ISPP) Meeting and the Personal Advisor is asked to visit the young person separately to complete an ISPP Meeting (please see page 7 for details).

The portfolio lead will also keep track of young people whose Staying Put arrangements are coming to an end and ensure that the 'Move to Independence' Meeting has been initiated, (please see page 13 for more details).

Who is the current designated staying put portfolio lead?

Toni Harkcom, Family Support Practitioner, Fostering Team

Email: Toni.Harkcom@BCPCouncil.gov.uk

Work Mobile: 07384 908 102

Thinking

Is the young person eligible for a staying put arrangement?

Staying Put legislation does not apply to young people in residential care.

A young person is eligible for a Staying Put Arrangement if they are looked after by the local authority and have been looked after by the local authority for a period of 13 weeks, or periods adding up to 13 weeks, which began after they reached the age of 14.

If after leaving care, a young person returns home for a period of 6 months or more to be cared for by a parent and the return home has been formally agreed as successful, he or she will no longer be a 'Relevant Young Person' for a Staying Put Arrangement.

Staying Put Arrangements may continue until the young person becomes 21 (or up to 24 if the young person is in full-time further or higher education). The duty to pay a higher education bursary also continues, as before for those who started a course of higher education after 2008. Support by the local authority may continue until the young person is 25 years old if they remain or return to education or training.^{ix}

Foster Carer Approval

The regulations and guidance do not prevent a staying put carer (former foster carer) from continuing to foster. The good practice guide is clear that it is possible for a foster carer to have a staying put arrangement, if it is the carer's intention to resume fostering in the future. The fostering service must ensure that foster carers can be fully supported to maintain their approval, and must meet the statutory requirements including regular visits, information and support, and support for continued professional development.

A foster carer does not have to resign in order to offer a staying put arrangement; they may choose to foster, continue to foster or resume their fostering once the staying put arrangement has ended.^x

Planning

When should Staying Put Arrangements start being considered for a young person?

Permanence Planning Meetings - Staying Put Arrangements should be discussed in the initial permanence planning meetings for all children in care. When matching a young person to a long-term carer, staying put should be discussed with the carer to ensure that this is a plausible route they are willing to take in the future should the young person want it.

Please see the [Permanence Planning Meeting Document Template](#) for details of the meeting discussions.

Initial Staying Put Planning Meetings (ISPP) – These should occur within the 3 months before and after the young person's 16th birthday and should be held separately with the young person and the Foster Carer. If the young person starts their placement with the Foster Carer later than 3 months after their 16th birthday, these meetings should be held prior to the placement starting, or in the case of emergency placements, within 3 months of the placement starting.

1. The Carer's Initial Staying Put Planning Meeting

Attendees: The Carer(s) and their Supervising Social Worker/Fostering Support Worker

Topics to be discussed:

- Finances – carer's and young persons
- Training
- Expectations (including young person's contributions)
- Annual Reviews
- Initial Overview of the paperwork (Living Together Agreement, 21 Life Skills Form)
- Visiting Patterns by the Fostering Team
- Visiting Patterns of the Personal Advisor
- Lines of Communication
- Is this an arrangement that they would consider?

2. The Young Person's Initial Staying Put Planning Meeting

Attendees: The Young Person and their Personal Advisor

Topics to be discussed:

- Expectations (including young person's contributions)
- Initial Overview of the paperwork (Living Together Agreement, 21 Life Skills Form)
- Visiting Patterns of the Personal Advisor
- Independent Advice
- Is this an arrangement that they would consider?

No longer than 3 months after the young person's 16th birthday, the personal advisor should complete a Needs Assessment to determine their own involvement and the involvement of other services including Adults Social Care.

Staying Put Planning Meeting – This meeting should occur when the young person is 17.5 years old and will be used as a Working Together Agreement between all parties present.

Attendees: The Carer(s) and their Supervising Social Worker/Fostering Support Worker, Young Person and their Personal Advisor.

Topics to be discussed:

- Expectations (including young person's contributions)
- Living Together Agreement
- 21 Life Skills Form
- Visiting Patterns of the Personal Advisor
- Visiting Patterns of the Supervising Social Worker/ Fostering Support Worker
- Informing Permanency Panel and Fostering Panel
- DBS Checks
- Needs Assessments/TPG Referrals (please see page 9)
- Move to Independence Meeting

Pathway Plans

The pathway plan must be in place within three months of the young person's 16th birthday completed by the young person and their social worker – if a staying put arrangement is assessed as meeting the needs of the young person, this must be included.

The pathway plan must be reviewed at least every 6 months. The date for the first review of the Pathway Plan will be set to coincide with the young person's next Looked After Review after the Pathway Plan has been drawn up.

Permanency Panel and The Fostering Panel

On completion of the Staying Put Planning Meeting, the Personal Advisor/ Young Person's Social Worker will be required to present the decision of a Staying Put Arrangement to Permanency Panel and detail the reasons behind making this decision.

At this point, the Supervising Social Worker/ Fostering Support Worker will also be required to write a short report detailing how the carer will meet the needs of the young person in this arrangement and present this to The Fostering Panel.

In order to move forward with a Staying Put Arrangement, both the Permanency Panel and Fostering Panel's will need to be informed of the decision.

Enhanced Staying Put Arrangement

There are times when a carer can apply to be paid a higher skill rate to care for the Young Person in their Staying Put Arrangement. The Young Person would have significant additional care needs due to physical or learning needs.

A carer would be required to apply for the Enhanced Staying Put Fee via their Fostering Support Worker/Supervising Social Worker. The worker will then liaise with the carer to write a detailed assessment of their reasons for applying for this enhanced fee and will present this to The Fostering Panel within the Staying Put Arrangement report prior to the Young Person's 18th Birthday.

For financial guidance under the Enhanced Staying Put Arrangement please see page 14.

Contracts

A specific contract for staying put carers will be issued to the carer once the staying put arrangement has been presented to both The Permanency Panel and The Fostering Panel.

Adults Social Care

Referral to the Preparing for Adulthood Team

If it is deemed that a young person may require involvement from the adult social care, then a Preparing for Adulthood Referral would need to be made by the young person's PA, ideally on or around their 16th birthday. A Preparing for Adulthood Referral is a form to assess and screen the young person's individual needs based on any of the following: learning disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorder, physical disabilities and/or mental health concerns. If required, the referral would then be presented to the Transitions Planning Group Panel, where cases are complex or problematic.

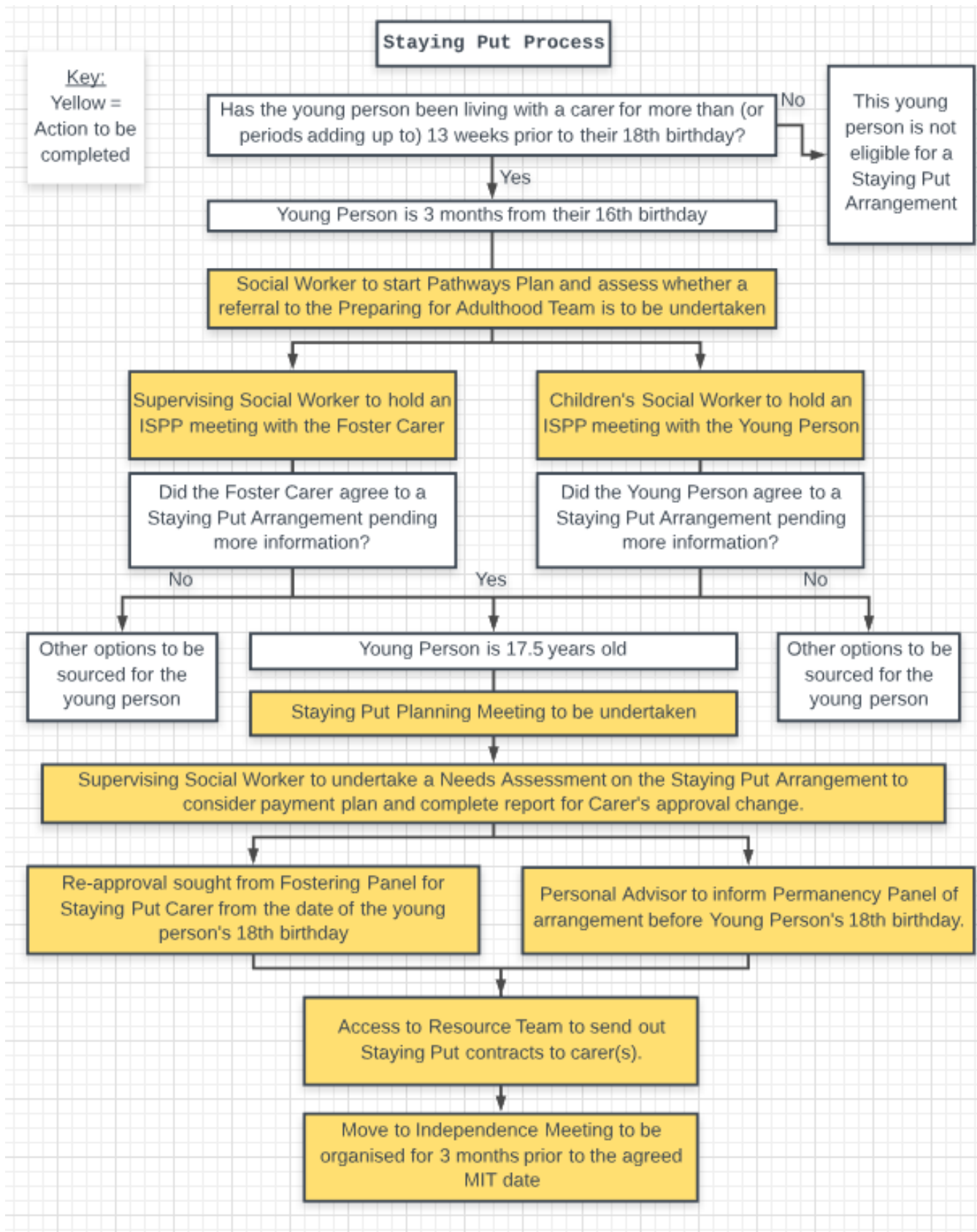
Personal Advisor Involvement

Personal advisors continue to work with the young person and have responsibility over all care leaver aspects of the young person's life however the Adult's Social Care Social Worker would be the primary worker for the young person.

For more information on Adult's Social Care please visit:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Staying Put Process Flowchart



Remember to inform the Designated Portfolio Lead of the progress throughout this process

During

Annual Reviews

A Staying Put Carer will be expected to undertake annual reviews much like when they were a Foster Carer. To ensure the relevance of the review, the additional forms to be completed have been made age appropriate and the social worker report has been adapted to reflect the needs of a Staying Put Arrangement.

In the circumstances that a Staying Put Carer is dually approved as a Foster Carer and continues to care for children aged 0-18 years old, they will be expected to undertake a full Foster Carers Annual Review instead of a Staying Put Carer Annual Review.

A Staying Put Carer Review will include the following documents:

- Fostering Worker Report
- Foster Carer Comments on the Last Year
- Birth Children and Adults in Household Comments
- Young Person's Comments
- Personal Advisor Comments
- Adult's Social Care Social Worker Comment (where applicable)
- Risk Management Plan
- Personal Development Plan
- Living Together Agreement
- Foster Carer Declaration

Please see documents pack '[Staying Put Carer Reviews](#)'

Disclosure and Barring Service Checks

If the carer continues to foster, then it is expected that the carer and the young person undertake annual DBS checks. This is to be initiated before the young person's 18th birthday.

Government guidelines suggest that the duty for a Carer and young person in a staying put arrangement to undertake a DBS check does not apply if the foster carer's approval ends immediately as the staying put arrangement commences^{xi} unless the carer is providing personal care to the young person in the arrangement and therefore will require a DBS check including the Adults' Barred List. However, BCP Council policy does require a DBS check to be completed for the carer in a staying put arrangement in all cases.

If the carer is no longer fostering, then the young person in this arrangement need not complete a DBS check and other adults living in the household do not require a DBS check.

Health and Safety

The Carer should notify their insurance company and make sure their cover extends this arrangement, i.e. an adult household member who is not a fostered child.

A new health and safety form will need to be completed that is relevant to the age of the young person, before the arrangement commences but will only need to be updated if there are significant changes to the property or carer circumstances.

Please see documents pack '[Staying Put Carer Reviews](#)'

Visiting Patterns of the 'Children's Social Care' Workers

Personal Advisor – The PA will visit within 7 days of the accommodation first being provided to the young person. In most Staying Put Arrangements this will not be applicable as the young person has been living in this accommodation for at least 13 weeks prior to the start of the arrangement. The PA will then visit at subsequent intervals of not more than eight weeks.

Supervising Social Worker/Fostering Support Worker – They will visit at intervals of not more than 6 weeks for the initial 3 months following the start of the Staying Put Arrangement. A Needs Assessment will then be undertaken to determine the frequency of visits that the carer requires going forward. A Needs Assessment can be carried out by the supporting foster team worker at any time should they believe a review of the arrangement is required.

These visits cannot exceed an interval of more than 3 months and where visits are on or above an interval of 8 weeks, one or more 'check in' calls will be made to the carer to ensure stability and progression.

The fostering team worker will also be required to complete 1 unannounced visit per annum.

Needs Assessment for the Staying Put Carer

Needs Assessment by the Fostering Worker - This will assess the assistance required within a Staying Put Arrangement and will cover the following topics:

- Young Person's risk-taking behaviours and the current severity of these behaviours
- Young Person's capacity to engage
- Carer's engagement levels with the service
- Carer's ability to manage the Young Person's behaviours
- Carer's ability to encourage and support the Young Person's independence

A Needs Assessment will be written within the carers Statutory Visit Document.

Out of Hours Support Service (OOHrs)

The Out of Hours Team can give advice and support in emergencies when offices are closed. Where necessary, they can also visit you to assess your needs and provide services. You can contact the OOHrs Team on 01202 738 256.

AQA Unit Award Scheme and the 21 Life Skills

As mentioned on page 5, the young person and carer will be expected to work together with their support workers to develop the young person's independence skills by completing the 21 Life Skills Form and activities related.

An initial meeting will take place between the young person, their carer and a representative from the Fostering Team who is trained in the AQA Unit Award Scheme. This will establish what skills the young person already has and what they need to learn in the next few years to become fully independent.

This process will be initiated by a Fostering Team AQA Unit Award Scheme Representative.

Please see 'AQA Unit Award Scheme and the 21 Life Skills' Document for more details.

Pregnancy During an Arrangement

If the Young Person in the Staying Put Arrangement becomes pregnant, then a review of the arrangement should be undertaken immediately. This should be held as a Professional's meeting to include the following attendees: The Carer(s), the Fostering Support Worker and the Personal Advisor to ascertain whether or not the arrangement can continue following the birth of the child and to assess the support needs of the young person.

After

How does the Staying Put Arrangement end?

The local authority will want to ensure that the end of a Staying Put Arrangement is a gradual transition to independent living.

When the Young Person turns 21 years old or has finished their further education or training (up to the age of 24 years old) they should already have a plan in place to move to independent living that has been created with the help of their Personal Advisor.

Independent Living does not mean that the young person must move out of the carer's home if both the carer and the young person wish to continue living together, they can move to a private arrangement where the young person pays their own rent to the carer and would now be classed as a 'lodger'.

All local authority payments to the carer will cease from the agreed 'move to independence' (MTI) date which will either be the young person's 21st Birthday or within 3 months of the completion of the further education or training course.

Move to Independence Meeting - A Move to Independence Meeting should be held 3 months prior to the expected MTI date to allow for planning to be undertaken to ensure a smooth transition for the young person and the carer.

Attendees: The Carer(s), Young Person, Fostering Support Worker, Personal Advisor and Adults Social Care Worker (if involved)

Topics to be discussed:

- Will the young person be moving out and if so what needs to be organised for this to happen?
 - If the young person is transferring to a private arrangement within the carer's home, what financial agreement will they uphold for renting purposes?
 - Any other concerns or opportunities to be supported
-

The Facts about the Finances

Carer Payments

Where a Foster Carer would receive a child's allowance, their own skill level fee and a respite/holiday payment, a Staying Put Carer now receives only one payment.

This payment covers the following costs for the carer and the young person:

- The young person's room in the home and all utilities that the young person has access to
- Food contribution to the Carer paid by the Young Person
- The Carers Fee and Holiday/Respite Payments

The Carer will be paid fortnightly and they will receive a remittance advice slip to explain what payments to expect.

Payment	Weekly
Staying Put Arrangement Total	£239

Enhanced Staying Put Payments

If you are eligible for an enhanced Staying Put payment rate (please see page 9 for details on eligibility) then you will receive a 30% increase in payments.

Payment	Weekly
Staying Put Arrangement	£310.70

Please note that current Staying Put Fees and Allowances are being harmonised across BCP Council and are subject to change.

Retainer Fees

In the event that a Young Person starts University or joins the Armed Forces and is not using the room in the carers home, the carer will be paid a retainer fee to keep the arrangement open and the bedroom free for the Young Person to come back to during holiday periods. This is to increase financial stability for the carer and ensure the Young Person has a stable "home-base" to return to.

In the event that a Carer goes on holiday for a period of time longer than 21 days without the Young Person, the carer will be paid a retainer fee. This fee is to cover the cost of the use of the bedroom and the utilities in

the home that the Young Person will continue to utilise whilst the carer is away. The reduction in payment is due to the carer not being physically present and able to care for the Young Person during this period of time.

Payment	Weekly
Retainer Fee	£60

Birthday and Festival Payments

Once a Young Person turns 18 years old, they will receive their birthday and festive payments directly and the carer will no longer be responsible for receiving these payments.

Payment	Yearly
18 th Birthday	£125
19 th – 21 st Birthday	£50
Festival Payment (for example: Christmas) when the Young Person is 18 – 21 years old (inclusive)	£50

Pocket Money and Savings

At the age of 18, a Young Person will no longer receive pocket money from their carer. The carer will also no longer be expected to keep a percentage of their carer payments as savings for the young person. The Young Person will be eligible to receive their previous “Looked After Child” savings when they turn 18 years old.

Entitlement and Welfare Benefits for the Young Person

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

PIP can help you with some of the extra costs if you have a long-term ill-health or disability. You could get between £22.65 and £145.35 if you’re aged 16 or over and have not reached State Pension age. The amount you get depends on how your condition affects you, not the condition itself.

This is not an income-based payment and is based on a Needs Assessment that would be undertaken by a health professional. This payment would normally be paid directly to the young person, but it is dependant on the capabilities of that young person to manage the money.^{xii}

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/pip>

Child Benefit

You get Child Benefit if you’re responsible for one or more children under 16 (or under 20 if they stay in approved education or training). There’s no limit to how many children you can claim for.

This is a separate Benefit Claim to Universal Credit and is available to all Young People in a Staying Put Arrangement that match the above criteria.^{xiii}

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit>

Universal Credit (UC)

UC replaces the following benefits:^{xiv}

- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance (JSA)
- Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Working Tax Credit

What this means for a young person in a Staying Put Arrangement is that they can claim for Universal Credit if they fall in to one of the below criteria's:

- If a Young Person is signed off sick from work and has a relevant doctors' note to corroborate this
- If a Young Person is actively looking for work and is struggling to find employment
- If a Young Person is expected to pay rent and cannot afford this due to insignificant employment funds
- If a Young Person is working part-time, they can still put in a request for Universal Credit if they are not receiving a substantial income. The amount paid to the Young Person will be based on how much they earn each week/month and will change based on the changes in the hours that Young Person is able to work (this means that if they work part-time but are able to pick up overtime shifts, their Universal Credit payment will change according to their income that week)
- If a Young Person is already receiving Universal Credit for one of the above reasons and has a child dependant on them, they may be entitled to additional payments to support the child

For more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>

How does the Staying Put Payments affect a Carers own benefits?

Payments to the carer from a local authority in respect of Staying Put arrangement do not count as income but housing benefit does. This may affect tax and benefit entitlement.

Please speak to the Benefits Department at BCP Council for more details.

Qualifying Care Relief

Staying Put Carers will continue to be eligible for Qualifying Care Relief. This allows carers who look after children or adults to receive certain payments tax-free.^{xv}

For more information please see HMRC Help Sheet 236 which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-hs236-self-assessment-helpsheet/hs236-qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-2018>

Young Person's Contributions

Food

All Young People aged 18 years and older who are in employment or receiving benefits are expected to contribute £20 per week towards their food costs directly to the Staying Put Carer. If the Young Person chooses to purchase their own food in the household then the payment to the Carer will cease.

Training Programme for Staying Put Carers

As a current or former foster carer, you will have had extensive training on how to care for a young person and promote their health, identity, self-esteem and development. Becoming a Staying Put Carer can have its own set of challenges and in order to prepare and support every carer we have put together a list of available training that we think would be beneficial.

Therapeutic courses:

It is expected that each carer will complete at least one of these courses during their fostering career to promote the use of therapeutic parenting.

- Non-Violent Resistance
- The Great Behaviour Breakdown
- PACE
- Therapeutic Parenting
- Life Story Work

Valuable Training for Staying Put Arrangements

Courses available online:

- My Rights as a Care Leaver / Leaving Care – Expectations and Support
- Criminal Exploitation and County Lines
- Emerging Personality Disorder
- Knife Crime Prevention
- Mental Health
- Preparation for Independence (Foundation and Advanced Levels)
- Promoting Resilience
- Supporting Adults at Risk of Domestic Abuse (Female Victim / Male Victim / Family / LGBTQ)
- Vulnerable Children having Vulnerable Children

We recommend that all prospective Staying Put Carers undertake training in **Preparation for Independence and Understanding a Young Person's Rights as a Care Leaver** prior to the young person's 18th birthday.

Courses available face-to-face:

- HYPE! Support Group (Helping Young People Excel)
- Fostering Forum (Morning and Evening Sessions Available)
- Toxic Trio (Domestic Violence/Parental Mental Health/Parental Substance Misuse)
- Self-Harm, Suicide and Ligature Training

Jargon Buster

Access to Resources Team (ART) - ART is the Children's Services equivalent of a supermarket or internet search engine. The team have comprehensive commissioning knowledge and ensure that we have a wide and diverse range of services available to children and young people.

Permanency Panel – this panel is a group of appointed people who make decisions regarding the permanency plan for each young person.

Fostering Panel - this panel is a group of appointed people who make recommendations on the approval of prospective foster carers and any changes to the approval of existing foster carers. Details of who has to sit on this panel are covered in Regulation 23.

IFP or IFA - An IFP of IFA (Independent Fostering Provider/Agency) is an organisation that places children into foster placements on behalf of the Local Authority. Some are profit making companies while others are charities or not for profit companies.

Local Authority - the local council that has responsibility for children's services, including provision for looked after children.

Out of Hours Service - Out of Hours Teams can give advice and support in an emergency when offices are closed. Where necessary, they can also visit you to assess your needs and provide services.

Pathway plan – the pathway plan is completed as part of the leaving care process for each young person and includes any actions that have to be carried out by the responsible authority, foster carer, the young person themselves and any others involved.

Regulations - these outline the legal requirements that foster care and all fostering services must comply with. Failure to do so is a breach of the law. You can read the Fostering Services Regulations for England on www.gov.uk.

Responsible authority - this is the authority that has responsibility for ensuring that the child is looked after appropriately while in its care.

Reference List

- ⁱ Children Act 1989 Section 23CZA (inserted by s.98 Children and Families Act 2014.)
- ⁱⁱ The Fostering Network, Staying Put, Guidance for Children and Young People Services, Fostering Service and Leaving Care Services, s.2 Definition
- ⁱⁱⁱ Children Act 1989 section 23CZB (inserted by s.3 Children and Social Work Act 2017) – awaiting implementation.
- ^{iv} The Fostering Network, Staying Put, Guidance for Children and Young People Services, Fostering Service and Leaving Care Services, s.2 Definition
- ^v The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations, Chapter 7: Planning and arranging suitable accommodation for the transition to independent living s 7.1
- ^{vi} Life Skills – Evidence for AWA Unit Award – 72491 Independent Living Form by BCP Council
- ^{vii} The Fostering Network, Staying Put, Guidance for Children and Young People Services, Fostering Service and Leaving Care Services s.10 Support for young people including financial support
- ^{viii} The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers. Available from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf
- ^{ix} (2016). Making a success of Staying Put Arrangements for young people. Alan Fisher. Available from <http://www.ccinform.co.uk/practice-guidance/guide-to-staying-put/>
- ^x Part One Section 4, The Fostering Network, Staying Put Guidance for Children and Young People Services, Fostering Services and Leaving Care Services
- ^{xi} Part One Section 11, The Fostering Network, Staying Put Guidance for Children and Young People Services, Fostering Services and Leaving Care Services
- ^{xii} Personal Independence Payments <https://www.gov.uk/pip>
- ^{xiii} Child Benefit Payments <https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit>
- ^{xiv} Universal Credit <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>
- ^{xv} HS236 Qualifying care relief: foster carers, adult placement carer, kinship carers and staying put carers (2018) The Law Commission, Reforming Care, Adults Social Care, P157 – 162) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/247900/0941.pdf The Care Act 2014, Chapter 23, Transition for children to adult care and support, etc. Page 58 – 66, <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>