

# Who are care leavers?

A care leaver is a young person aged 16+ who has spent time under the care of the Local Authority. The leaving care age in England is 18, though care leavers are provided with support in Somerset until the age of 21, sometimes 25, and will begin the transition towards leaving care and adulthood from the age of 16.



Stepping Stone carers provide care leavers with support and guidance, helping them gain important life skills to live independently.

# fostering in Somerset

## Recruiting Now



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Could you be a stepping stone for a young person leaving care?

Many of our young people are not ready to live on their own when they become care leavers. They want independence, but also need the safety net of a room to go back to and someone to offer advice. The 'Stepping Stones' scheme helps people over 16 to develop the practical skills and emotional stability they need to live independently and reach their potential.



## The role of a Stepping Stones carer...

Stepping Stones carers provide young people leaving care with a safe place to live in their home, and help them gain vital skills and experience, such as managing finances, cooking, shopping, accessing further education and employment opportunities, .

“Seeing that smile on their face of 'I just did that' and 'I can do this' is priceless.”

Stepping Stones may be a good option for people who:

- work or have other commitments
- enjoy being with young adults
- are of an older age and would enjoy sharing their home with a young person
- live in a town, as it's important for our young people to have access to good transport links and amenities, in addition to career opportunities.

As a Stepping Stones provider, you have the same access to 'skills to foster' training as our foster carers, as well as ongoing support and guidance.



Stepping Stones carers also receive a weekly fee, starting at £185 per week, plus a little extra for food and utilities etc (up to £27.50) paid weekly by the young person from their allowance. You will also be eligible for the same tax exemptions and relief as foster carers, but with much more flexibility to work full or part-time alongside your Stepping Stones role.

Stepping Stones carers need to be aged 23 or over with a spare room in their home