

Nightstop Cumbria

Nightstop Hosting FAQ's

What training can I expect?

You will attend an induction programme which will cover areas including “what to expect”, confidentiality, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults and the support available to you. The training will consist of four three hour sessions. We will deliver the training before you accommodate a young person. Initial training may be undertaken with you by a Nightstop worker on a one to one basis if we are unable to co-ordinate a group training event. We will ensure you are fully prepared before your first placement commences.

Will you want to come and look at my house?

Yes. A Nightstop worker will complete a home visit to each potential hosting household to assess suitability for the service. This visit will include speaking to each adult member of the host family to ascertain their views about accommodating a young person. We will also check you have sufficient space for the young person and that there are no obvious problems which could cause harm to the young person.

Do I have to have a DBS check?

Yes. All adult members of the host family must complete a DBS check. This is to ensure that the young person is placed in a safe environment. The cost of the DBS check will be paid for by the Nightstop service.

I am a single person, does this matter?

As long as you can provide a safe and stable home for a young person to stay then you are welcome to apply to volunteer. You may be a single person, you may have children, you may work or you may be retired. You will need to have an interest in young people and helping them to resolve their difficulties and reach their full potential.

Nightstop delivered by



What support will I receive?

In addition to the training programme you will have access to a Nightstop worker who you can contact during office hours and you will also be given an out of hours contact number. Our training programme will be ongoing, you will be invited to attend relevant training events to help update and develop your knowledge and skills further. We will publish a regular newsletter to keep you informed about our service.

What support will the young person receive

Each young person will be allocated a Nightstop worker to support them during their placement with the host family to help them to resolve their accommodation difficulties.

How will I know that my family and I will be safe?

A risk assessment will be completed on each young person before being accepted by the Nightstop service. Young people who are assessed as presenting a risk of harm to a host family or themselves will not be accepted. Each young person will be subject to a police check. Young people who present with substance abuse, anti-social behaviour and convictions for arson may be excluded from the service.

What will happen if a young person causes any damage?

Our experience tells us it is unlikely this would happen however in the event it does the Nightstop service staff will liaise with you to resolve any problems. All host families must notify their household insurers of their intention to volunteer for a Nightstop service. We will not accept a young person onto the service if they are assessed as presenting a current risk of causing damage to property/arson.

Who can I contact if something goes wrong?

All host families will have a named Nightstop worker they can consult should they need advice or if a problem occurs. Additionally there will be a 24 hour on call emergency contact number.

Do I have a young person all the time?

This will depend upon your availability and the demand for our service. You can specify when you would be willing to accommodate a young person (e.g. term-time only, weekdays/weekends only) and how often.

I work during the day, will that matter?

As long as you can provide overnight accommodation between reasonable hours, the placement should not affect your work commitments. The young person will be expected to maintain their normal routine (e.g. education, agency appointment) during the day time. We will agree with you the times when you would like the young person to arrive and leave your home.

Do young people stay at my house all day?

No. The young person will be expected to maintain their normal daily routine (e.g. education). The young person will spend time with the Nightstop worker to obtain accommodation, arrange benefits, etc.

Nightstop delivered by



YOUTH • COMMUNITY • OPPORTUNITY

How will the young person get to my house?

Transport will be organised by the referring agency and the Nightstop team. You will not be expected to provide transport for the young person.

If I am providing emergency accommodation, how late at night will a young person get to me?

You will be able to discuss this with the Nightstop worker and reach an agreed time.

Can the young person share a bedroom?

No. You must be able to provide the young person with their own room including access to normal living areas (e.g. bathroom, living room).

Will I receive payment?

Hosts will be offered out of pocket expenses at £15.00 for each night they accommodate a young person, this is to cover expenses such as food, heat and light for the young person.

Will my benefits be affected if I receive a payment?

We would advise all benefit claimants to notify their benefits advisor of any change in circumstance including becoming a volunteer and any receipt of out of pocket expenses made by Nightstop for accommodating a young person.

What happens when I go on holiday?

To make it easier for us to identify available placements and prevent us contacting you at an inconvenient time we would request that you notify us of your availability (e.g. holidays, etc).

Can I choose which nights I provide?

Yes. We will obtain details of your availability and you may specify for example, term time only, weekdays/weekends only, etc. As we respond to requests for emergency accommodation, if you are able to be flexible, this would be helpful.

When I haven't got a young person staying with me, how will I know what is happening?

A Nightstop service will circulate regular newsletters to keep host families updated. Nightstop services will also provide regular meetings with the host family to discuss the work you do, any training needs you may have and any feedback you wish to provide. Host families will have a Nightstop worker they can contact. Social events will also be organised to enable volunteers to meet each other.

Can I change my mind?

Yes. If you decide that you no longer wish to volunteer as a host family you may withdraw at any point. All we would ask is that you notify us of your withdrawal and complete a volunteer evaluation/exit survey.

Nightstop delivered by



YOUTH • COMMUNITY • OPPORTUNITY