

Accommodation – information for looked after young people and care leavers

This fact sheet can be made available in other languages or formats on request by contacting 0161 770 6598.

Introduction

Accommodation and the ability to cope with independent living is one of the biggest concerns for many young people leaving care.

To help young people in their transition from leaving care to living independently, Oldham Council has established a partnership with Great Places Housing Group to provide semi-independence units and supported flats.

How do I make a referral into the service?

The accommodation is just for looked after young people and care leavers and a referral is completed by your after care social worker and places are allocated when vacancies arise.

Young people sign an agreement and have a licence for the semi-independence units and a shorthold assured tenancy for the flats.

Semi-independence units

Oldham Council currently has two semi-independence units, Hawthorn Crescent and Suffolk Street.

Hawthorne Crescent, Fitton Hill.

Hawthorne Crescent has five self-contained rooms, one of which is used as emergency accommodation.



Suffolk Street, Werneth.

Suffolk Street has six self-contained units. The units are owned by Great Places and managed by the Oldham After Care Team with 24 hours staffing. One bedroom is used as emergency accommodation.



- ❖ The rooms provide young people to take further steps towards independence.
- ❖ The units have residential support workers based there providing 24-hour support.
- ❖ Each young person has their own key worker who provides support and links into the after care worker.
- ❖ Weekly budgeting is supported which includes shopping, bus pass and other bill payments.

- ❖ Support is given to young people to help develop independence skills such as cooking, cleaning and laundry.
- ❖ All young people have an individual Pathway/Support Plan that identifies where support is needed.
- ❖ The package of support is reviewed regularly to meet the young person's needs.
- ❖ Each young person has their own tenancy.
- ❖ Young people are invited to attend the many after care groups and social activities.
- ❖ Regular support meetings are held for residents, which is supported by a manager.

Supported flats

Oldham also has three supported housing projects – Ripponden Road, Goddard Street and Clyde Street. Young people have shorthold assured tenancies for an agreed length of time.

Ripponden Road – has four flats



Goddard Street – has six flats



Clyde Street – has three flats, a training room and office.



Support arrangements for flats

Support is provided by staff from the semi-independence units, dependent on individual need.

Training element

Young people are encouraged to develop the life skills needed to live independently by learning to budget, how to pay bills and claim benefits, form filling, cooking and cleaning, being a positive neighbour and developing support networks in the community. These skills are not linked to accreditation but young people have to complete housing tenancy training before they will be offered a property by housing providers.

Sustainability

Whilst young people are in supported housing and do have their own tenancy the aim is to provide them with a realistic idea of managing independently and help them develop the necessary life skills needed for when they move on. They are set up with payment plans that include their responsibility to pay bills, e.g. water, TV licence and electric. They also are expected to follow the tenancy agreement and abide by the “rules”.

