

# LAUNCH PAD



## Unlock the potential of your spare room!

Offering a spare room to a young person, can provide more than just a roof over their heads. The security of knowing they have somewhere to come back to, and someone who will listen and take interest in them, can make a huge difference to young people who may have faced difficult challenges during their early lives.

If you enjoy spending time with young people, are able to interact with them openly and objectively, have a calm and friendly attitude, and an ability to manage confidential information, you would be an excellent Launch Pad host!

If you would like to learn more about Launch Pad, please contact a member of our team for a no obligation chat on

**01242 532654** or email [Launchpad@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Launchpad@gloucestershire.gov.uk)



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# What is Launch Pad?

Launch Pad is the supported lodgings scheme from Gloucestershire County Council designed to bridge the gap between adolescence and adulthood. It is primarily designed for young people in care, or care leavers, aged 16 – 17 years old whose plan is for independence.

Most young people who leave foster care or residential homes at 16 just aren't ready to live on their own. In addition, Gloucestershire is home for many unaccompanied young people seeking asylum who need to lean on a responsible adult as they get to grips with their new status. Launch Pad aims to recruit hosts with a spare room who can provide safe, supportive accommodation for these young people.

Launch Pad is not intended as permanent accommodation. The aim is to offer a period of stability from six to 24 months, with tailored levels of practical and emotional support to enable young people to make a successful transition to independence and adulthood. We want to make sure that moving out at the end of the arrangement is as planned and positive as moving in!

## The Young People

For a young person to be eligible for Launch Pad they must be in full time education, employment or training, or actively seeking to become so.

A young person who displays a significant level of risky behaviour, such as violence, serious mental health issues, a recent history of serious drug/alcohol use, or criminal behaviour will not be eligible for this scheme. (There are other services better fitted to accommodate their needs.) However, there are many reasons why young people are unable to live with their own family in their own homes, and although they may not have serious issues, many have experienced significant emotional or physical trauma. Hosts may need to help them develop positive identity and self-esteem in their journey to independence.

Launch Pad is available primarily to young people aged 16 -17 years old.



## Launch Pad Hosts



Being a host is an opportunity for someone to make a real difference to young people without the full expectations and commitment required for fostering. For example, it is easier for you to work or have other personal commitments and host, as your young person is expected to be in full time training, work or education.

We welcome applications from people of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds, couples and single applicants, homeowners or tenants (landlord permission is required for applicants who rent). It is essential that supported lodgings

hosts have a spare bedroom and are willing to share a spare key to their home with the young person (or a key lock with code outside the home). The young person should have access to shared areas of the home such as the kitchen, bathroom and living area, as well as dedicated space for food in cupboards and the fridge. It is preferred for applicants to have previous experience working with teenage children or vulnerable adults. However, if you do not have this experience, we would be able to consider your application dependant on other skills or experience.

## What is the difference between a Launch Pad host and a foster carer?

The primary objective of a Launch Pad host is to support and empower the young person to live independently. This would include offering support in areas such as:

- Food preparation and cooking
- Shopping on a budget
- Managing laundry
- Paying bills and saving money
- Applying for jobs and completing forms
- Advising on relationships, drugs and alcohol
- Providing emotional support



There are some similarities to fostering; you will not have to care for the young person in isolation. You will have regular support from a social worker, ongoing training, access to local support groups and out of hours help, as well as a generous weekly allowance.