

Section from Care Leaver Policy : 1.10.19

12. Housing

Care leavers are a vulnerable group of young adults who have particular needs in relation to housing and homelessness. The majority of care leavers leave care by the age of 18 and rising demands on social housing and other accommodation is making it increasingly difficult for young people to find suitable accommodation as they enter adulthood.

90.2% of care leavers live in suitable accommodation at aged 19. Rochdale BC has adopted the **Staying Put** arrangements to ensure that care leavers can continue to live with and get support from their former foster carers.

What we have done:

- *We have 12 trainer flats and 1 'taster' flat in use to help young people prepare for independence;*
- *We have adopted the 'Staying Put' policy to enable young people to remain in stable foster placements where applicable;*
- *Provided 'supported lodgings' accommodation by commissioning CANW to provide this;*
- *Worked locally with various organisations such as Barnardo's, Shelter, Stepping Stones and DePaul Trust to provide suitable accommodation for young people leaving care with a range of individual needs;*
- *The 'Staying Put' policy has been implemented and advertised to enable more looked after young people to remain in stable supportive placements.*

What we will do:

- *Ensure care leavers are included in the Borough's Homelessness strategy by working in partnership with Rochdale Borough wide Housing and Rochdale BC Homelessness department;*
- *Improve the range of 'supported lodgings' availability within the Borough.*

Impact of Measures:

- Care leavers live in safe and suitable accommodation that meets their individual needs;
- Programmes to reduce homelessness address the specific needs of care leavers.