

Barnardo's Supported Lodgings

England, Scotland, & Wales, UK

Project Description: Barnardo's Supported Lodgings program works to find homeless young people a room of their own within a vetted private household.

Distinguishing Features: Supported Lodgings utilize private homes and community resources to house vulnerable young people. It provides a support solution within challenging housing markets where homeless youth and young adults may not have access to other low-income housing options.

Population Served: Young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness

Program Evaluation: www.barnardos.org.uk/evaluation-of-barnardos-supported-lodgings-full-report.pdf

Website: www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/supporting-young-people/supported-lodging

SUMMARY

Barnardo's Supported Lodgings programs work to place youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in a private room within a family household. One member of the household is trained to be a care provider, and they work alongside professional care workers to provide practical and emotional support. The young person is not expected to become a member of the family, but is supported while they learn to become a capable member of the household and go on to live an independent life. Supported lodgings for those experiencing homelessness are focused on providing young people with safe shelter while they learn how to live independently and make housing decisions.

Supported Lodging Services

Barnardo's program evaluation identifies four different subgroups of young adults facing homelessness that can benefit from their services.

1. Young people at risk of homelessness due to problems at home, or where a placement is at risk of breaking down

In these situations, Supported lodgings help prevent homelessness by providing youth with a safe temporary living place, or 'time out' while situational problems are assessed and dealt with.

2. Young people requiring emergency accommodation

Supported lodgings provide an alternative for young adults who would otherwise be forced onto the streets after a parental eviction, placement breakdown, or other sudden event.

3. Young people leaving other accommodations, such as the foster care system, that still require, or benefit from, supportive accommodation

Young adults may not be capable of finding independent housing when their care services end. Supported Lodgings allow secure, stable accommodation and support while these individuals continue developing the skills needed for independent living

4. Young people who want to continue living with their foster carer after they reach the age of 18

Barnardo's works with a variety of children's services, including foster care, and Supported Lodgings allow a framework for care to continue after the young adult reaches 18.

*Limitations: As Supported lodgings are within in private homes, they are not equipped to deal with high risk youth with substantial support needs.

Barnardo's

Barnardo's is an organization operating across the UK that supports vulnerable children and young people in the care system. They work to support youth, and their families, through mental health problems, homelessness, sexual abuse, exploitation, and much more. Barnardo's currently operates 18 supported lodgings programs throughout Scotland, England, and Wales. These programs are designed for vulnerable youth, including those experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness. Their outreach teams actively look for homeless youth on the street, and work to connect them with tenancies. The programming extends to young adults leaving the housing and care system and focuses on developing life skills and community connections to provide the best outcome possible for each child.

Website: barnardos.org.uk

FURTHER INFORMATION

Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research; Heriot-Watt University

Supported Lodgings: Exploring the feasibility of community hosting as a response to youth homelessness in Scotland

This is an in-depth analysis of supported lodgings in Scotland, including Barnardos, published by Heriot-Watt University that analyses effective practices and includes a considerable amount of qualitative experiential data. It also details program requirements and outlines a framework for successful supported lodgings programs going forward. This report provides very useful information for anyone considering the implementation of a supported lodgings program.

Resource: ighhub.org/resource/supported-lodgings