

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 03/09/2024

Title: Supported Lodgings (SL) Scheme

Purpose of the report: To seek approval for the introduction of a Supported Lodgings Scheme for Ceredigion for young people between the ages of 16 – 25.

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:
Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

Introduction

Currently as a Local Authority we have minimal opportunities for providing suitable accommodation to accommodate 16+. SL is intended to provide a 'stepping stone' to independent living for the young people of Ceredigion, aged between 16-25 years of age. SL provides a stepping a stepping stone to young people leaving care, who may not be fully ready to take on their own tenancies. At the same time SL can be accessed by 16+ young people who are homeless; or who are unaccompanied asylum seekers. The provision does not come under the Regulation of Social Care Wales Act (RISCA) and there is no requirement for the provision to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

Supported Lodgings describes a situation where a young person lives with a family, an individual or a couple who have a spare room and who are willing to provide informal guidance and practical assistance to the young person who would live semi-independently. The Host would be supporting the young person's progress and guiding them towards full independence.

This report outlines a scheme proposal for Ceredigion, that will bridge and provide meaningful support and accommodation for our young people whilst transitioning into adulthood.

Current Position

Currently there are 29 young people aged 16-17 who will leave care within the next 2 years and 16 more who are turning 16 in the next 12 months, making the total projected demand approximately 45.

As this will be a new scheme an engagement and marketing campaign will be developed with the aim of seeking 45 placements across the County.

This Policy is underpinned by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 where the main objectives are:

- Reduce the number of placements moves within the care system
- Increase placement choice
- Avoid early discharge from care
- Improve outcomes for care leavers

The Policy outlines the assessment process along with the role of the panel in reviewing applications alongside the on-going support that will be developed for the hosts.

It is proposed that the hosts will be paid £200 per week, and the Council will pay £25 per week retainer when the young person is attending University. Moving forward the fees will be reviewed as part of the annual Fees and Charges process and amended accordingly.

The aim will be for this provision to sit within the Fostering Service, ensuring that staff with the required knowledge and skills in assessing potential hosts alongside the regular support and supervision required. A panel will be recruited, ensuring a cross section of professions e.g., housing, health, education. An independent chair will be recruited to chair the panel.

A budget will be allocated to support with on-going recruitment campaign and will utilise the Foster Wales branding.

Wellbeing of Future Generations:

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why.

Yes, included in pack.

Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:

Long term: Over the next 10 years we would hope to see an increase in the number of SLs which will reduce the number of children on the looked after register. Also, a reduction in young people on the homeless register. The key for this to be to ensure that the correct level of support is provided and that the SLs are supported to take on their new role.

Collaboration: Stable SLs will require and holistic approach based on the needs of the young people and these will require collaboration with partner agency ensuring person centred pathway planning allowing young people to meet their desired future goals.

Involvement: An element of the proposal is to engage with staff and partner organisations through the fostering panel and the Independent Reviewing Officers in relation to the proposed policy.

Prevention: The policy and associated documents will be reviewed post engagement and reviewed accordingly.

Integration: This will be reviewed following the engagement process.

Recommendation(s):

1. Cabinet is requested to approve the Supported Lodgings Policy and scheme.
2. To give delegated authority to the Statutory Director of Social Care to implement policy and review annually.

Reasons for decision:

To align with the “The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015”.

Overview and Scrutiny:

Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15/07/2024

Policy Framework:

The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015

Corporate Well-being Objectives:

- Creating Caring and Healthy Communities
- Providing the Best Start in Life and Enabling Learning at All Ages

Finance and Procurement implications:

- Reduction in out of county placements
- Preparing and transitioning from care into tenancy support

Legal Implications:

- Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2016
- The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015

Staffing implications:

To review as part of the implementation phase

Property / asset implications:

Not applicable

Risk(s):

Not recruiting enough hosts for the identified need in the county

Statutory Powers:

The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015

Background Papers:

Not applicable

Appendices:

- Appendix 1- Draft Supported Lodgings Policy
- Appendix 2- Integrated Impact Assessment

Corporate Lead Officer:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal

Reporting Officer:

Nerys Lewis, Corporate Manager: Direct Services

Date:

10/06/2024

Acronyms:

SGO – Special Guardianship Orders

WG – Welsh Government

CLA – Children Looked After

Supported Lodgings



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Supported Lodgings

Supported Lodgings

Document	Supported Lodgings Policy
Document Author	
Lead Officer	
Document Owner	Audrey Somerton Edwards Corporate Lead Officer Porth Cynnal and Statutory Director of Social Services
Accessibility	This document can be made available in Welsh.
Document Version	
Approved by and date	
Replaces document	
Review date	
External Circulation Restrictions	
Staff to whom distributed and date	

Updates, Revisions and Amendments		
Draft Version	Details of Change	Date
V0.51	Panel and Emergency Introduction	11/6/2024
V0.52	Comments from Paula Burt – Foster Panel	12/6/2024
V0.53	Review Eligibility Details	17/6/2024
	-	

Contents

1.	Introduction.....	4
2.	Background and Legal Framework	5
3.	Recruitment and assessment of Host.....	5
3.1	Initial contact from host	5
3.2	Initial recruitment visit:	6
3.3	Further visits as required to complete the assessment process	7
3.4	Panel	8
4.	Post Approval	9
4.1	Training.....	9
4.2	Supervision, Contact and Visits	9
4.3	Reviewing	9
4.4	Young people who go missing	10
4.5	Allegations against hosts	10
5.	Assessment & placement of young people	12
5.1	Eligibility for application to supported lodgings.....	12
5.2	Young person Referral Process.....	12
5.3	Young Person and Host Meeting	12
5.4	DBS Checks	13
5.5	Young person payments / contributions.....	13
5.6	Payments	14
5.7	Emergency Placements	14
5.8	Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Placements	15
5.9	Host Travel Expenses.....	16
5.10	Warnings & Serving Notice.....	16
6.	Ending the Placement.....	17
6.1	Ending the placement naturally	17
6.2	Ending the placement prematurely.....	17
7.	Disruption / Incident Policy & Procedure.....	18
7.1	Major Incidents.....	18

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The aim of the Ceredigion Supported Lodgings Scheme is to provide a 'stepping stone' to independent living for the young people of Ceredigion, aged between 16-25 years of age. Providing opportunity to be able to live semi – independently, in good quality accommodation and with support, security and a safe environment this will be a chance to learn the skills required to move on to fully independent living.
- 1.2 Supported Lodgings describes a situation where a young person lives with a family, an individual or a couple who have a spare room and who are willing to provide informal guidance and practical assistance to the young person who would live semi-independently. The Host would be supporting the young person's progress and guiding them towards full independence.
- 1.3 A range of support is available when a young person moves into a Supported Lodgings placement:
 - Host Training
 - Fixed fee financial reward
 - Regular review meetings to consider how the placement is proceeding
 - A contact number for any out-of-hours problems that may be encountered
 - Each young person is allocated an appropriate worker for their needs, from the Supported Lodgings Team.

2. Background and Legal Framework

This Policy is underpinned by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 where the main objectives are:

- Reduce the number of placements moves within the care system
- Increase placement choice
- Avoid early discharge from care
- Improve outcomes for care leavers

Those specifically relating to accommodation are to:

- Provide stable placements, continuity of carers and the maintenance, whenever possible, of positive links when young people are 'looked after'
- Prepare young people gradually to be ready to leave care, paying attention to practical self-care needs – health, budgeting, domestic skills – and personal and relationship dimensions
- Ensure there is a contingency provision to support carer leavers in the event of a crisis, including arrangements for respite care
- Provide or enable ongoing personal support. This may include specialist Leaving Care Scheme support, support by carers and Social Workers and support by youth workers, befrienders, mentors or volunteers.

3. Recruitment and assessment of Host

3.1 Initial contact from host

- 3.1.1 A prospective Host can make contact by completing the Supported Lodgings Enquiry Form ([link](#) or [contact](#))
- 3.1.2 Once a prospective Host has made contact, an information pack and consent form will be sent either via email or in the post. This should also be provided in Welsh.
- 3.1.3 If basic checks and information received are satisfactory then the Supported Lodgings Co-ordinator will update the Supported Lodgings Enquiry.
- 3.1.4 If there has been no response from the prospective Host within 7 days, then the Co-ordinator should contact them by telephone to enquire if they are still interested and wish to proceed.

- 3.1.5 If the prospective Host wishes to proceed then the Co-ordinator should arrange with them a mutually convenient appointment to commence the assessment.
- 3.1.6 Once the Co-ordinator has received the completed consent form, they will run relevant checks.
- 3.1.7 It is anticipated that assessments will be completed within 3 months although this depends upon the availability of the Hosts to engage in the assessment process as well as the timescales for completing satisfactory checks.
- 3.1.8 On occasions, young people may reside with someone prior to an assessment being completed and in these instances the assessment will be prioritised to ensure this is completed in a timely manner.
- 3.1.9 If they do not wish to proceed, at any point, then the enquiry should be closed.

3.2 Initial recruitment visit:

- 3.2.1 During the first recruitment visit the Co-ordinator will provide the prospective Host further information about Supported Lodgings and discuss with them the following topics:
- Outline Supported Lodgings
 - Clarify any early queries / questions
 - Explore reasons for application / motivation
 - Discuss the experience of the applicant
 - Discuss the expectations of the applicant
 - Consider the Hosts work commitments / patterns / time and availability
 - Look around the accommodation and assess the appropriateness
 - Assess the appropriateness of the proposed young person's room
 - Discuss the impact of a young person on the hosts family and other adults
 - Discuss confidentiality and need for flexibility when hosting a young person
 - Discuss the range of young people who are likely to use the system

- Discuss about working together with the young person's family, Through Care Team any other agencies
- Discuss the expectations of the department
- Explain that we (Ceredigion County Council) are not responsible for matters concerning insurance, Tax or Benefits. It will be the Hosts responsibility to gain advice.

3.2.2 The Co-ordinator will also either start the assessment with the Host or agree to send it over for them to complete.

3.2.3 The Co-ordinator will agree a mutually convenient time to carry out a second visit to continue with the assessment process.

3.3 Further visits as required to complete the assessment process – where the following actions must be completed -

- The 'Supported Lodgings Host Application Form'
- The 'Declaration of Health'
- Three referees (not family), one being present or previous employer
- Screening will include character checks and DBS (Enhanced including Barred) checks on all household members over 18 either and then using the DBS verification website (Employment Check)
- Environmental Check
- Pet Assessment forms (if appropriate)
- 'Supported Lodging Coordinators Assessment Report'
- Mandatory training units
- Additional Pre-approval training, as required
- Scenarios, as appropriate

3.4 Panel

The Panel is composed in accordance with the Regulations and chaired by an Independent Chair and meet periodically.

3.4.1 The following actions must be undertaken before presenting the completed assessment to the Supported Lodgings Panel -

- Discuss the Panel process with the prospective Hosts
- Give the Hosts a copy of the completed Assessment Report and discuss any queries prior to Panel.
- Arrange the Panel date and time
- Send all Panel members a copy of the assessment in advance of the panel

3.4.2 During the Panel, the following will happen –

- The Panel members will go through the prospective Host's assessment and clarify any questions with the Co-ordinator.
- The Hosts will then be invited into the meeting to clarify any further questions from Panel and will be given the opportunity to ask any questions.
- The Hosts will then be asked to leave whilst the Panel discusses their approval recommendations.
- The Hosts will be invited back into the meeting and will be informed of the Panel outcome.

3.4.3 Following the Panel –

- The completed assessment and Panel minutes will be sent to the Agency Decision Maker (ADM) for final authorisation.
- The Hosts will be sent a copy of the signed assessment and a letter outlining the Agency Decision Maker decision.
- If approved, a meeting will be arranged with the Hosts. They will be asked to complete a BACS Form and sign the Host and Ceredigion County Council Agreement.
- The host should be referred to the appeal process if they are not approved and wish to appeal.

Please refer to the Panel Policy and Procedures.

4. Post Approval

4.1 Training

- 4.1.1 The Host will have Training and personal development needs and these will be identified as part of the assessment to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.
- 4.1.2 Hosts will be informed of any relevant training opportunities by the Co-ordinator.
- 4.1.3 All training undertaken will be recorded in the Host Training Record.

4.2 Supervision, Contact and Visits

- 4.2.1 During the visits to the Host, the Supported Lodgings Co-ordinator will undertake various tasks.
- 4.2.2 Formal Supervision will take place bi-monthly with a support call undertaken during the months that no formal supervision is provided.
- 4.2.3 The Co-ordinator will undertake additional visits to support the host at agreed intervals, dependent upon their needs.
- 4.2.4 When a young person is in placement, visits with the young person will be agreed with their worker to meet the individual needs of the young person.
- 4.2.5 Whilst the Host does not have a young person in placement, the Co-ordinator will remain in contact with Host at regular intervals to arrange any ongoing training and support as required. As a minimum, monthly support calls will be provided.

4.3 Reviewing – The Supported Lodgings Host will have their approval reviewed at Panel following their first year of approval and every three years thereafter. The following actions will be undertaken –

- 4.3.1 The Co-ordinator will complete the: 'Review Form' with the host, taking into consideration the experiences / views of the Host, along with the views of the young person in the placement, if appropriate.
- 4.3.2 The Co-ordinator will complete an updated 'Environmental Check'.
- 4.3.3 If the Host's circumstances change, a review may take place sooner.

4.4 Young people who go missing

4.4.1 If a Host has concerns about a young person who is lodging with them and they have not had any contact with them in 24 hours, other than during arranged breaks, they should contact the Co-ordinator, young person's worker or the Emergency Duty Team, as appropriate, to advise them of the missing young person. A brief description of the young person is included in the young person's referral form.

4.5 Allegations against hosts – Should the Supported Lodgings Host be the subject of an allegation the following actions will be undertaken –

4.5.1 The co-ordinator needs to be notified immediately if an allegation is made.

4.5.2 All allegations are to be reported to the Team Manager immediately, who will also notify their corporate manager and the Safeguarding Team.

4.5.3 A risk assessment will be undertaken, it may be that the young person will need to be moved and placed in an alternative placement immediately until enquiries concluded.

4.5.4 The Host will be subject to the Professional Concerns if the threshold is met in line with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures. (see [Safeguarding Wales](#)).

4.5.5 Allegations will have outcomes within the following four categories:

- **Substantiated** – a substantiated allegation is one which is established by evidence or proof.
- **Unsubstantiated** – an unsubstantiated allegation is not the same as an allegation that is later proved to be false. It simply means that there is insufficient identifiable evidence to prove or disprove the allegation. The term, therefore, does not imply guilt or innocence.
- **Unfounded** – this indicates that the person making the allegation misinterpreted the incident or was mistaken about what they saw. Alternatively, they may not have been aware of all the circumstances. For an allegation to be classified as unfounded, it will be necessary to have evidence to disprove the allegation.

- **Deliberately invented or malicious** – this means there is clear evidence to prove there has been a deliberate act to deceive and the allegation is entirely false.

4.5.6 Following the investigation, if the allegation is subsequently Substantiated then the Host will be removed from the Supported Lodgings scheme and further action will be guided by management and safeguarding procedures.

4.5.7 If the allegation is Unsubstantiated, Unfounded or Deliberately invented or malicious then the Co-ordinator (guided by Team Manager) will advise further and may recommend relevant training to the Host, including safeguarding.

4.5.8 The Co-ordinator will discuss with the Host whether it is appropriate for the young person to return to placement and consideration will be given to future placements.

5. Assessment & placement of young people

5.1 Eligibility for application to supported lodgings

5.1.1 Care Leavers aged 18 to 25

Categories 1-6 as defined in Section 104 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

5.1.2 Any young person aged 16-17 Ordinarily resident in Ceredigion who are at risk of being homeless.

- a) Known to the local authority
- b) Not known to the local authority

5.1.3 Any young person aged 16-17 NOT ordinarily resident in Ceredigion who are at risk of being homeless (in exceptional circumstances under the Southwark Judgement)

- a) Known to the local authority
- b) Not known to the local authority

Children aged 16-17 must consent to being recognised as part of the Children Looked After community by the Authority.

5.2 Young person Referral Process

5.2.1 To enable a young person to be placed a: 'Semi-Independent Living Referral Form' must be completed.

5.2.2 Once the referral form has been received the 'Referral Process Pathway' will be followed.

5.3 Young Person and Host Meeting

5.3.1 Prior to the start of any Supported Lodgings placement, a meeting should be arranged for the Host and young person to meet at a mutual location and time.

5.3.2 If the Host and young person wish to move forward, a meeting at the Host's home will be arranged for the young person.

5.3.3 In proceeding with the arrangement, a move in date should be agreed and arrangements made for the young person to move into Supported Lodgings.

5.3.4 At the beginning of the Supported Lodgings placement, the Co-ordinator will arrange a meeting with the Host, young person and young person's worker to agree the 'Living Together Agreement', which covers the house rules and contributions.

5.3.5 The 'Living Together Agreement' is set at the beginning of a placement, however, it can be changed in a review meeting, if requested by the Host or young person. Alternatively, the Co-ordinator or young person's worker may deem it necessary for changed to be made.

5.4 DBS Checks

5.4.1 A DBS check (Enhanced including Barred) needs to be undertaken, prior to the start of any placement:

- On the young person if there are any other children or Supported Lodgings' young people living in the home.
- On everyone else over 18, either living in the home or who will be staying over regularly.

5.4.2 DBS checks must be renewed every three years. The Human Resources department will send an email to the supervising Co-ordinator when a DBS is due for renewal to ensure it is completed prior to expiry.

5.5 Young person payments / contributions

5.5.1 It will be explained to the young person they have to make a weekly payment of £25 towards service charges to the Host, which will contribute towards utilities and food.

5.5.2 A record of payments needs to be kept by the Host and signed by the young person.

5.5.3 It will be agreed between the Host and young person how this payment will be made, either by cash, weekly bank transfers or Direct Debit.

5.5.4 If the young person is in employment, or finds employment whilst living in Supported Lodgings, they are responsible for the payment of

additional contributions to the host. These additional contributions will vary depending upon their full earnings.

5.6 Payments

- 5.6.1 Standard payments to hosts are £200.00 per week.
- 5.6.2 Ceredigion County Council will pay a £25 per week retainer when the young person is attending University and living at other premises, e.g. Halls of Residence, rented accommodation. The Host should inform the Co-ordinator when the young person returns to the placement.
- 5.6.3 On occasion the needs of the young person will necessitate additional payments by the Council for Supported Lodgings Hosts. The additional payment is to recognise the young person whose needs are more complex and additional support is required.

Please refer to Enhanced Payments Policy.

5.7 Emergency Placements

An emergency placement is typically a short-term solution for young people who need immediate protection or sanctuary. Emergency care is required when a young person is subject to an unsafe living environment, including: exposure to drug or alcohol misuse.

- 5.7.1 Prior to any emergency placement, a 'Semi-Independent Living Referral Form' will need to be completed and agreed by the Senior Manager.
- 5.7.2 An emergency placement is a placement made within the same 24 hours of the referral being made.
- 5.7.3 All available Hosts will be contacted.
- 5.7.4 The young person should be advised of the conditions and rules to stay in the emergency placement.

5.7.5 A payment of £100 per night will be arranged for the first seven nights.

5.7.6 Following the first seven nights, it is hoped that more permanent arrangements will be made. If it is agreed for the young person to remain in the placement, then standard payment will begin.

5.8 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) Placements

5.8.1 Hosts will agree to whether they would like to be considered for UASC placements.

5.8.2 UASC placements are usually given some short notice, but Ceredigion County Council is likely to have very little information about the young person. A 'Semi-Independent Living Referral Form' will be completed, giving as much information as possible.

5.8.3 Given the additional support required for these placements, due to the potential language barriers or additional cultural needs, the Host will be paid £345 per week to recognise the additional commitment required.

5.8.4 UASC placements will be supported to any young person accessing Supported Lodgings.

5.9 Host Travel Expenses

5.9.1 Should Hosts be required to transport a young person, they will be able to claim travel expenses for the following reasons (at Co-ordinator and Team Manager's discretion):

- Employment
- Education
- Medical Visits
- Court appearances

5.9.2 Transporting is not limited to the above reasons but will be assessed accordingly by the Co-ordinator and Team Manager.

5.9.3 Travel expenses will be paid in line with current Ceredigion County Council mileage.

5.9.4 Any expenses will need to be submitted through the Co-ordinator who will then arrange payment.

5.10 Warnings & Serving Notice

5.10.1 If a young person has not been abiding by the rules stated in the 'Living Together Agreement' then the Co-ordinator will initially work with the Host, young person and their worker to attempt to overcome these.

5.10.2 If improvements are not made after a given amount of time, then the Co-ordinator will give the young person a warning.

5.10.3 The warning could either be given verbally or written.

5.10.4 The young person could receive three warnings, but the next will be a notice to end the placement.

5.10.5 In extreme circumstances (including but not limited to violence / drugs) the warnings may not be given and a notice to end the placement may be given.

5.10.6 All warnings and notices are individual cases; the Co-ordinator will consult with all people working with or supporting the young person before making the decision.

6. Ending the Placement

6.1 Ending the placement naturally

- 5.1.1 The young person will usually decide when they are ready to move out of Supported Lodgings accommodation.
- 5.1.2 A Host may also request to end a placement if their circumstances change. They should discuss this with the Co-ordinator to ensure a move on plan is established with the young person.
- 5.1.3 It is hoped that the Host will have formed a mentor type relationship with the young person and will assist in the move and continue to mentor the young person for a short time following the move, however, this is not obligatory.
- 5.1.4 At the end of the placement the young person and Host should complete an 'End of Placement Form' for feedback about the service they have received.
- 5.1.5 The length of notice to be given will be agreed in the 'Living Together Agreement'.

6.2 Ending the placement prematurely

- 5.1.6 It is important to highlight to either party that if there are any major issues that cannot be resolved amicably, then it may be appropriate for the young person to be moved at short notice, although a planned move is more appropriate and this should be seen as a last resort.
- 5.1.7 An 'End of Placement Form' should also be completed by both the Host and young person.

7. Disruption / Incident Policy & Procedure

7.1 Major Incidents The following list is recognised as major incidents. They are not exhaustive, and these incidents could involve the young person, Host or Powys County Council staff –

- Any death, attempted suicide, or accidental overdose
- Any other incident causing major concerns, i.e., unexpected disappearance, severe mental illness
- Any situations where the police, fire, ambulance, or emergency medical services have become involved at a Host's home at the time a young person is being accommodated
- Any criminal activity, including physical or sexual abuse, acts of violence, drug dealing or arson
- Any incident which is likely to attract negative media publicity for the local authority.

7.2 Procedure

- 7.2.1 Assuming the incident has occurred whilst a young person is in the home of a Host. The Host (if able) should contact the emergency services if needed, and the Co-ordinator or Emergency Duty Team.
- 7.2.2 The person speaking with the host should offer advice and support over the phone and they should complete the: 'Disruption / Incident Form'.
- 7.2.3 If the young person is in custody, the young person's worker or emergency Duty Team should be notified to liaise with the police immediately.
- 7.2.4 The Co-ordinator and/or their line manager should be informed. The person who takes the call should ask the Host to make detailed notes on the incident as soon as they are able. If the young person is in the vicinity, they are also encouraged to make detailed notes.
- 7.2.5 If the incident attracts media attention, the Co-ordinator should seek guidance from their line manager. They will contact the appropriate department(s) in Ceredigion County Council.



INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

Proposal Details

Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative	
Launch of a Supported Lodgings provision	
Service Area	Officer completing IIA
Porth Cynnal	Nerys Lewis
Corporate Lead Officer	Strategic Director
Audrey Somerton-Edwards	James Starbuck
Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal	
Development and initiation of a new provision 'Supported Lodgings' for young people aged 16 to 21 who are leaving foster care or facing homelessness.	
Who will be directly affected by this proposal? HINT	
This is a new provision that will support our young people to remain in Ceredigion, in appropriate provision that meets their needs. Homeowners with spare rooms will be able to offer support via this scheme (particular empty nesters) receiving economic and social community benefit	
Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?	
This is a new provision being developed in Ceredigion. We have shared the draft Supported Lodging Policy with existing foster carers, foster panel, key officers and stakeholders within the LA and partner organisations.	

Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

Version Number	Author	Decision making stage HINT	Date Considered	Description of any amendments made HINT
1.0	Nerys Lewis	Scrutiny & Cabinet	June 2024	

Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackle poverty in Ceredigion • Enhance the provision of skills and learning opportunities for people aged 16+
Creating caring and healthy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the care needs of our population • Promote the Welsh Language in Ceredigion
Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the range of care and support options for looked after children and young people
Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities	

National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

The service will provide a positive opportunity to support young people to remain in their communities and develop independent living, development, career skills and opportunities.

It allows owners of homes with spare room to maximise the use of the space with socio-economic benefits for them and the client user

A reduction in the number of young people becoming homeless after leaving care.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The number of children looked after not being able to supported within their communities due to the lack of provision.
The lack of leaving care opportunities to support the transition from care to independent living with support available. According to Become (charity that support children in care and care leavers) 10.7 per cent of care leavers aged 18 to 20 were homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2022/23, compared with 8.9 per cent in 2018/19.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

Supported lodgings will have a positive impact through supporting the young people to maintain connections through their local communities.
Staying local also increases opportunities to access the blue and green spaces of Ceredigion which has proven benefit to further supporting their health and wellbeing.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

The therapeutical benefits of green and blue spaces, through access to our beaches, rivers, lakes and woodland areas.
The World Health Organisation highlights *“Natural environments and accessible green and blue spaces play a direct and indirect role in health and well-being. They can mitigate climate change impacts and lower the risks of disasters, as well as support active recreation; they provide a place to relax and leave daily stress behind for a while. Recent studies have shown that being able to spend time in nature is something that communities experiencing COVID-19 lockdowns have particularly missed”* World Health Organisation (2021)

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)

The supported lodgings scheme will encourage hosts to provide opportunities to support the young person to access appropriate support services
It introduces opportunity to work in collaboration with other departments of the local authority, partner agencies and third sector to support our young people to reach their full potential and improve overall quality of life.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

Clear transition plans with clear pathways and options being made available to our children looked after, supported through a multi-disciplinary approach ensuring timely and appropriate opportunities being made available

Ofsted (2022) reported through 'Ready or not': care leavers' views of preparing to leave care a number of key considerations in supporting the development of a supported living provision in Ceredigion.

"Many care leavers who responded to our survey had no choice in where they would live. Fewer than half (46%) felt they had a choice in the type of accommodation and only around a third (35%) felt they had been given different options to choose from. Half said that they were not able to visit different places to help them decide where they wanted to live. Some had never seen their new accommodation until they moved in." Ofsted (2022)

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?

National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click [here](#) for information)

Children and Young People up to 18	Positive
People 18-50	Positive
Older people 50+	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Positive

- Enhancing the provision available to our Children Looked After
- Matching process providing choice and options for our Children Looked After and care leavers
- Opportunities to take the first step into dependant living with support available as required

What evidence do you have to support this?

The current lack of provision with support for young people transitioning into adulthood available in Ceredigion.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)

Hearing Impairment	Positive
Physical Impairment	Positive
Visual Impairment	Positive
Learning Disability	Positive
Long Standing Illness	Positive
Mental Health	Positive
Other	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Positive

As this is a provision that has a matching process; we can ensure that host/s can support the young person. This will provide an opportunity to explore and recruit to specific requirements. The key element will be to ensure that a young person's pathway planning is completed in a timely manner ensuring enough time to recruit and match young people with hosts.

What evidence do you have to support this?

Previous examples of marketing for specific requirements in meeting the needs of our young people.

Ofsted (2022) highlights the following consideration for the local authority and in ensuring that there is a clear plan agreed with the young person in relation for matching their needs with suitable hosts. *"Some were living alone for the first time, or living with strangers, or living in an area they did not know or did not feel safe in. Care leavers' views of how they felt about where they lived when they first left care were more negative than positive. The most common word used was 'scared', with 'worried', 'unsafe' and 'lonely' also appearing often. However, 'happy' was the second most used word, which illustrates the different feelings of some of the young people moving on from care"*(Ofsted 2022)

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)

Trans Women	Positive
Trans Men	Positive
Non-binary people	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Positive

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support through accessing transgender support groups.
The ability to recruit people who are transgender as hosts.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click [here](#) for information)

Bisexual	Positive
Gay Men	Positive
Gay Women/Lesbian	Positive
Heterosexual/Straight	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Positive

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support through accessing LGBTQ+ support groups
The ability to recruit people who are LGBTQ+ as hosts.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click [here](#) for information)

People who are married	Positive
People in a civil partnership	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Positive

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support as a married couple or in a civil partnership
The ability to recruit hosts that provide a wide range of supportive environments.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click [here](#) for information)

Pregnancy	None / Negligible
Maternity	None / Negligible

Describe the positive or negative impacts

What evidence do you have to support this?

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click [here](#) for information)

Asian / Asian British	Positive
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Positive
Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups	Positive
White	Positive
Other Ethnic Groups	Choose an item.

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support across a range of ethnic origin and culture.
The ability to recruit hosts that provide a wide range of supportive environments.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)

Buddhist	Positive
Christian	Positive
Hindu	Positive
Humanist	Positive
Jewish	Positive
Muslim	Positive
Sikh	Positive
Non-belief	Positive
Other	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support across a range of different religions, beliefs or non-beliefs.
The ability to recruit hosts that provide a wide range of supportive environments.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women? (Click [here](#) for information)

Men	Positive
Women	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

The ability to match young people with hosts that can provide support across a range of individual circumstances.
 The ability to recruit hosts that provide a wide range of supportive environments.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community? (Click [here](#) for information)

Members of the Armed Forces	Positive
Veterans	Positive
Spouses	Positive
Children	Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Positive
 Opportunity to recruit a range of hosts from a variety of backgrounds and interests meeting the aspirations of our young people.
 The ability to provide an increase range of provision for young people in care and planning for transitioning to leaving care.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.
The number of young people in out of county placements and in settings that are too high for their individual care and support needs.

What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?

Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

Positive

Describe the positive or negative impacts

Stability for our young people in progressing into adulthood
Providing a nurturing and supportive environment for our young people to enhance their future opportunities
Additional income opportunities for hosts with spare accommodation and core values in supporting our young people.

What evidence do you have to support this?

The benefits for children looked after and leaving care to feel supported and nurtured in their home environment supported by hosts that understand their identity and associated considerations.
The number of young people in out of county placements and in settings that are too high for their individual care and support needs.
Current cost of living and the number of empty rooms in properties.

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?
Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)

Positives

Implementing a Supporting Lodgings scheme will provide a wide range of our population to become involved.

Embedding the sense of belonging and communities' connections will be central to the success of the providing the nurturing and development environment for our young people.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

There will be opportunities to develop a supportive community for our hosts similar to that we have for our foster carers.

Utilisation of the community connectors in supporting the hosts to increase community connections where required.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.

Positive

Our aim will be for at least 40% of our hosts in the first 12 months to be from the Welsh speaking backgrounds.

Supporting hosts to have an understanding of the Welsh culture, heritage and language no matter what their background.

Where hosts are wishing to progress and learn the Welsh language to sign post and provide information relating to opportunities to access learning opportunities.

What evidence do you have to support this view?

This will be in conjunction to the approach we take in the Fostering Service and other provision.

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?

Click [here](#) for information

Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language

Positive

Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language

Positive

What evidence do you have to support this view?

Welsh language will be included as part of the assessment process and where identified training opportunities will be access by e.g., utilising the e-learning module 'Welsh Language Awareness'

What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?

To work in collaboration with the Welsh Language Policy Officer to explore and develop opportunities.

National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)

NA

What evidence do you have to support this view?

What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?

Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

What will you do?	When?	Who is responsible?	Progress
NA			
<p>If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)</p>			
NA			
<p>How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Supported Lodgings provision • Number of households progressing and being assessed as suitable to become hosts. • Number of placement opportunities across Ceredigion • Number of young people successfully placed in the first 12 months • Length of time a young person has been supported in their supported lodgings placement • Number of fostering or residential care successfully avoided • Number of children looked after supported to step down from foster or residential care into supported lodgings. 			

Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

<p>Long term Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>An appropriate number of Supported Lodgings to meet the identified need of our children looked after preparing for leaving care. A percentage of reduction in what we spend on out of county placements. An increase number of young people leaving care and progressing into education and/ or employment.</p>
<p>Collaboration Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Working collaboratively with a range of partners from across the public and third sector to ensure that each young person looked after or leaving care is provided with an individualised pathway plan that meets their individual goals and aspirations.</p>
<p>Involvement Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Relevant procedure documents have been shared with key stakeholders for their view. These will be reviewed in accordance to the agreed review time frame with associated stakeholders being invited to become involved in this process.</p>
<p>Prevention Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>The supported lodgings scheme is being developed to meet an identified need in the county in supporting our 16-21year olds.</p>
<p>Integration Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<p>Integration across the Through Age Wellbeing model and wider with other departments of the council (Education, Life Long Learning) along with other public and third sector partners will be essential in providing and supporting the young people in meeting their goals.</p>

Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
Risk Description	Impact	Probability	Score (Impact x Likelihood)		
Low recruitment in meeting the needs of the County	3	2	6		

Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager	Nerys Lewis	<i>N.G. Lewis</i>	08/08/2024
Corporate Lead Officer	Audrey Somerton-Edwards	<i>Audrey Edwards</i>	08/08/2024
Corporate Director	Barry Rees	x _____	08/08/2024
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Alun Williams	x _____	08/08/2024

1

¹ Last updated 20/10/2023

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 3 September 2024

Title: Supported Lodgings Policy

Purpose of the report: To provide feedback following the meeting of the Healthier Communities O&S Committee on the 15th of July 2024.

Background:

Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Nerys Lewis and Councillor Alun Williams, Cabinet Member, attended the meeting to present the Supported Lodgings Policy and to provide scrutiny with details of the proposed SL Scheme and Policy.

Recommendation(s):

Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

1. Scrutiny is requested to approve the Supported Lodgings Policy and scheme, and,
2. To give delegated authority to the Statutory Director of Social Care to implement policy and review annually.

Committee Members agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

1. Approve the Supported Lodgings Policy and Scheme, and,
2. That they give delegated authority to the Statutory Director of Social Care to implement the policy and to review it annually.

Reasons for decision:

To align with the "The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015".

Councillor Ceris Jones
Chair of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee