

Host Family Supported Carer Service Frequently Asked Questions

Below are some questions that our team are asked by people who are considering becoming a Host Family Supported Carer:

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We hope that this answers most of your questions. If you have any other questions or would like to talk to the team, then please email us at: HostFamilyService@glasgow.gov.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long does the full assessment take?

Based on the experience of our colleagues in the Fostering and Supported Carer Service, we anticipate that an assessment should take five months. In some situations, this may take more, or less time. The Assessing Social Worker will ensure the prospective carer is aware of the progress being made.

2. Tell me a bit more about the Supported Carer / Host Family Supported Carer Panel and the recommendations they make?

The Supported Carer / Host Family Supported Carer Panel meets monthly and is chaired by a Social Work Service Manager from one of our three locality areas in Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (GHSCP). The total number of people on the panel will be between four and seven. For our Host Family Supported Carer's panel, we hope to have a young person on the panel who was an 'Unaccompanied and Asylum Seeker' themselves.

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3. Who is the Agency Decision Maker and what is their role?

The Agency Decision Maker (ADM) is one of the Senior Managers in GCHSCP; Head of Service. They receive the minute of your panel meeting with a recommendation about approval as a Host Family Supported Carer. They then make the decision and sign the paperwork to confirm the decision. (If they do not agree with the recommendation, further discussion will take place.)

4. How are the young person and Host Family Placements matched?

Given the limited information we are likely to have about the young person, we will do our best to match a young person with a family; we will address gender, ages of any children in the household and the geographical area (access to places of worship, education and health). If we know more about the young person's likes, dislikes and personality, these will also be taken into consideration.

5. How do we communicate if the young person does not speak English?

For introductory meetings, we will have an interpreter present. We can also access interpreting services for a number of extra face-to-face sessions to enable the young person and the Host Family to have the opportunity to communicate. Some carers have used "Google Translate" and other similar services. If the communication issue was making things difficult for the young person or the family, then we would try our best to assist with this.

6. What will Host Family Supported Carers Service know about the UASYP at the start of any placement?

Our aim is to try to place the young person as quickly as possible with a Host Family. This means that we may know very little about them. One of the main reasons for moving quickly is that we have learned that Unaccompanied and Separated Young People who have been on a long precarious journey tend to seek sanctuary wherever they are first placed. However, there will be exceptions to this; if the child is under 16, they may be placed in a children's house and then we can have a more planned approach to a Host Family Carer. This will mean that we have had time to learn more about their likes, dislikes and have some understanding of their experiences to date. However, there will always be information that we are unable to check or verify.

7. What do we do to protect the young person living in our home and our family members?

Prior to placing any young person, we will ask you to set up a "Safer Caring Policy"; this is the plan for how the household runs and what is expected of the young person placed within your family. For example, bedrooms within the family home are private and the

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young person should not go into any bedroom other than their own. If anyone else wants to go into the young person's room, they will knock the door and ask to go in.

8. What caring responsibilities are expected of me as a Host Family Supported Carer?

Each of the young people that will be placed with a Host Family Supported Carer will be between the ages of 16-18. This means that they may be young people who will have a degree of maturity and need minimal support. However, each young person will be assessed in their own right. From experience, the first few weeks of any placement are busy; this is when the young person and the family are getting to know each other. A GP, Optician and Dentist need to be secured and Guardianship / Legal / Home Office appointments may also be happening. When the new household routine is established; the young person should be independently travelling to their education placement, participating in appropriate aspects of family life but also having opportunities to make friends and take up hobbies or interests.

9. Is there a fee / allowance for caring for a UASYP?

There is a Fortnightly Payment of £573.20. This works out at a weekly allowance of £236.60 to the Host Family Carer and an additional weekly fee of £50.00. The allowance is to support the Host Family Carer with household costs, utility bills, food and basic toiletries and to meet the young person's day to day needs. The weekly fee of £50.00 is for the carer - this amount only is taxable and the Host Family Supported Carer needs to declare this to the Inland Revenue.

There are additional amounts for birthday, summer holiday and Christmas.

Host Family Carers should not give cash to the young people or vice-versa. If the young person has any financial issues, they are expected to speak to their worker about this.

10. Will the young person have access to money of their own?

Yes; there are 3 amounts available and linked to education, employment and training. A young person in Full Time Education is given approximately £90.00 weekly and someone who is not engaged in any way receives approximately £50.00 weekly. The young people are expected to pay for: transport, entertainment, social expenses and any meals that they choose to eat out-with the host family placement.

11. Will the Young Person have access to health, education and other support services??

All UASYP can register with a GP, Dentist and Optician. If they require emotional / mental health support, there are a number of different services that can help with this: Anchor Project, Freedom from Torture and other services. Each Young Person will have a

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Social Worker of their own who will continue to assess their changing needs and seek appropriate supports.

12. What support can I expect from the Host Family Supported Carer Service?

When you are an approved Host Family Supported Carer, you will be assigned a Supervising Social Worker from the team. They will visit you on a regular basis to support and monitor the placement. We have a programme of training, access to some on-line training and quarterly Host Family Carers Support Groups. We will have some speakers at the Support Groups and also some time for carers to talk to each other.

13. What do we do if the placement is not going well?

Meetings will be arranged to allow for discussion and if both the Host Family Supported Carer and Young Person are in agreement, we will mediate and make a plan to support the placement. However, if at any time either the young person or the Host Family Supported Carer does not wish the placement to continue, there is scope to bring the placement to an end. The preferred way to do this would be on a planned basis' and notice of 28 days can be given. However, all information will be taken into consideration and if there are worries or risks identified the placement could be ended more quickly.