

Underlying Principles

1. Key to the Door

As a young adult, a young person who is Staying Put should have a key to the home they live in. Where they have not previously had a key, reasons for this should be discussed at the Staying Put agreement meeting and detailed in the Pathway Plan. Having a front door key should be an aim, as part of taking on adult responsibilities.

2. Key to own room

If the household has locks on bedroom doors then the young person should have a key to their own room. If there is no lock on the door but the young person wants their room locked, for example, if the carers offer short-term or respite placements to Looked After children, a key pad or lock should be fitted.

3. Options when the Staying Put carer has a holiday or weekend away

- Young person goes on holiday with them
- Staying Put carer arranges for a relative, known to the young person, to move into the home for the period they are away.
- Young person arranges to stay with friends/family
- Young person stays at home with Staying Put carers agreement

4. House rules

No home is the same so all arrangements should reflect, what is accepted as the norm within the individual family. These should be discussed as part of the Staying Put agreement, included in the Pathway Plan and reconsidered at each Staying Put/Pathway Plan review.

5. Staying Put and other Young People

Foster carers/Staying Put carers can offer short breaks or respite to other young people (who are based with other Staying Put carers). However, Staying Put is about continuing established relationships between carers and young people, therefore it is not possible to set up a Staying Put arrangement with someone at age 18, who has not been Looked After by the carers immediately before the 18th birthday.