

Host Payments

Nightstop placements

Hosts receive **£20** per night for the **first 7 nights**. After that it drops to Nightstop Plus, **£15 per night**. This is paid in to your account on the **last working day of the month**.

When the referrer has requested Nightstop and Daystop, a Host receives an additional £10 for having them stay with the Host throughout the day.

Supported Lodgings

Hosts receive **£13.57** per day (**£95** per week). This is paid in to your account on the **last working day of the month**.

Host payments are calculated and sent to our Finance team on the 5th day of each month. If the young person was placed with you on Nightstop or Supported Lodgings after this date, then you will not receive payment until the end of the following month.

Self-Rent

Young People in Supported Lodgings are expected to pay their Host a **contribution**.

Option 1: £13 contributes towards Utilities only. YP provides own food.

Option 2: £26 contributes towards Utilities and food. Host supports with shopping and cooking.

Self-rent is normally paid directly to the Host by the Young Person weekly or monthly depending on when they receive benefits payments or payment from employer. If for any reason you have not been given the money you **must** inform your Project Worker immediately. YMCA will make sure that Hosts are reimbursed for any arrears, providing that the Host has informed the YMCA within **2 weeks** of missed payment. If YMCA are not made aware within the first 2 weeks then payments will only be made to you from the date of which we were informed.

The purpose of self-rent is to help the young person to budget money and understand their responsibility of paying rent as part of maintaining a tenancy. It is a rent contribution and is not intended to cover the full cost of food/utilities used by the young person. Hosts are expected to cover any difference in this through the payments made by YMCA.

Final thoughts

YMCA Open Door places emphasis on the fact that the purpose of the scheme is not there for the financial benefit of people, but it is a service to prevent vulnerable young people becoming homeless. The scheme runs on very tight margins and it is dependent on the good will of people who have a spare room and a caring heart.

There are fostering agencies who offer greater financial incentives for people to have young children staying with them, which normally means the carer, giving up their employment. YMCA Open Door is unable to compete financially with such agencies and neither seeks to.

The scheme appreciates the efforts made by Hosts to provide a homely environment for vulnerable young people, often going above and beyond what is expected.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **The young person on Nightstop is staying with my throughout the day, do I receive payment for daystop?**

Daystop is only provided on request from the referrer. YMCA appreciates if a Host is able to allow a young person to stay within their house if they are not in education or work, however, without having a request from the referrer, we cannot make payments for daystop.

- **Why is there a claim form sent out for Nightstop ahead of the payment and what do I need to do with it?**

This is normally sent ahead of the payment statement. You can e-mail or phone to confirm that the young person stopped for the correct number of nights although if you don't, you will still receive Host payment. There is also an option to donate back to the Project, which some Hosts choose to do.

- **The young person is using the washing machine 5 times per week. How can they be allowed to do this?**

YMCA believe it is reasonable for the Host to allow them to use the washing machine a maximum of 3 times per week. However, in cases where the young person has only a couple of changes of clothes, it could be even more frequent than this. Please mention if this is a concern and YMCA will help to resolve the situation.

- **The young person has gone on holiday for 1 week. Do they need to pay self-rent?**

The Host agreement says that self-rent is for as and when is required. If the young person, has told the YMCA in advance that they are going away, it is unnecessary for them to pay. However, if this is not organised with the YMCA, they will be expected to pay.

- **The person staying on S/L is only giving me an extra £13 per week for food, yet I spend a lot more. Why do they only contribute £13?**

The rental contribution is there to help young people understand the responsibility of making payments to maintain a tenancy. Hosts receive £95pw for having a young person and this payment should assist towards any additional expense for food or utilities.

- **The young person is paying me £13 rent, but then eating my food.**

Please speak to the project worker assigned to support them. The project worker can discuss changing rent options or help to address the situation to ensure that this stops.

- **I don't think the young person should pay anything, can I just get rid of the self-rent charges?**

Hosts are expected to take the rent from the young person, as per the licence agreement. Budgeting is an important skill for the young person to learn and also helps the referrer to assess their ability to manage a tenancy. YMCA suggests that if you do not need the money, you might consider putting it to one side and giving it to the help the young person when they move on.

- **The young person wants to change from £13 to £26 option, is this ok?**
It is important that the project worker is aware of any changes and that this is reflected in the Placement agreement. Please arrange this through the project worker.
- **The young person says that he has paid me two weeks ago, but it was three weeks ago, what can I do?**
Hosts need to provide a receipt for payments. There is an exchange of money happening and it is important that this is recorded. YMCA also encourages young people to understand the importance of keeping records. YMCA can provide a receipt book for you if necessary. Please ask a member of staff.

In situations where there is confusion, YMCA will help to resolve this, but it is better, through good record keeping that issues like this are avoided.

- **I have lost my single person's discount, when the young person living at mine started working. What should I do?**
Please inform the project worker. The young person will pay an extra £5 towards the self-rent per week, to help minimize the difference.
- **If I don't have a placement soon, I might struggle to pay my mortgage. When will the next placement be?**
Although there are many Hosts, who use the host payments towards rent/mortgage, we encourage Hosts do not be too financially dependent on Host payments as there may be periods when they do not have a placement.
- **How does tax work on Host payments?**
Under the government's rent a room scheme, Hosts only need to pay income tax, if they receive above £7,500 in Host payments or other rental income. Unless a Host receives above this amount, there is no need to declare the income. Guidance can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rent-a-room-for-traders-hs223-self-assessment-helpsheet/hs223-rent-a-room-scheme-2019> As Hosts are not employees of the YMCA, it is their responsibility to sort this out. Some people who are using two rooms who receive above the threshold, use an accountant for this purpose.