

BEST PRACTICE BRIEFINGS: TRAINING FLATS SCHEME IN CARMARTHENSHIRE



The Training Flats Scheme in Carmarthenshire provides good quality and affordable accommodation to young people who would benefit from living independently whilst accessing individual support and bespoke training.

Training flats offer a step down from more support intensive types of accommodation, where staff are present on site 24h a day, and instead give young people the opportunity to experience more independent living whilst still receiving some level of support. There are several training flats schemes existing across a number of different local authorities in Wales and they take on differing approaches, however, training and support are essential parts of the schemes. This guide will specifically focus on the Training Flats Scheme in Carmarthenshire.

The Training Flats Scheme in Carmarthenshire enables young people to live independently in good quality and affordable accommodation whilst receiving support and learning life skills. The young people accessing the scheme can test out their independent living skills and benefit from a further bespoke training to address any gaps in their skills. The training is provided by a range of practitioners – the Pre-Tenancy Team, Youth Workers and Tenancy Support Officers. As a result young people have the opportunity to gain skills, training and employment which supports them to secure permanent accommodation and helps them integrate and contribute positively to their communities. Person-centred and individual support is also provided to the young person by a named Tenancy Support Officer and Youth Worker.

What does the scheme hope to achieve?



Having a roof over my head and support in place has let me think about the other things in life like finding work. Since starting I have been attending training, applying for jobs and attending interviews.



The aim of the project is to support young people to learn the skills necessary to live independently, find employment and/or continue in education or training.

Once the young person has the skills and confidence to live independently, they are supported to move on to their own independent tenancies.

How was the scheme developed?

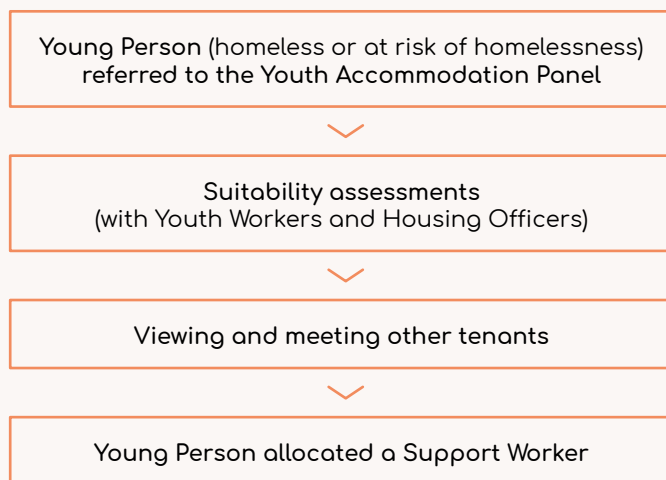
The Training Flats Scheme, alongside the introduction of a specific Tenancy Support Officer for young people, has been developed to address the challenges identified in Carmarthenshire's Homeless Strategy and help achieve the Local Authority's objectives. The Housing team take responsibility for managing the property whilst the youth work team deliver the training and the support.

Through consultation with housing, youth service and young people, it was agreed that the project would need to be near the main towns of the county so that future education and/or employment opportunities can be as accessible as possible for young people.

Subsequently the Pre-Tenancy Team and Youth Team have worked closely to devise a training course to help young people develop the skills required to maintain a successful tenancy.

Implementation

The scheme is accessed through a **Referral Pathway**:



Training Modules and Schedule

Once the young person has been accepted on to the scheme the support staff consult with the young person on their needs so that bespoke training can be provided. Appropriate times for training are also discussed to work around the young person's schedule.

Support

Youth Workers then work closely with Housing Officers to provide support and training to young people. This includes 24h on call support, a mix of paper and practical activities to learn independent skills, as well as rewards and engagement activities, such as kayaking, bowling, summer activities. Support workers, training and housing officers meet up on a fortnightly basis to share information and discuss any concerns about the young people.

“ I feel like I've got a lot more support now, getting help with my money management has really helped me. ”

Ammanford – Come dine with us

Young people in one of the houses hosted an evening for support staff. Each one planned, prepped and cooked one course (starter, main and dessert) and decorated the table to serve the meal. Preparation and planning involved agreeing on who cooked which course, deciding on what to cook and shopping for the ingredients.

YP supporting with interviews for Youth Service Staff recruitment

A young person is invited to be on the interviewing panel when the service recruits new staff. They are free to choose and ask their own questions based on what skills and knowledge they consider important for a youth worker to have. Residents from the shared properties have successfully interviewed and contributed to appointing new staff for our team.

Location

The scheme is based in Carmarthenshire.

Results

As of September 2022:

- 16 young people accommodated in total
- 11 currently accommodated
- 2 ready to move on
- 4 successful move ons
- 9 currently in ETE (Employment, training or education)
- The average time a young person spends in a training flat is 12 months

More Information

At EYHC, we will offer any help or support for organisations to understand more about Carmarthenshire's Training Flats scheme. If you'd like to get in touch please contact: billrowlands@llamau.org.uk

Or if you'd rather you can get in contact with the team directly through their Service Manager Sophie Davies soldavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk