

Market engagement

Accommodation Opportunities for care leavers or young people preparing to leave care (Post 18)

1. Background and purpose

Lancashire County Council is exploring opportunities to increase the range of accommodation available for our care experienced young people who have left our care or are preparing to leave our care. This supports our whole council approach to Corporate Parenting, and we are keen to understand what current or future provision may be available across Lancashire.

Young people may need different types of accommodation at different stages in their journey towards independence. We are therefore interested in both shorter-term accommodation opportunities, including options that may be suitable for less than two years, and longer-term accommodation solutions that can support stability and independence.

Lancashire County Council is fully committed to supporting our care- experienced young people in partnership with a range of stakeholders to ensure they get the most appropriate and meaningful support, giving them the skills and confidence they need to move towards independence.

Eligible young people will continue to receive support from Lancashire County Council's Leaving Care Service, in line with their assessed needs and statutory entitlements. Support may include a Personal Adviser and wider multi-agency assistance with accommodation, tenancy sustainment, education, employment, training, finances, health and wellbeing, and independent living skills. This support will remain available if a young person chooses not to take it up immediately.

Young people are likely to have previously received support through our Core Supported Accommodation Services. Their transition towards greater independence would therefore be considered a planned move-on.

All care leavers are eligible to receive support through the Care Leaver Local Offer- more information can be found at [Care leavers local offer - Lancashire County Council](#).

Lancashire County Council is exploring opportunities for both under 18s and over 18s. The most appropriate occupancy, tenancy, support and funding arrangements may vary depending on age, legal status and individual circumstances.

The following cohorts of young people are in scope of this Market Engagement.

1) 18-21 year olds – those who require housing-related support

Within this cohort, young people can live with a degree of independence but require planned housing- related support to establish and sustain their accommodation. This may include help with managing a tenancy, budgeting, and maintaining a home.

2) 18–21-year-olds – those who do not have support needs

Within this cohort, young people are assessed as being more ready for independent living. These young people will require suitable, affordable and secure accommodation but do not have high levels of housing support needs. They will remain allocated to a Personal advisor for support.

Through this Market engagement, Lancashire County Council is seeking to understand the opportunities, capacity and interest within the landlord and accommodation provider market.

2. Who we would like to hear from

We welcome responses from organisations that own, manage, develop, lease or provide accommodation:

- Already provide accommodation for young people
- Have existing or planned accommodation that may be suitable
- Could adapt or repurpose accommodation for this cohort
- Are interested in developing new provision
- Would be willing to explore partnership arrangements with the Council

This will help inform future discussions about how we can work collaboratively to develop flexible and sustainable accommodation options

3. What we are looking for

We are looking for existing, planned or potential accommodation that can provide a safe, stable, welcoming and affordable home for care leavers and young people preparing to leave care.

Accommodation should:

- Be located in a safe and suitable area
- Have good access to public transport, education, employment and essential services
- Provide appropriate privacy and personal space
- Be well maintained, welcoming and suitable for independent living
- Meet relevant property, health and safety and fire safety requirements
- Include appropriate safety and security arrangements
- Provide reliable digital connectivity
- Promote stability, wellbeing and connection to the local community
- Respond to individual or accommodation needs where required.

When accommodation is intended for young people aged 16 or over, relevant regulatory requirements will need to be met

4. Geographic areas of interest

We welcome accommodation opportunities from across Lancashire where respondents can demonstrate that the accommodation and its immediate surroundings would be suitable for the intended cohort.

Lancashire County Council are keen to hear from partners who can support us to provide homes across the county. For clarity, this includes all districts;

East- Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Rossendale, Ribblesdale

Central- Preston, Chorley, South Ribble, West Lancs

North- Fylde, Lancaster, Wyre

For further information, please see below Accommodation Requirements

Post 18 Accommodation Requirements

In order to maximise opportunities for young the following requirements should be considered

1. Location

- Within walking distance of colleges, universities, or training centres or public transport to get to these places.
- Easy access to employment areas and Preston City centres
- Safe neighbourhood with good lighting and low crime levels
- Nearby supermarkets, pharmacies, and healthcare services

2. Transport Links

- Bus stops within 5 minutes' walk
- Safe cycling routes and secure bike storage
- Reasonable parking provision if appropriate

3. Essential Amenities

- Ideally no facilities shared with other residents (i.e. laundry rooms)
- There are no special access or adaptations required for anyone

4. Accommodation Standards

- Single bedroom accommodation
- Must meet and be maintained to Decent Homes Standard
- Affordable rent levels – either Social or Affordable Rent

5. Community and Wellbeing

- Outdoor space or nearby parks
- Access to leisure facilities, gyms, and sports centres

6. Educational and Employment Access

- Less than 30 minutes travel time to colleges or universities
- Direct public transport routes where possible
- Good transport connections to major employment hubs

7. Digital Connectivity

- Reliable mobile signal and potential for fibre broadband
- Strong Wi-Fi coverage throughout the building

8. Safety and Security

- Smoke alarms and fire safety systems
- Carbon monoxide detectors
- Secure entry systems (key fob, intercom, CCTV)