



Malatest
International

Literature review:

Jurisdictional literature review of accommodation support

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1. Executive summary

One of the objectives of TSS is that more young people have safe and stable living arrangements. The TSS Cabinet paper included an intended aim of trialling a wide-range of needs-based housing solutions to sit alongside and complement other housing supports available to young people, including those funded by MSD.

Entitlement to Remain or Return (ETRR) was a new policy implemented as part of the TSS to support eligible rangatahi to remain in a stable caregiving arrangement. Under ETRR, rangatahi who have been in care are eligible to remain with, or return to, living with a caregiver from the age of 18 until they turn 21. Caregivers who provide a caregiving arrangement under ETRR are expected to help rangatahi to work towards being an independent adult by supporting them to meet their needs and goals as described in their transition plan.

ETRR was based on similar programmes in the United Kingdom including Staying Put (England), Going the Extra Mile (Northern Ireland), When I am Ready (Wales), Continuing Care (Scotland). Although we were not able to find evaluations of the UK models, the demand for places exceeds the available funding in some areas, suggesting high take-up.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, take-up of ETRR has been lower than expected. This review of accommodation models was commissioned to inform understanding of how other jurisdictions are supporting the accommodation needs of young people leaving care including young people with specific needs for accommodation support. It summarises different accommodation options and synthesizes the strengths and challenges of different models.

There are some differences between Aotearoa New Zealand and the UK jurisdictions with ETRR type programmes that may be influencing take-up:

- ETRR type support in the UK has been in place since 2016 and awareness has built over that time
- In Aotearoa New Zealand there is a high proportion of rangatahi Māori in the group of young people transitioning from care, many of whom are seeking to return to whānau. Whānau may not fit the eligibility criteria for ETRR. Section 7AA emphasis on reconnection and transition service outcomes that young people are engaged with family cultural and community groups emphasising the need to develop appropriate accommodation and support options for rangatahi Māori.
- Aotearoa New Zealand's rurality and number of small urban locations mean that many young people need to leave their carers and find somewhere else to live to enrol for study or to find employment.

Housing shortages for young people, including those leaving care have been a common theme across the evaluation of TSS suggesting low take up of ETRR is not a result of lack of need for safe stable housing for young people.

There is an opportunity for Oranga Tamariki, in partnership with other government agencies, to fund housing options in addition to ETRR that meet the unique needs of young people leaving care in Aotearoa New Zealand. A priority sitting over all approaches must be meeting the needs of rangatahi Māori and reconnection of young people leaving care with their culture, whānau and communities.

Opportunities include:

- Considering the criteria for eligibility of ETRR care: Extending the criteria and recognising the importance of returning to whānau. Care partners are asked to provide training and support to carers and this could be focussed on meeting the needs of whānau to whom young people are returning.
- Increasing the diversity of options for accommodation to meet the breadth of needs of young people. The evidence review commissioned as part of policy development noted the importance of Understanding that ETRR is not for all; some young people will need different pathways. The TSS Cabinet paper confirmed the need for a range of different accommodation options.

Examples include:

- Options for rangatahi Māori such as whānau based housing support models designed by Māori, transition support that is embedded in Mātauranga Māori and integrated social, educational, health and/or employment support depending on young people's needs.
- Options for young people may want to move from their carers or may need to move for education, training or employment. Depending on young people's needs this may include:
 - Financial support to live in existing halls of residence linked to universities but with transition worker support. Accommodation during semester breaks would also need to be considered.
 - Congregate or foyer housing with a specific focus on education and training would be feasible in localities where population density and proximity to educational institutions allows. After 1-2 years young people could move to independent living with assistance from rent subsidies and guarantees.
 - Rent subsidies and guarantees in other locations to help provide stable housing to support education and employment.
- Options for young people whose situation prevents them from taking up ETRR e.g. because their carer has died, there are no carers in the locality, they have been living in care homes and not family homes. Ensuring access to the range of different accommodation options that meet the intensity of

support young people need – ranging from rent subsidies and guarantees through to supported living programmes with integrated social support. Rent subsidies and guarantees give young people a chance to get established and to potentially move to rentals under their own names.

- Options for young people who will need ongoing support. Co-ordination with other agencies and in particular health to ensure that young people with disabilities have suitable accommodation options. The Ministry of Health has responsibility for those with the highest level of need. Whānau provide support for young people with disabilities who can live independently with some support. For young people leaving care, this support has to be provided by Oranga Tamariki during the transition support age range. Accommodation options that include social support and life skills development is needed.

2. Purpose of the review

The Transition Support Service (TSS) is designed to help the 600 eligible young people who leave care and custody every year. The service was introduced to ensure care leavers¹ have the same opportunities in life as any other young person in Aotearoa New Zealand. From the age of 15, young people who have been in care are supported by a transition worker who will help them plan for a positive future when they leave care.

One of the objectives of the TSS is that more young people have safe and stable living arrangements. The TSS Cabinet paper outlined the intended aim of trialling a wide-range of needs-based housing solutions to sit alongside and complement other housing supports available to young people, including those funded by MSD.

ETRR was a new policy implemented as part of the TSS to support eligible rangatahi to remain in a stable caregiving arrangement past the age of 18 and up to the age of 21, should they wish. From 1 July 2019, rangatahi who had been in care were eligible to remain with, or return to, living with a caregiver from the age of 18 until they turn 21. Other accommodation options include:

- Supported living commissioned by Oranga Tamariki and provided by a range of NGO providers
- NGO emergency accommodation support for young people
- A range of short and medium term housing for people with behavioural issues that also provide therapeutic and skills-based development.

Take-up of ETRR has been lower than expected. This review of accommodation models was commissioned to inform understanding of how other jurisdictions are supporting the accommodation needs of young people leaving care including young people with specific needs for accommodation support. It summarises different accommodation options and synthesizes the strengths and challenges of different models.

The jurisdictional review draws on information from published literature and website searches of specific jurisdictions. It is based on example case studies of accommodation types in different jurisdictions and is not a comprehensive picture of all accommodation initiatives.

The jurisdictions included are:

- United Kingdom
- Australia – New South Wales

¹‘Care leaver’ refers to a young person (often aged between 16 and 18) who has been in the care of Oranga Tamariki or for overseas literature local authorities and is leaving care. ‘Carer’ relates to their foster carer, most often at the time of them leaving care.

- Canada – British Columbia, Ontario
- United States – New York, Minnesota.

A challenge to providing the review is a lack of published evaluation information about different accommodation options for young people. Therefore, much of the information is descriptive.

3. Overview of New Zealand housing options for young people leaving care

Young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care may stay with their carers, return to their whakapapa or kaupapa whānau, seek to live independently or be supported by Oranga Tamariki through ETRR or supported accommodation options provided by organisations contracted through Oranga Tamariki.

Findings from the Just Sayin' survey of young people eligible for transition worker support found:

- Young people leaving care are mobile - Approximately one-half (51%) of young people eligible for transition worker support did not live in the same place as before they turned 18 and 27% of those felt they had no choice about moving.
- A family home(s) was the predominant place of residence for eligible Māori (51%) and eligible Pacific young people (55%) while non-Māori and non-Pacific young people lived in their family home or a flat they paid rent for (35% and 22%, respectively).
- Approximately three-quarters of young people (72%) lived in only one place. Young people contacted for the survey may be more likely to have an address and stable living arrangements than those without recent contact details in CYRAS².
- Some young people are not able to find stable accommodation and live in several different settings or are homeless³.

Social workers and transition workers interviewed as part of the ETRR evaluation, frequently described housing shortages as challenges for young people wanting to live independently. Young people, particularly those coming from Youth Justice are at a disadvantage in a competitive housing market due to low incomes, a lack of references and perceptions they are less desirable tenants.

3.1. Entitlement to remain or return (ETRR)

Under ETRR, rangatahi who have been in care are eligible to remain with, or return to, living with a caregiver from the age of 18 until they turn 21.

When a rangatahi takes up their ETRR with caregiver, the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki remains accountable for ensuring the rangatahi is receiving all relevant legislative entitlements, including s7AA requirements within the Act. While Oranga

² Oranga Tamariki administrative data system.

³ The survey is unlikely to have reached homeless young people.

Tamariki retains accountability for ensuring the legislative provisions are met through the Service, Care Partners are responsible for delivering the Service and ensuring that:

- The rangatahi and caregiver have an approved Living Arrangement Agreement
- The Living Arrangement Agreement is monitored
- The rangatahi is receiving the agreed level of financial assistance, from the Care Partner, to top up their income to enable them to pay the agreed amount to their caregiver for board
- The caregiver is receiving the agreed board payment
- The caregiver is receiving the appropriate training and support.

Under ETRR, the caregivers are expected to help rangatahi to work towards being an independent adult by supporting them to meet their needs and goals as described in their transition plan. The caregiver receives a board payment. This amount is negotiated by the rangatahi and the caregiver but \$220 per week is used as a guideline to support the negotiation⁴. Rangatahi contribute up to 60% of their income towards this board payment. If the 60% does not cover all of the agreed cost of weekly board then Oranga Tamariki will top up the difference to the Care Partner.

ETRR was introduced at a time of change for Oranga Tamariki staff TSS providers. A formative evaluation of ETRR in early 2020 found many of those interviewed were not yet aware of ETRR and/or had not put ETRR in place with rangatahi and whānau. Interviews with young people also identified several situations which made young people either ineligible for or not wanting to take up ETRR.

Atwool (2020) critiques the ETRR policy and identifies potential weak areas including:

- No clear areas in the policy between different categories of need
- Heavily reliance on young people remaining with their caregivers
- Lack of national consistency of funding provider
- A Western emphasis on individualism and independence as desirable and valuable traits and the need for a paradigm shift, particularly as many children in care are Māori. Atwool, recommends a focus on interconnection.

⁴ This is in line with the current weekly foster care allowance paid to caregivers of under 18 year olds.

3.2. Similar programmes to ETRR

Oranga Tamariki commissioned an evidence review as part of the TSS policy development. There was limited robust evidence available, but the key points are summarised below.

Evidence review informing ETRR⁵

Many jurisdictions have enabled, or are enabling, young people to remain with their foster carers beyond the age of 18. Internationally this is a relatively new development and in many jurisdictions it has been strictly limited to those who are in tertiary education or training, and in some senses may have the least need for it.

Therefore, the evidence-base on ‘what works’ and ‘effective’ provision, was relatively weak at the time of the development of ETRR policy as not much research or evaluation had been completed.

However, based on four important research and evaluation studies, two from the United Kingdom, and two from the United States the evidence base on young people remaining with caregivers suggested the particular importance of:

- Being clear on the form of extended care that is on offer
- Providing stable and purposeful support during a crucial new phase of the young person’s life in which they establish themselves in education, employment or training
- Not seeing the opportunity as just a short-term reprieve
- Young people being more likely to be able to transition at a pace that suits them, and is closer to what those without a care background experience
- Understanding that this is not for all; some young people will need different pathways
- Recognising the impact on the wide foster care system in terms of placement availability, and how long-term placements are framed with prospective caregivers.

ETRR was based on the United Kingdom (UK) programmes, all of which allow young people leaving foster care to remain with their foster carer until 21, with some being able to remain longer if they are in education or training. Young people have a personal advisor who works with them. ETRR type support has been in place in the UK since 2016 and awareness has built over that time.

⁵ Matheson, I (2017). Research Centre for Better Outcomes from Fostering and Residential Care (Better Outcomes)

UK programmes similar to ETRR

Staying Put – England

This policy allows young people leaving foster care to remain with their foster carer until 21 if they choose. The arrangement is not formally viewed as a continuation of a foster placement and it is not governed by fostering services regulations. Instead, the carer becomes known as the young person's 'former foster carer'. The young person is seen as a young adult and a care leaver and is entitled to financial support and a Personal Adviser.

Funding does not cover demand for places and rates for foster carers may drop. Young people who move into employment need to contribute to the cost.

Going the Extra Mile – Northern Ireland

The GEM scheme provides financial support to allow care leavers to stay with their carers until the age of 21. However, to qualify for the scheme the young person must be in education, employment or training. If they leave the programme, they are disqualified from the scheme. The young person is provided a Personal Adviser who works with them, their carer, and their 16 Plus social worker to create a needs assessment and build a Pathway Plan. The needs assessment addresses the young person's health (taking into account their mental health and disability needs), financial needs, education and employment, support available, skills they possess for independent living and need for accommodation.

When I Am Ready – Wales

When I am Ready enables young people to have a right to stay with their foster families after they turn 18 and leave care ("post-18"). They have this right until they are 21, or 25 if they are completing higher education or training. Within this arrangement, the young person ceases to be in care and instead is living in their former foster carer's house. It only applies to the carer the young person was with immediately before their 18th birthday. The scheme includes disabled young people if there is the likelihood the young person will be able to live independently as an adult.

Continuing Care – Scotland

Continuing Care enables a young person to remain in the placement they were in when they leave care, until they turn 21. Young people are eligible from the age of 16. A young person requesting Continuing Care must remain living with their former foster carer rather than move to another foster carer or a foster carer they had previously. As part of this programme, care leavers are also exempt from council tax.

There is limited evaluation of the UK programmes. Although we were not able to find evaluations of the UK models, the demand for places exceeds the available funding in some areas. Table 1 provides a summary of care leavers' accommodation situations in New Zealand, and the UK noting that definitions of different situations may be inconsistent.

Table 1. A comparison of care leavers' accommodation situations (Categories may overlap and ages vary from 16-18+)

	New Zealand (16-18)⁶	UK	Northern Ireland	Wales
Living independently	16%	35%	13%	27%
Semi-independent transitional accommodation	21%	12%	20%	6%
Living with relatives/parents	42%	12%	26%	20%
Living with foster carers	16%	8%	25%	
ETRR like options		26%		
Other arrangements		7%	16%	31%

3.3. Different Aotearoa New Zealand contexts may influence the take-up of ETRR

There are some differences between the characteristics and contexts of young people leaving care in the UK and Aotearoa New Zealand.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, Māori are over-represented amongst young people transitioning from care. A key Oranga Tamariki policy priority is that young people are engaged with family cultural and community groups. Many rangatahi Māori interviewed as part of the TSS evaluation emphasised the importance of reconnection with whānau. Reconnection may mean travelling to different geographical locations.

The criteria for ETRR eligibility may influence take-up. If whānau were not previously foster carers or were not approved as carers they are not likely to be eligible for ETRR.

Aotearoa New Zealand's geography and dispersed population also affect the extent young people may be able to stay with their previous carer and engage with educations, training or work. Many young people living in rural areas and small urban areas will need to leave their homes to enrol for study or to find employment.

A range of different housing options are being established and trialled in Aotearoa New Zealand by Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The most established is supported accommodation discussed in section 4.1. Other activities include partnerships with Māori, and foyer housing linked with education and training. There has been no evaluation of these options to date.

⁶ Information from Just Sayin'

Other programmes such as sustaining tenancies and the Creating Positive Pathways – a partnership between the Ministry of Social Development, Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development – have the potential to support young people leaving care.

Sustaining Tenancies⁷ works to prevent homelessness by funding community-based services to support individuals, families and whānau who need help to sustain their tenancy and address issues putting their tenancy at risk.

Creating Positive Pathways (CPP)⁸ is a trial initiative to house people leaving prison and support them to reintegrate back into their community. CPP is for people who leave prison with no access to stable housing and are at high risk of re-offending and experiencing homelessness. It combines support for complex needs with the provision of stable accommodation.

⁷ <https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/addressing-homelessness/sustaining-tenancies/>

⁸ <https://www.hud.govt.nz/community-and-public-housing/addressing-homelessness/creating-positive-pathways/>

4. Summary of accommodation options

The evidence review commissioned as part of policy development noted the importance of understanding that ETRR is not for all; some young people will need different pathways. Different approaches to accommodation for young people with different needs are summarised in this section, based on the review of jurisdictions.

4.1. Supported accommodation options – learnings from Aotearoa New Zealand’s supported living options

In Aotearoa New Zealand, Oranga Tamariki contracts organisations to provide supported living options that aim to give rangatahi a stable and supportive environment where they can develop life skills and gradually transition from fully-supported care to independent living. The key elements of intensive transition support and supported living identified by three evaluations are synthesised below.

Key elements of Intensive Transition Support and Supported Living

- Flexible supported living models that fit with providers’ organisational philosophies.
- The fit of the needs of individual rangatahi to the type of accommodation provided. Rangatahi who are close to independent living may do better with a scattered housing model while others, especially younger age groups, may need to live in a supportive family-type environment.
- Eligibility criteria for rangatahi need to be carefully considered for the different types of supported living accommodation. Some providers excluded those with violent criminal convictions due to the safety of others living in the same accommodation.
- Holistic support includes the need to remove financial and practical barriers to foundational needs such as health care. Navigator, youth worker and kaiāwhina roles were critical in facilitating these appointments and building up rangatahi confidence so they could book and attend on their own.
- All providers noted the importance of their community connections so they could make referrals to community services. Many providers described long waiting lists for services such as counselling.
- Culturally safe support is essential for rangatahi. As well as ethnicity, culturally safe support includes religion, sexuality, age and ability.
- Separation of tenancy management from the social worker/youth worker roles was different across the pilots depending on the kaupapa of the service organisation.
- Most providers supported whānau alongside rangatahi. Rangatahi were strengthened and positively affirmed by connecting with and learning more about whānau, hapū and iwi.
- Continuity of support included ‘sticking with’ rangatahi even if they were incarcerated and post-programme follow-up with rangatahi after they have left the programmes. Support needs to be balanced with the risk of rangatahi becoming dependent on the service.
- Goals, achievements and the time required for each young person to transition to independence (or interdependence with positive whānau) varied.

TSS includes 60 supported accommodation places by year four for young people who need a stepping stone to make a successful transition to independent living. Supported accommodation places may be provided through congregate-site housing, foyer housing, scattered site housing or host homes depending on the accommodation providers model and the needs of young people.

4.2. Different housing settings

Accommodation options identified in the jurisdictional review included both different types of housing settings and different types of social, educational and employment support incorporated in each option.

Congregate-site housing: Where there is a common room and several attached units. Young people live in separate homes with some intervention from a case manager. There is a set ratio of adults to young people. In a randomised control trial of 125 residents of congregate site housing, those using the service experienced greater housing stability, mental health improvements, greater quality of life, and decreased substance use over an 18-month period (Aubry et al., 2020).

Foyer housing: A congregate living arrangement (typically 30 to 40 beds per foyer) that provides a safe living environment for young people to acquire independent living skills and more effectively become self-sufficient while making the transition into adulthood. Some models require enrolment in education and/or vocational training programmes. Personalised services in foyers are often contingent upon community engagement requirements from the young people enrolled in the programme. Young people usually pay a fee of a percentage of their income which may be returned upon graduation. Foyer housing is particularly effective when a sufficient number of young people are involved and there are employment agencies and youth education opportunities available in the community.

Foyer housing requires capital investment to build or acquire housing in addition to ongoing programme costs. e.g the Chelsea Foyer in the US was established as 200 four bedroom apartments. Young people coming out of foster care can transition to these foyer settings from the ages of 18 to 25. The apartments can provide a temporary solution during a critical stage of growth and development.

Scattered-site housing: Housing is dispersed throughout a community. Scattered-site housing has been shown to reduce stigma and offers more young people more opportunities for independence but is also more isolating than congregate-site housing. Exit policies are necessary to prevent discharging young people to homelessness. The average duration of support in overseas models is one to three years.

Host homes and supportive room mates: Host homes are a scattered-site programme providing a family-like, community-based setting. Young people can

remain in the programme until age 25, living with a host family while receiving a rent supplement, case management, and support. The host family receives support through rent supplements and case management.

Convertible leases: Convertible leases are a scattered site, transition model which focuses on skill development and offers long-term housing opportunities. Young people are provided with rent subsidies with the option to convert a lease into their own name so they can maintain housing after leaving the programme. Because the housing agency holds the lease, public opposition to these types of programmes is typically low and landlords are assured that the housing agency will support young tenants. This a low-cost approach but requires communities with affordable rental units.

4.3. Support options

Developing life skills: The young person has someone with them to teach them how to become independent and develop skills beyond just looking after a house including budgeting, community building etc. Transition and Life Skills type programmes help to connect young people, ages 16-18, with community services and supports, including housing support.

Target group: Young people who wish or have no other option to separate from a parent-type situation but still need help with skills. The model has also been used to support young offenders.

I look forward to what will happen after transition and look forward to working with my mentor. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 2)

Life skills are steps to freedom. Financial support. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 1)

International examples are:

- MACS supported housing in Northern Ireland
- The House Project in the UK
- The Continued Care and Support for Youth programme in Ontario which offers eligible young people up to \$850 per month, as well as guidance and support until the age of 21.
- The Link and RS Eden Collaboration in Minnesota which has 24 safe, affordable housing units for young people aged 16 to 24, all with private bathrooms. There are also staff onsite including a counsellor and community liaison, several case managers, site manager, and maintenance personnel.

Training and higher education attainment: Young people who completed the Just Sayin’ survey as part of the TSS evaluation had hopes and dreams that included wanting education (24%) and to develop skills related to employment goals (66%).

Young people described a range of skills they needed to help them to achieve their goals. However, 38% said they were not getting the support they needed to achieve their goals.

Drivers license, building up my skills on working with others, having better relationships with others, becoming better in life, etc. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 1)

Being in education is a protective factor for care leavers. Matheson (2019) interviewed seven care experienced young people in a New Zealand context while they were still at university. He concluded that more care leavers will go into higher education if they are more supported in their education earlier in life, and practitioners and policymakers placed the ‘care/learn interface’ more central to their work.

Internationally, some programmes provide support through a mentor or transitional worker. Some support for education and training is provided through foyer housing initiatives where young people can be housed close to educational sites and receive social support as well as support with education. Some may return to carers in the semester breaks.

Target group: Young people leaving care who are ready to develop their skills through training or higher education.

Having these things in my life such as, health, money management, being work ready, cooking, drivers licence, skills for living with others, relationships, connecting with culture, becoming university ready). (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 1)

International examples are:

- The Live ‘N’ Learn Campus at Miller in New South Wales (a foyer housing programme)
- The Premier’s Youth Initiative (PYI) in NSW which provides young people with personal advice, mentoring, transitional support, and accommodation. A personal advisor works with young people with regards to employment and education, to help identify areas of interest and skills and to direct them towards relevant opportunities. A transitional support worker also guides them through future pursuits. While the programme also provides subsidised accommodation to some young people, the focus is on expanding their engagement with education and employment opportunities while fostering further independence.
- Housing First is a predominant model in Ontario and Housing First for youth (“HF4Y”) is a model that focuses on securing permanent and stable housing that meets the needs of young people as quickly as possible. Foyer housing and other transitional housing options are made available alongside

employment training and support, mental health and addictions supports focused on harm reduction, and re-engagement in education.

Employment focus: In response to Just Sayin’ many young people wanted employment or more hours and more stable employment. Support options are focussed on helping match young people who are ‘employment ready’ with jobs.

Target groups: Young people who are ‘employment ready’.

International examples include:

- Hire Up in Ontario: a national hiring portal that connects employers with youth-serving organisations to create meaningful employment opportunities for young people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Train for Trades (modelled by Choices for Youth, St. John’s Newfoundland) a unique training programme that focuses on energy retrofits. A wraparound supports model (including accommodation, life skills, mentoring, job coaching, mental health and addictions supports) gives young people a solid foundation to pursue training and education.

Increasing access to housing through rent subsidies and guarantees: Programmes that aim to remove barriers to young people living independently by helping with rent subsidies and guarantees. Some may also provide social support and/or mentoring.

Target group: Young people who are ready to live independently but have financial barriers to finding stable accommodation.

I just want my own place. I have been applying for private rentals but have been declined. Some help would be great. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 2)

- Supervised Independent Living Programs (SILPs) in New York provides beds for young people aging out of New York’s foster care system each year. In the state-funded programmes, young people were provided with a rental subsidy of up to \$300 USD per month for up to three years. The Administration for Children’s Services also provided \$400 USD for shelter and transitional beds from about 2000 to 2011. (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2002). Funding stopped in 2011. SILPs have had to be established and funded separately through the many organisations in New York. Some of these SILPs have expanded to better provide support to certain sub-populations.
- The Rent Choice Youth Subsidy (RCY) programme in NSW helps young people ages 16 to 24 years to find a place to live, get approved for a lease, and assist with rental payments for up to three years. Young people in the RCY programme pay 25% of their weekly income for rent alongside Commonwealth Rent Assistance they qualify for and they cover the rest for the first 12 months. After one year, the amount they pay increases.

- In Aotearoa New Zealand, rental guarantees and integrated social support for people after leaving prison have been effective.

Other financial assistance: Offering young people financial assistance to support identified needs. Financial assistance is a component of transition support and may contribute to accommodation as well as other costs.

Most of the time, kids are supposed to get all these benefits from the system for food, weekly allowance, etc and they rarely ever make it to the kid. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 2)

Financial help to cover rent, food, and transport to and from course. Studylink took a while to accept my student allowance. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 1)

Residential homes: Young people in these homes are supported by staff and can often continue to stay in these homes into adulthood or can transition into a supported living environment.

Target group: Young people needing the most intense support.

4.4. Supporting Indigenous young people

Reconnection with whānau is an aim of the transition support service. Housing options which include opportunities for young people to learn more about their culture and to connect/reconnect contribute to achieving transition service outcomes relating to safe and stable housing as well as to build social connectiveness, positive identification with culture and improved sense of identity. Indigenous young people are over-represented amongst young people with mental health issues, highlighting the importance of adequate support.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, Vison West: My Whare is an innovative programme launched late 2020 to offer housing solutions to homeless rangatahi and rangatahi transitioning out of care. The whare are tiny homes designed to be located on a residential property of a host family. By locating the whare on a host family’s property, the young person is provided the independence of a one-bedroom unit with the access to whānau and companionship of living with a family. VisionWest hope to support five young people and build five whare in their first year. As well as providing rangatahi with homes, the project also utilises ‘intensive mentoring’ and a strengths-based youth development approach. This will support young people with their hauora beyond their accommodation needs.

Stop placing Māori with non- Māori and place them with there own. I was placed with a Māori family and it was the best thing that happened to me even tho’ I was hesitant at the start. (Transition support eligible young person – Just Sayin’ 1)

Canada offers specific programmes aimed at Indigenous young people. Some are provided on-Reserve. The funding of on-Reserve accommodation services

encourages a higher degree of Indigenous governance and greater influence over the wellbeing of their children. Canadian examples include:

- The Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Programme at Lu'ma Native Housing in Vancouver, a 12 - 18 months programme rooted in Indigenous culture. The programme connects Indigenous youth to a mentor. Young people are offered a variety of supports, including housing support, with the goal of fostering independence in the community (Donkers, 2012).
- The Sagatay (A New Beginning) programme, an Indigenous housing programme in Ontario that helps homeless Indigenous youth transition into permanent and stable housing over a three to six months programme called Apaenmowineen (Having Confidence in Myself). This programme offers workshops on literacy, addictions, employment, community activities, drumming, sharing circles, and other traditional teachings.

4.5. **Young people with health needs and or disabilities**

Co-ordination with other agencies and in particular health is necessary to ensure that young people with disabilities have suitable accommodation options. In Aotearoa New Zealand, the Ministry of Health has responsibility for those with the highest level of need. Young people with disabilities who do not meet the criteria for Ministry of Health support require support that meets their individual needs.

Options include:

- Ongoing support from foster carers - ETRR may apply.
- Supported living options that are able to meet the needs of individuals. For young people actively engaged in substance use, the most suitable housing support programme is low-barrier congregate-site housing where young people live together in a semi-independent manner with support workers onsite. For young people in recovery from substance use, the most suitable housing support is low barrier, scattered-site housing where they can engage in more independent living (Momoh et al., 2018).
- Foyer housing, host home and supportive roommate, and convertible leases are all models with more access barriers for young people with mental health and addiction issues.
- Barnardos in New Zealand: Provides a concentrated space and time to focus on therapeutic treatment and approaches to improve behaviour and develop their strengths and skills. The model of care has a cultural basis, derived from Māori Te Whare Tapu Whā and Pacific Fono'fale models which make the practice both evidence based and relevant for an Aotearoa New Zealand context.

International options include:

- Shared Lives (UK) which provides small scale family and community-based support to help care leavers to develop skills in a consistent, secure and supported environment. It can also provide a long-term solution to care leavers with higher support needs.
- Staying Close (England) provides key worker support to residential care leavers who live in their own flat close to the Children's Home they were living in when they left care. They are supported by a key worker they had a relationship with before leaving the residential setting. Wider support is provided through emotional support wellbeing services, an education, employment and training worker, a housing maintenance worker, a participation worker and a mentoring service. The young people included within the model include young people with difficulties including mental health, self-harm and drug misuse. Staying Close has been found to successfully help reduce isolation and loneliness, increase stability around mental health, reduce drug and alcohol intake and increase engagement in employment and to create housing stability.
- The British Columbia Youth Supported Independent Living Programme is designed for young people who experience mental health issues and do not have sufficient resources at home to address these issues. Young people between the ages of 16-21 are referred to the programme by a clinician. They receive safe, affordable housing through a B.C. Housing subsidy. An individual service plan is tailored to each individual's needs by a youth support worker. The support worker works with the individual to establish goals related to home management, nutrition, money management, education or vocational planning, medication routines, stress and time management, problem-solving, and community integration.
- British Columbia Housing NGO housing providers operate supportive housing units. Tenants have self-contained units with kitchenettes and private bathrooms. There are also communal spaces, including, in some buildings, culturally appropriate spaces. Supportive housing provides a range of on-site, non-clinical supports such as: life skills training, connections to health care, mental health or substance-use services. Staff are on-site 24/7 to provide support.

4.6. Innovative funding models

In England, social investment bonds (SIB) are being trialled as a way to increase the number of care leavers in education, employment or training. Care leavers are allocated a job coach who provides psychologically informed support to help the care leaver overcome the barriers that prevent them getting into education or

employment. Groups that are highly marginalised such as young parents or asylum seeker care leavers are included in this scheme.

Social bonds are an investment tool where private organisations, including investors, partner to fund and deliver services to improve social outcomes. The return for investors (positive or negative) depends on the extent the agreed results are achieved. In New Zealand, a social bonds pilot by the Genesis Youth Trust to reduce youth reoffending is showing promising early results.

SIB can be controversial. Stakeholders' views on the benefits and disadvantages of social investment are influenced by their views on the ethics and morality of the concept of 'private investment in the public good'.

The anticipated benefits of Social Bonds include allowing government access to a larger pool of funds with the risk shifted to the investors. Investment can be used to build societal capacity and capability and to offer investors the opportunity to finance positive social change as well as gaining financial returns. Investments are measured, tracked, and transparent. Additional funding and funding stability enable funded organisations to develop their infrastructure, workforce and practice models. Outcomes-focussed contracts allow providers flexibility to innovate.

The perceived negative aspects of social impact investment included moving the accountability for inequalities in society away from the public sector and views that social bonds were unethical as they represented investors making a profit from misfortune. Some considered the Social Bonds structure was too rigid to be able to address such complex issues as social outcomes (i.e. to establish cause and effect and quantify progress). Developing effective measurement tools is one of the main challenges of Social Bond contracting.

5. Implications for Aotearoa New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand wide housing shortages and a lack of affordable options have been reported in interviews and evaluation of a range of programmes for young people. Young people leaving care are at a disadvantage in competition for affordable housing because they may not have the identification required to access benefits and references and experience flattening. Some young people leaving care are not ready to live independently.

ETRR offers a new option to assist young people to have stable accommodation while still receiving support from a carer. However, take up of ETRR has been lower than anticipated. The formative evaluation of ETRR identified groups of young people potentially eligible for ETRR and provided qualitative information about why ETRR may not fit their needs (Figure 1).

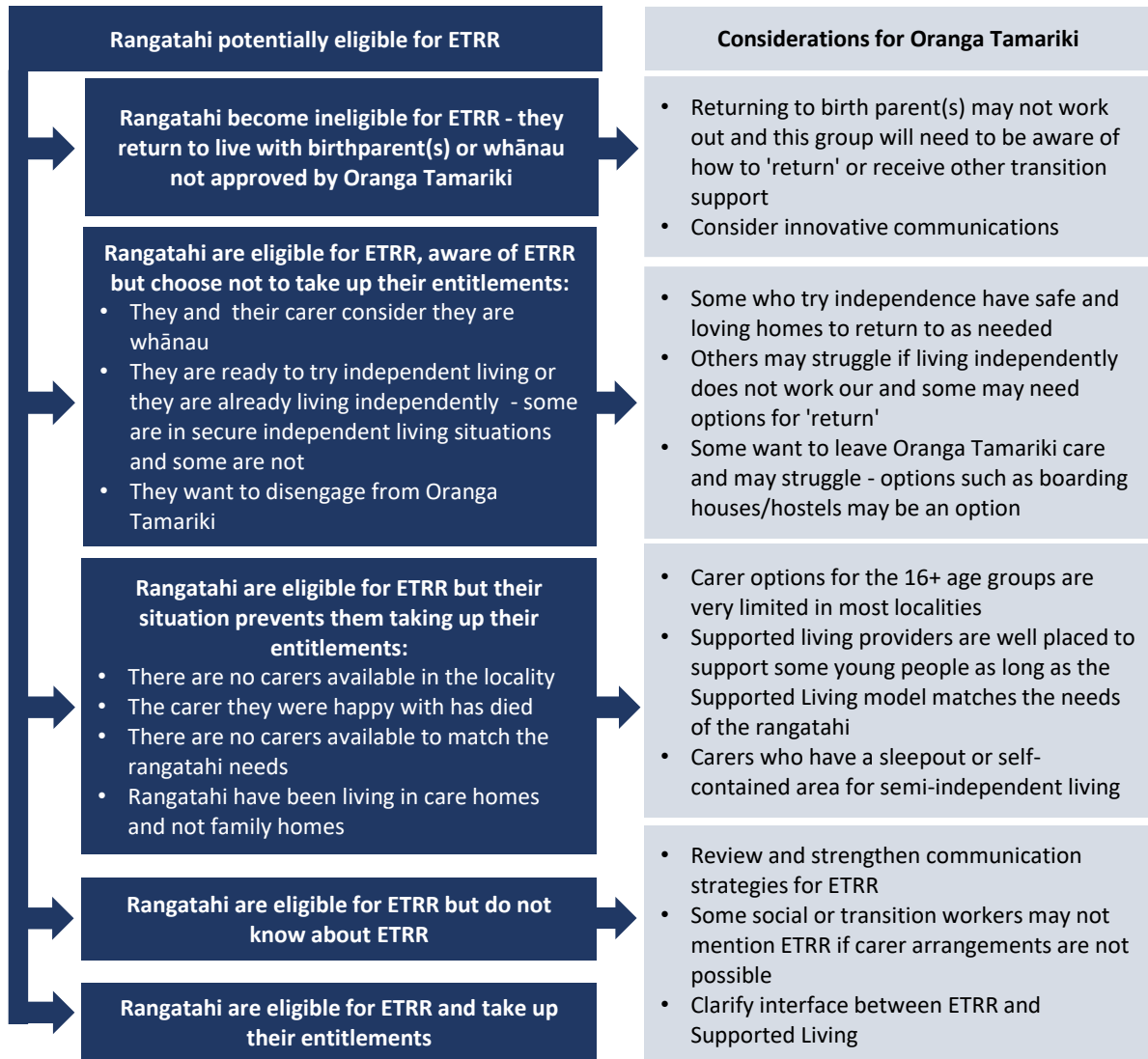


Figure 1. Young people potentially eligible for ETRR and reasons why ETRR may not be a good fit for their circumstances.

The TSS Cabinet paper outlined the intended aim of trialling a wide-range of needs-based housing solutions to sit alongside and complement other housing supports available to young people, including those funded by MSD. There is an opportunity for Oranga Tamariki, in partnership with other government agencies, to fund housing options in addition to ETRR that meet the unique needs of young people leaving care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This jurisdictional review provides examples of accommodation programmes that may inform Aotearoa New Zealand models. A priority sitting over all approaches must be meeting the needs of rangatahi Māori and reconnection of young people leaving care with their culture, whānau and communities.

Target groups	Context
<p>Young people returning to live with their whānau (not eligible for ETRR)</p>	<p>We heard through interviews with young people leaving care of the importance of reconnection with whānau – <i>home is where mum is.</i></p> <p>Whānau reconnection may require holistic support for whānau as well as for young people. Care partners are asked to provide training and support to carers and this could be focussed on meeting the needs of whānau to whom young people are returning.</p> <p>Accommodation options must recognise the need for whānau support and reflect the importance of cultural connection. Opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Whānau based housing support models designed by Māori ● Transition support that is embedded in Mātauranga Māori ● Integrated social, educational, health and/or employment support depending on young people’s needs.
<p>Young people wanting to move towards independence</p>	<p>Young people may want to move from their carers or may need to move for education, training or employment. ETRR does not fit the needs of this group.</p> <p>Options include housing and support for education and training. Depending on young people’s needs this may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Financial support to live in existing halls of residence linked to universities but with transition worker

	<p>support. Accommodation during semester breaks would also need to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregate or foyer housing with specific a focus on education and training would be feasible in localities where population density and proximity to educational institutions allows. After 1-2 years young people could move to independent living with assistance from rent subsidies and guarantees. • Rent subsidies and guarantees in other locations to help provide stable housing to support education and employment.
<p>Rangatahi are eligible for ETRR but their situation prevents them taking up their entitlements:</p>	<p>Some rangatahi are prevented from taking up ETRR entitlements because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no carers available in the locality • The carer they were happy with has died • There are no carers available to match the rangatahi needs • Rangatahi have been living in care homes and not family homes. <p>Ensuring access to the range of different accommodation options that meet the intensity of support young people need – ranging from rent subsidies and guarantees through to supported living programmes with integrated social support.</p> <p>Rent subsidies and guarantees give young people a chance to get established and to potentially move to rentals under their own names.</p>
<p>Young people who will need ongoing support</p>	<p>Co-ordination with other agencies and in particular health to ensure that young people with disabilities have suitable accommodation options. The Ministry of Health has responsibility for those with the highest level of need. Whānau provide support for young people with disabilities who can live independently with some support. For young people leaving care, this support has to be provided by Oranga Tamariki during the transition support age range. Accommodation options that include social support and life skills development is needed.</p>

6. Appendix 1: Housing models for young people in and leaving care: United Kingdom and Northern Ireland

6.1. Context

- The UK's precise definitions of young people in and leaving care, and their policy and legal frameworks differ across nations. There has been a steady expansion of Government policy in the UK related to young people in and leaving care with a major overhaul of policy that supports care leavers with the 2014 Children & Families Act.
- In England, a cross-government care leavers strategy was published in 2013 that introduced changes to policies and practices that gave more support to care leavers (HM Government, 2013). This includes the Staying Put policy, which offers care leavers the option to stay with their foster carer until their 21st birthday. A similar model is used in Wales and Scotland.
- In Wales, The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 prescribes the duties of care leavers onto local authorities.
- In Northern Ireland, Leaving and After Care services are provided to young people leaving care up until the age of 21, or 25 if in higher education. The Children (Leaving Care) Act (Northern Ireland) 2002 amended the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 to greater support and develop pathways for young people leaving care. Standards for Leaving Care Services in Northern Ireland which set out minimum standards for Leaving and After Care Services were published in 2012 (Department of Health, 2012). Northern Ireland introduced the Going the Extra Mile (GEM) scheme. Unlike similar schemes in other UK countries, it is not a legal policy, and care leavers only qualify if they are in education, employment or training.
- Scotland's The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 legalised policy aspirations of cooperate parenting, and aftercare legislation. Aftercare support was also extended through the Support and Assistance of Young People Leaving Care (Scotland) Regulations 2015.
- The United Kingdom lacks specific policies that speak to extra accommodation needs such as disability, special needs and behavioural issues.

6.2. Overall youth in care demographics

- As of March 2020, there were 80,000 children in care in England and 20% were aged 16 or older. In Wales, there were 7,170 children in care and 16% were aged 16 or older. There were 3,383 Children in care in Northern Ireland, 16% of which were aged 16 and over. As of July 2020, there were 16,530 children in care in Scotland (data on age of children were unavailable for Scotland).
 - There are approximately 12,500 care leavers aged 16 and above each year in England
 - In 2019/2020 there were 295 care leavers aged 16-18 in Northern Ireland and 242 aged 19
 - In 2020, there were 7,198 young people (aged 16-22 and above) eligible for aftercare services in Scotland
- 26% of care leavers utilised England’s Staying Put programme in 2019, the same proportion that utilised the programme in 2018. Data indicates that care leavers not using the programme lived with parents, lived independently, or lived in transitional housing.
 - For 19–21-year-old care leavers in England, 12% were living in semi-independent transitional accommodation, 35% were living independently, 12% were living with relatives and 8% were living with foster carers (in a non-Staying Put arrangement).
- In 2020, there were 306 young people who received accommodation as part of Continuing Care in Scotland. This was an increase from 286 in 2019. Reports did not indicate how many of young people eligible for Continuing Care did not take up this service. Accommodation statistics of Scottish care leavers are not available
- In 2018/2019, 63 of the 216 care leavers in Northern Ireland (41%) received support for a Going the Extra Mile placement. The large take up of this programme was possibly due to the length it had been going (it has been present since 2006). There is a strict requirement that the young person must be in training, education, or employment to qualify for the scheme.
 - 25% of care leavers aged 16-18 were living with former foster carers, 13% were living independently, 26% were living with their parents, 20% were in supported accommodation and the other 16% were in other accommodation arrangements.
- In 2018-2019, 17% of 18-year-old care leavers entered the ‘When I Am Ready’ arrangement in Wales. This was a decrease from 20% of care leavers in 2017-2018 but a rise from 11% the first year the arrangement was implemented.

- 27% of young people aged 16-18 in Wales were living independently, 20% lived with parents/relatives, 6% were transferred to adult social services, 1% were sentenced to custody, 30% stopped being looked after state for other reason.

6.3. Care leavers

Staying Put policy			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	2014	Government Report	Legal policy
Description of model			
<p>In 2014, England’s Staying Put policy came into law. This policy allowed young people leaving foster care to remain with their foster carer until 21 if they chose. The arrangement is not formally viewed as a continuation of a foster placement and it is not governed by fostering services regulations. Instead, the carer becomes known as the young person’s ‘former foster carer’. The young person is seen as a young adult and a care leaver and is entitled to financial support and a Personal Adviser. There is no set policy on planning for leaving care.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides continuity to young people as well as stability when adjusting to adulthood and independence. • Provides a smoother transition to adulthood and independence that is mediated by their familiar former foster carer and Personal Adviser. • The guidance outlined in the ‘Keep on Caring’ strategy to help with the Staying Put scheme focuses on the quality of relationships around the care leaver to support their transition and recognises that the Personal Adviser may not be able to provide all the support they need. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been funding difficulties found with low levels of central funding and issues with funding arrangements at a local level, both for carers and young people. • Fostering services reduce the allowance given to foster carers once a young person reaches the age of 18. This results in a potential loss of income for former foster carers. It is hoped that care leavers will use some of their accommodation supplement to pay rent towards their former foster carers, but this may be unrealistic in practice. • The Staying Put policy does not apply to young people in residential care as, in England, they do not have the same rights as young people leaving foster care (See the Staying Close policy below). • Issues have also been raised by foster care advocacy charities about the need to support care leavers that are away at University to return to former foster carers during school holidays, which this policy does not consider. 			

The House Project, Stoke-on-Trent

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	2015	Evaluation report	Charity Organisation

Description of model

The House Project is a housing co-operative for care leavers using homes owned by the Council. The co-operative is led by care leavers in the Care Leavers National Movement and supported by project facilitators and social workers. Care leavers can join the project at 16 and start moving into properties at age 17. They work through accredited and evidence-based modules designed to upskill them in areas such as cooking and budgeting. There are now over ten similar projects created by the National Housing Project throughout England.

Advantages

- Care leavers build skills through the project including employability and social skills.
- Young people can retain tenancy as long as they want.
- Provides alternative housing options for young people leaving care.
- Provides stability to young people and cost saving to councils as young people do not have to be moved between properties (savings range between £150,000 and £400,000).

Challenges and risks

- Difficulties with housing supply and accessing properties as the project increased in size.
- Assessing whether some young people are responsible enough to be tenants.
- Large monetary investment (£170,000 to £230,000 per year).

Continuing Care

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Scotland	2015	Government Report	Government Act

Description of model

Continuing Care enables a young person to remain in the placement they were in when they were 'Looked After' when they leave care, until they turn 21. Young people from the age of 16 are eligible. A young person requesting Continuing Care has to remain living with their former foster carer rather than move to another foster carer or a foster carer they had previously. As part of this programme, care leavers are also exempt from council tax.

Advantages

- Such as with other ETRR models, Continuing Care means that young people are "encouraged, enabled and empowered" to remain in positive care settings and slowly transition into independence.
- Allows for planning and partnership between the young person, their carer, and representatives of the state which is core to good practice.
- Giving care leavers exemption from council tax reduces the financial burden on them which lessens the difficulty of adapting to adulthood.

Challenges and risks

- Young people who have a poor final carer before they transition out of care are not given the option to switch to a different carer. Similarly, if the carer is unwilling or unable to continue to provide care for the care leaver, they are ineligible for the service.

- Unlike England’s model, it does not seem that within this model care leavers are assigned a Personal Adviser which may make the transition to leaving care less smooth and successful.

When I am Ready

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Wales	2016	Government Report	Legal policy

Description of model

When I am Ready enables young people to have a right to stay with their foster families after they turn 18 and leave care (“post-18”). They have this right until they are 21, or 25 if they are completing higher education or training. Within this arrangement, the young person ceases to be in care and instead is living in their former foster carer’s house. This model is very similar to England’s Staying Put scheme, but like Scotland’s Continuing Care scheme, only applies to the carers the young person was with immediately before their 18th birthday. The scheme includes disabled young people as long as there is the likelihood the young person will be able to live independently as an adult.

Advantages

- Such as with other ETRR models, When I am Ready leaves young people better equipped for independence and developing life skills as they transition to adulthood.
- Provides continuity and stability to the care leaver and has a positive impact on their emotional wellbeing and path to education, training or employment.
- Applies to both able-bodied and disabled young people, reduces the need for a separate scheme for disabled young people leaving care.
- Helps and possibly incentivises young people to stay in education as they can be looked under with this scheme until 25.

Challenges and risks

- As this model uses similar eligibility criteria to Scotland’s Continuing Care Scheme, the same challenges applies.
- If there is incompatibility between the care leaver and carer, or an irreconcilable disagreement it abruptly takes the carer leaver out of the scheme.
- Communication of this policy to young people has not been properly implemented and the government is currently looking at how that part of the policy can be improved.

Going the Extra Mile (GEM)

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Northern Ireland	2006	Government report	Non-statutory scheme

Description of model

Similar to the ETRR schemes across the rest of the UK, the GEM scheme provides financial support to allow care leavers to stay with their carers until the age of 21. However, to qualify for the scheme the young person must be in education, employment or training. If they leave the programme, they are disqualified from the scheme. The young person is provided a Personal Adviser who works with them, their carer, and their 16 Plus social worker to create a needs assessment and build a Pathway Plan. The needs assessment addresses the young person’s health (taking into account their mental health and disability

needs), financial needs, education and employment, support available, skills they possess for independent living and need for accommodation.

Advantages

- Government reports suggest that the scheme is helpful for care leavers with 41% of care leavers receiving GEM support in 2018/2019 and 88% of former foster care placements went through the GEM scheme.
- Despite the limited scope and limits on eligibility, the GEM model was found to have some of the greatest proportions of uptake comparative to other UK nations with similar schemes.

Challenges and risks

- The GEM scheme only applies to young people aged 18-21 who are in education which means that approximately 25% of the care leavers in Northern Ireland miss out on the scheme and it is possible these young people may be the most at risk of needing extra support.
- The limited scope of the policy and the lack of legal enforcement has caused critiques from fostering agencies about the effectiveness of the programme.

MACS Supported Housing

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Northern Ireland	Unknown	Information Handbook	Charity

Description of model

MACS is a charity that works with children and young people who are experiencing homelessness, substance abuse, self-harm, mental health issues, leaving care or they are generally at risk. MACS' supported housing consists of self-contained flats in four different locations across Northern Ireland. All four of these locations are for young people aged 16-21 and are ready to leave residential or foster care. Young people can live in these flats for up to two years. The accommodation is staffed 24/7, and staff can assist the young people with: financial assistance, accessing education, employment or training (EET), building social and community skills and relationships, learning to take care of a house etc.

Advantages

- Young person has someone with them to teach them how to become independent and develop skills beyond just looking after a house including budgeting, community building etc.
- Allows more independence for young people than Staying Put and similar policies for young people that wish to separate from a parent-type situation but still need help with skills.
- Includes support for young offenders including assistance attending appointments with their probation officer.

Challenges and risks

- There is a high housing need which may mean there may be a potentially long waiting list.
- Young people may need longer than two years to be ready for independence, particularly if they are in education or training.

6.4. Housing for young people with special needs

Shared Lives			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Across UK	Unknown	Shared Lights Report	Charity
Description of model			
<p>Shared Lives supports adults with support needs (including learning disabilities, mental health, autism, victims of domestic abuse, complex needs, and other support needs) using small scale, family and community-based support. 16% of people in Shared Lives arrangements are care leavers (age 16-25). Young people in secure (i.e. Youth Justice) settings can also be under the care of Shared Lives.</p> <p>Within the Shared Lives scheme, care leavers rent their room from a Shared Lives carer, and carers support them with aspects of their lives they need help with (such as decisions, skills, transportation). Foster carers can apply to become Shared Lives carers.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a steppingstone to independent living while care leavers are still developing life skills and still need a nurturing home-based environment. • Can provide a long-term solution to care leavers with higher support needs. • Can provide consistency to care leavers who often experience inconsistent housing situations. • Can enable care leavers to receive care in a familiar environment as they transition into adulthood. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Lives reports have found that young people in care are not often provided with information about Shared Lives and good practice around care leavers needing extra support is not always followed. • A lot of timing is needed (Shared Lives recommends beginning planning at 14 latest) for a successful matching process with a home for the young person. • Evaluation of the programme has indicated that staff capacity is limited. Staff in roles as maintaining communication and relationships with many social services and government agencies is key to the success of the model. • Increasing the number of carers is central to the model but also very difficult, particularly if care leavers stay with carers long term. 			
Staying Close policy			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	Piloted 2016, National rollout 2021-2022	Government Report	Legal Policy
Description of model			
<p>Young people in residential care are not covered by the same policies as care leavers. An alternative to Staying Put was therefore proposed, piloted and is being presently rolled out in England. Within this model, residential care leavers would live in their own flat close to the Children’s Home they were living in when they left care. They would be supported by a key worker they had a relationship with before leaving the residential setting. Wider</p>			

support would be provided through emotional support wellbeing services, an education, employment and training worker, a housing maintenance worker, a participation worker and a mentoring service. The young people included within the model would be comprised of high needs young people with difficulties including mental health, self-harm and drug misuse.

Advantages

- Key worker provides continuity to residential care leavers as they move towards independence.
- It provides a cost-effective way to provide support to young people.
- For young people involved in the pilots, Staying Close has been found to successfully help reduce isolation and loneliness, increase stability around mental health, reduce drug and alcohol intake and increase engagement in employment.
- Created housing stability for young people in the programme.

Challenges and risks

- Does not allow young people in residential care the choice to stay in foster care homes, only the option of living independently.
- In the evaluation report, the practicalities of finding geographically close places for residential care leavers to live was found to be difficult.
- Some young people in the pilots had been in residential care units for a short time prior to leaving care and did not form substantial bonds to assist with the Staying Close process.

Out-of-home care for disabled young people and children

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Northern Ireland	N/A	Government Report	No specific policy

Description of model

In Northern Ireland, there is no overarching policy specifically for disabled children or young people in care. A report into disabled children and young people in out of home care (Kelly, Dowling & Winter, 2016) summarised what is currently in place for this population. In Northern Ireland, four out of ten disabled children and young people were in non-relative foster care (40%), followed by kinship care (17%) and residential care (17%). The rest of disabled children and young people only used care to give short breaks to their parents or guardians.

Advantages

- The short break service provided relief to the parent/guardian and they reported the service presented a social opportunity for their child.
- Some residential care placements were at specialist community settings. These placements were successful, as mainstream residential homes were found to not meet the needs of all disabled young people. Facilities with therapeutic approaches were seen to be the most successful. However, there were financial and availability difficulties to accessing these services.
- In the report into disabled children and young people in out-of-home care, all children and young people living in non-relative foster care spoke positively about their placements. The report suggested that because of the heightened need of the young person, the carer was selected with extra caution and discernment.

Challenges and risks

- Report indicated that there was a high degree of placement instability experienced by the children and young people. An outcome of this was vulnerability to risk-taking behaviours.
- Transition support was not accessible by young people in residential facilities.
- Placements for disabled children and young people were found to be unstable, lacked availability and carers lacked the extra support needed to care for disabled children and young people.

TLC Wales			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Wales	2001	TLC Website, Independent inspection report	Charity
Description of model			
<p>In Wales, there is no overarching policy specifically for disabled children or young people in care. TLC Wales is an independent fostering agency established to provide non-relative foster care placements for children and young people with disabilities and complex needs. They provide short-term, long-term, respite and palliative family placements.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an agency that is focused solely on disabled children and young people, the foster carers can be provided with substantive support from the agency. • The children and young people reported to have long-term and stable placements. Having less housing insecurity likely would improve their wellbeing outcomes and relationship building. • The potentially complex needs related to the child and young person's disability can be attended to confidently. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits of a private and independent foster care agency include special attention paid to the quality of foster carers. It also possibly can mean that, as with all foster carers, there is the risk of inconsistency of care – but the consequences are heightened for disabled young adults in care. 			

6.5. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

St Basils Youth Justice Accommodation Pathway			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	2019	Report	Charity
Description of model			
<p>The Youth Justice Accommodation Pathway is a tool for local authorities, criminal justice agencies, etc. to utilise when planning accommodation and support services for young people (aged 16-25) who have been involved in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>The pathway begins with early targeted help services and interventions for young people that are involved in offending behaviour. The pathway includes finding accommodation for young people involved with gangs if they are at risk of being victims of violence. Part of the</p>			

pathway involves finding long-term accommodation to prevent the need of using emergency accommodation.

A second strand of the pathway involves the resettlement of young people coming out of custody. Planning of accommodation and services in advance of release is key within this stream.

Advantages

- The tool has been involved in collaboration with agencies that work with young people with offending history and young people who have experienced homelessness, so it has the benefit of including their voices.
- The tool is designed to reduce homelessness and reduce crisis management while promoting positive outcomes for this group.
- The pathway has a broad scope for a range of different situations and provides useful building blocks for services.

Challenges and risks

- Complexities of agencies’ responsibilities: for young people in care, with behavioural issues, at risk of homelessness, potentially in and out of youth justice facilities there are a range of different services that would oversee the young person and as a result their care may get lost in the bureaucracy.
- Young people that fit this population are highly vulnerable to homelessness and reoffending and this must be a consideration when using this model.
- Finding accommodation for young people with behavioural issues can be difficult as they are seen as risks to others and this creates health and safety issues.

Youth Justice in Scotland

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Scotland	2018	Policy guide	Legal policy

Description of model

The Scottish Government recognised that for young adults in and leaving care and youth justice facilities, poor accommodation was one of the key negative outcomes. To improve this, housing standards were developed (SHORE, 2017). As part of the accommodation support for young people in custody and on release, there is support from specialist services, accommodation-related arrangements, support to deal with housing agencies, identification of housing needs, etc.

Advantages

- There is an awareness and a proactiveness of the many different factors that go into getting appropriate housing for young people and steps taken such as the SHORE housing standards.

Challenges and risks

- While policies dictate the importance of preplanning accommodation for young people, there is no clear pathway or assigned people to assist with supporting young people around their accommodation.
- Supports for helping young people dependent on the regional agencies and capacity of these services.

6.6. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

Care Leaver Social Impact Bonds (SIBs)			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	2018-2019	Government report	Pilot
Description of model			
<p>SIBs are being trialled as a way to increase the number of care leavers in education, employment or training. Care leavers are allocated a job coach who provides psychologically informed support to help the care leaver overcome the barriers that prevent them getting into education or employment. Groups that are highly marginalised such as young parents or asylum seeker care leavers are included in this scheme.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme was co-designed by local authorities, funding partners and young people and early findings are looking positive. • May reduce cost for public sector. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIBs are a new and debated model that intertwines financial return and social good. There is limited empirical evidence that SIBs are an overall successful model. • Academic experts (Tan et al., 2021; Warner, 2013) suggest that SIBs may end up being a costlier financial model than traditional models as they transfer risk from the public to the private sector. • Academic experts (Fraser et al., 2018; Tan et al., 2021) also caution the use of SIB models because of ideological and pragmatic concerns of privatisation of outcomes-based public sector contracts. 			
Care Leavers Covenant			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
England	2018	Government Report	Government Scheme
Description of model			
<p>The Care Leavers Covenant is a promise by the private, public, and voluntary sectors to provide support for care leavers aged 16-25 to help them transition to live independently. This includes work experience opportunities, mentoring and pastoral care, social support and educational and training opportunities. As a result of this Covenant, at the time of the report, 250 organisations signed a 'statement of intent' and 130 organisations published offers for care leavers on the Covenant website. The Covenant is funded by the Department for Education and while it spans the private, public and voluntary sector – it is particularly focused on private sector employers.</p> <p>One part of this Covenant includes the Civil Service Care Leaver Internship Scheme. This provides 12 months paid internships across government, with the possibility of the rolls made permanent. At the time of the report, 250 care leavers were offered posts, with 500 anticipated. In addition to government internships, the Covenant have worked with major employers to provide employment related opportunities to care leavers.</p>			

A key focus for the Covenant is support for care leavers attending university. Universities were encouraged to sign the covenant and provide packages of support to care leavers when they attend higher education.

Advantages

- Provides a broad number of employment and education opportunities, increasing the choices and autonomy for care leavers.
- The opportunities cater specifically to the unique circumstances of care leavers.
- Reduces the financial burden of upskilling and investing in care leavers on the government through dividing it between companies.

Challenges and risks

- While there is potential for long term employment opportunities, the majority of covenant opportunities are short term and course based and do not provide long term opportunities for care leavers.
- Relies on care leavers as the mediators for organising these opportunities through a central website hub, rather than an Adviser.
- This model’s focus on private sector has been interpreted by reports as influenced by political viewpoints. This suggests that the covenant may be volatile and influenced by the political party in power.

Scottish Care Leavers Covenant

Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Scotland	2015	Report	Cross-agency

Description of model

The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant supports Corporate Parents to “bring consistency to entitlement and support to young people” (Scottish Care Leavers Covenant, n.d.). The Scottish Leaders Covenant is co-produced by a cross-sector alliance of government agencies and NGOs and includes the active participation of young people. The Covenant collectively holds agencies and businesses accountable for supporting care leavers.

Advantages

- Provides tangible actions to close the gap on the poor outcomes experienced by care leavers.
- Focuses across many aspects of care leaver policies and considerations (e.g. health and wellbeing, housing and accommodation and education and training).

Challenges and risks

- Relies on a high standard of cooperation between organisations, and the greater the number of groups in the covenant, the more difficult this can be.
- The covenant needs to be implemented consistently and followed through with in order to be successful and achieve the intended outcomes.

6.7. Innovative programmes and pilots

The Mockingbird programme			
Country	Date launched	Source	Legal Status
Across UK	2015	Evaluation Report	Charity
Description of model			
<p>The Mockingbird Programme was created by The Fostering Network, UK's leading fostering charity. The programme is an innovative form of foster care that seeks to replicate an extended family network. As of August 2020 it was piloted in 61 locations across the UK. The programme creates a constellation of 6-10 satellite fostering families who are supported by one hub home that is operated by an experienced foster carer. The hub home also provides planned and emergency sleepovers (respite care), advice, training and peer support.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme was seen to improve transitions for young people. • The programme was seen as a promising pilot: it was seen to bring normality and stability to the children and young people in care, as well as their foster families through developing relationships and the sense of community. • The wellbeing of children and young people in the programme was similar to children and young people in the community. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evaluation report showed that there was no difference in placement stability between young people that took part in the programme and children in normal foster care but there was improved continuity of care as young people could move to a foster carer within their constellation. • Care leavers outside of scope of the evaluation report but may be an extra variable to consider as impacting the success of this programme. 			

7. Appendix 2: Housing models for youth by jurisdiction: Canada (British Columbia and Ontario)

7.1. Federal context and initiatives of note

Child and youth welfare services are the responsibility of the provinces and territories. While every Canadian jurisdiction has child welfare systems, the exact structure of each service varies. For example, most jurisdictions provide some type of accommodation service but the exact nature of this service varies. Typically, Canadian welfare agencies receive and investigate instances of suspected child abuse, provide assistive services in the protection and care of children, provide safe temporary housing and oversee adoption, and support independent living services for young people leaving foster care (Canadian Child Welfare Research Portal, n.d.).

The federal government provides funding for Indigenous on-Reserve child welfare services through the First Nations Child and Family Services programme. The provinces and territories fund and govern all off-Reserve services (Government of Canada, 2021).

Funding for Indigenous youth in the on-Reserve system stops on the day of the youth's 18th birthday. At the provincial and territorial level, the age at which funding stops varies.

On any given night, there are at least 6,500 young Canadians who experience homelessness and either sleep unsheltered or access emergency shelters. Over a year, the number is closer to 50,000 with even more in unstable housing situations involving temporary living situations with family or friends, which is considered as "couch surfing" (Gaets & Melanie, 2016). In 2013, the proportion of homeless individuals to individuals who couch surf in Vancouver was 1 to 3.5 (Homeless Hub, 2021).

In 2013, there were approximately 62,248 children and young people in government care across Canada (Jones, Vandna, & Nico, 2015). In any given year, approximately one in ten young people in government care will "age out" of the system.

Canadian young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited (LGBTQ2S) make up 25-40% of the youth homeless population, compared to only 5-10% of the general population (Gaets & Melanie, 2016).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government of Canada has placed a moratorium on Indigenous youth "aging out" of the on-Reserve child welfare system (Government of Canada, 2021). Provinces and territories have also placed a moratorium on "aging out" of care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A funding model based on prevention supports early intervention and offers alternatives to traditional avenues of accommodation such as foster care by placing children with family members in a community environment.

Indigenous Services Canada offers four streams of funding to provide accommodation to Indigenous youth on-Reserve. Funding covers the core operations of community-based care settings, provides resources for preventative services, covers direct costs of housing, and provides a stream of funding for community well-being. The funding of on-Reserve accommodation services encourages a higher degree of Indigenous governance and greater influence over the wellbeing of their children.

Youth homeless shelters are at a 97% occupancy rate across Canada. Since one in five homeless individuals in Canada are under the age of 18, additional accommodation services are required to adequately serve this population (Youth Without Shelter, 2021).

British Columbia

7.2. Overall youth in care demographics

- As of 2019, there were 6,263 young people in care throughout B.C. (MCFD, 2019).
- Indigenous youth make up 66% of all young people in care despite only representing approximately 6% of the population (MCFD, 2019).
- As of 2018, approximately 1,000 young people “age out” of care on a yearly basis in B.C. (Doucet, 2018).
- 65% of young people in care have been diagnosed with a mental health issue at least once in childhood (Vancouver Foundation, 2013).

7.3. Types of youth housing support available

- Some municipal housing programmes such as the Vancouver Youth Housing Program and the Youth Housing Year Intensive Program support young people ages 16-24 (Pacific Community Resources Society, 2021; SOS Children’s Village BC, 2021), ages 16-19 through the 10K Supportive Housing Program (Directions Youth Services, 2021), or ages 16-21 with the Youth Supported Independent Living programme (Sault, 2017).
- There is a combination of congregate-site housing, where there is a common room and several attached units with a set ratio of adults to youth and scattered-site housing. In scattered-site accommodation housing is dispersed throughout a community. Scattered-site housing has been shown to reduce stigma and offers more young people more opportunities for independence but is also more isolating than congregate-site housing (Momoh et al., 2018).
- In addition to low-barrier congregate-site and scattered-site housing, there are other housing models in place throughout the Province with higher barriers-to-entry for young people. Foyer housing is a congregate living arrangement (typically 30 to 40 beds per foyer) that provides a safe living environment for young people to acquire independent living skills and more effectively become self-sufficient while making the transition into adulthood. Personalised services in foyers are often contingent upon community engagement requirements from the young people enrolled in the programme (The Foyer Federation, 2020). Acceptance into a foyer housing programme requires enrolment in school and vocational training programmes, and young people pay a fee of 30% of their income which may be returned upon graduation. Host homes are a scattered-site programme

where young people can remain in the programme until age 25, living with a host family who receives support through rent supplements and case management. Lastly, convertible leases are a scattered site, transition model which focuses on skill development and offers long-term housing opportunities; young people are provided with rent subsidies with the option to convert a lease into their own name so they can maintain housing upon graduating the programme. Because the housing agency holds the lease, public opposition to these types of programmes is typically low and landlords are assured that the housing agency will support young tenants. This a low-cost approach but requires communities with affordable rental units. Therefore, considerations of the local housing market and size of city are relevant; smaller cities are likely more suited to this approach (Momoh et al., 2018).

- The Aboriginal Youth Mentorship Programme at Lu'ma Native Housing in Vancouver is a 12 to 18 months programme rooted in Indigenous culture. The programme connects Indigenous youth to a Programme Mentor. Youth are offered a variety of supports, including housing support, with the goal of fostering independence in the community (Donkers, 2012).
- Young people transitioning out of care may also be able to access additional support and funding through an Agreement with Young Adults (AYA), until the day of their 27th birthday (Government of B.C., n.d.).
- Eligible young people, between the ages of 18 and 26, can access up to \$1,250 to help cover the cost of housing, childcare, tuition, and healthcare while they attend school or job training, or while they complete a rehabilitation, mental health, or life skills programme.
- With low barrier scattered-site housing, policies prevent discharging young people to homelessness. Supports are in place to ensure young people have a home before leaving the low barrier scattered-site housing (Momoh et al., 2018).
- For low barrier congregate site housing, the average length of time young people remain in the programme spans from one to three years (Momoh et al., 2018).

B.C. Housing Proposed Provincial Models for Youth Housing

Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, British Columbia	2018	B.C. Housing Research Centre	Proposed provincial models

Description of model

There are Five different models of housing considered for youth subpopulations in BC including: foyer housing; host home and supportive roommate; convertible leases; low scattered-site housing; and low barrier congregate-site housing. Low barrier congregate-

site housing offers group transition housing without a great deal of prerequisites where young people live in a communal setting with some staff involvement. Low barrier scattered-site housing also has little to no prerequisite conditions to be met by young people involved, however young people live in separate home with some intervention from a case manager.

Convertible leases are a scattered site model with more barriers to entry where young people can, upon graduation, have the lease converted into their own name to maintain their housing. Host home and supportive roommates provide a family-like, community-based setting where young people can remain until age 25 while receiving a rent supplement, case management, and support. Lastly, foyer housing is a congregate-site transitional model with significant barriers where young people must be enrolled in school, participate in vocational training, and/or be employed while paying a programme fee of 30% of their income which is returned upon graduation.

Advantages

- All five models follow a harm reduction approach and some programmes engage young people in vocational training and education in addition to providing housing, which could be considered an advantage for young people seeking additional opportunities for effectively transitioning to a self-sufficient, independent living situation.
- Congregate-site housing is effective in small city settings where there is sufficient demand and most youth subpopulations are well-served by this housing model due to a relative lack of barriers.
- Low barrier scattered-site housing, convertible leases and host home and supportive roommate models have minimal capital costs since new housing does not need to be developed. Additionally, scattered-site housing has less community opposition than some congregate-site models. In a randomised control trial of 125 residents of congregate site housing, those using the service experienced greater housing stability, mental health improvements, greater quality of life, and decreased substance use over an 18-month period (Aubry et al., 2020). Because housing markets in small cities typically offer more affordable rental units, scattered-site approaches can offer more opportunities to work towards these outcomes.
- With convertible leases, landlords have rent payment security as the housing agency holds the lease and provides support to young people.
- Host homes do not require landlord engagement and allow young people to be involved in a more community-based, family setting. Likewise, supportive roommates do not require much from landlords since the housing agency holds the lease. In suburban and rural areas, this model is particularly effective.
- Foyer housing provides many educational and vocational opportunities to young people while encouraging self-efficacy. This approach is particularly effective when a sufficient number of young people are involved and there are employment agencies and youth education opportunities available in the community.

Challenges and risks

- Certain models have greater entry criteria, especially with regards to young people with mental health concerns or substance use issues. Foyer housing, host home and supportive roommate, and convertible leases are all models with more barriers – of these, foyer housing has the most barriers.
- Landlords are hesitant to rent out properties to vulnerable young people, especially in cases where there is a lack of support from a youth housing organisation. Even where such support is present, with scattered site housing for example, landlord buy-in can be difficult to attain.

- Congregate-site housing is more accessible in urban areas than rural.
- Low barrier scattered-site housing may have greater cost requirements than congregate-site housing due to intensive case management, outreach, rent subsidies, insurance, and damage deposits being covered.
- Operating costs can be high for convertible leases depending on the community rental market; additionally, the community must have a sufficient number of affordable rental properties to meet the number of youth seeking housing. In urban environments, such as the Greater Vancouver Area, affordable rental units are often in extremely short supply. Therefore, high operating cost for convertible leases is an especially important consideration when implementing programmes in urban areas.
- Foyer housing requires a high amount of capital investment, due to the need to build or acquire housing in addition to ongoing programme costs.

7.4. Housing for youth with special needs

- Community Living B.C. (CLBC) provides supports to young people transitioning from a family living setting, such as a parental home, to a supportive, community-based housing location. Transition planning requires family involvement prior to the individual turning 19, usually around the age of 16. The process involves reviewing eligibility requirements, applying for support with CLBC, and developing an individual support plan for the individual with special needs. (Community Living B.C., 2011).
- Supportive housing is currently being made available throughout the Province. Alongside certain low-income, homeless, and senior populations, supportive housing is available to individuals with special needs. Non-profit housing providers operate supportive housing units. Tenants have self-contained units with kitchenettes and private bathrooms. There are also communal spaces, including, in some buildings, culturally appropriate spaces. Supportive housing provides a range of on-site, non-clinical supports such as: life skills training, connections to health care, mental health or substance-use services. Staff are on-site 24/7 to provide support (B.C. Housing, 2021).

Community Living British Columbia			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, British Columbia	2011	Community Living B.C.	Support service
Description of model			
The youth transition support policy offered through Community Living BC (CLBC) is a model that provides supports and services to young people and their families before they turn 19. Transition planning occurs through accessing community services, developing support networks, and applying for CLBC adult services. This planning begins when young people turn 16.			
Advantages			

- CLBC works with young people and their families to find additional support.
- Preparing young people to enter into community-based living as adults facilitates a smooth transition and ensures they are equipped to receive services from CLBC and participate in community activities as adults.

Challenges and risks

- CLBC do not offer services specifically for young people beyond their transitional services.
- Other housing services for young people with special needs are lacking in the province, overall – other supportive housing is currently being made available.

7.5. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

- The Vancouver Youth Housing Program provides transitional housing to at-risk young people who are more likely to experience homelessness within the Greater Vancouver area. The programme supports young people ages 16-24 and covers needs from low barrier housing to portable market housing subsidies (Pacific Community Resources Society, 2021).
- Waitlists in the Vancouver Youth Housing Program indicate that this programme is chronically oversubscribed (Pacific Community Resources Society, 2021).
- As of 2015 in Vancouver, approximately 40% of youth transition from foster care to homelessness on their 19th birthday (Homeless Hub, Foster Care studies; Simon Fraser University Foster Care Report, 2015)
- At the time of this research (July 2017), 741 housing units were available in Vancouver. Overall, 63% were at full capacity and 58% had waiting lists (Collective Impact TRRUST, 2018):
 - 314 supportive housing beds.
 - 125 transition beds.
 - 175 non-profit or social housing beds.
 - 81 shelter beds.
 - 46 other types of housing bed (e.g., host homes and groups homes).
- As of July 2017, there were 3,664 youth on housing waitlists throughout Vancouver (Collective Impact TRRUST, 2018).
- A 500 square foot bachelor unit in Vancouver costs an average of \$1,060 per month. Typically, young people aging out of care can only afford a third of this if they are on income assistance since the income assistance shelter allowance was only \$375 per month as of 2017. If they were on Agreements with Young Adults, they would only be able to afford half of the payment. As a young adult working full-time, they would spend 73% of their gross monthly income on rent (Collective Impact TRRUST, 2018).

- For young people actively engaged in substance use, the most suitable housing support programme is low-barrier congregate-site housing where young people live together in a semi-independent manner with support workers onsite. For young people in recovery from substance use, the most suitable housing support is low barrier, scattered-site housing where they can engage in more independent living (Momoh et al., 2018).
- The Youth Supported Independent Living Program is designed for young people who experience mental health issues and do not have sufficient resources at home to address these issues. Young people between the ages of 16-21 are referred to the programme by a clinician. They receive safe, affordable housing through a B.C. Housing subsidy. An individual service plan is tailored to each individual's needs by a youth support worker to ensure the programme meets their needs. The support worker works with the individual to establish goals related to home management, nutrition, money management, education or vocational planning, medication routines, stress and time management, problem-solving, and community integration. While they can remain in the programme until they are 21, many transfer to Adult Mental Health Services when they turn 19 and can then apply for Adult Supported Independent Living options (Sault, 2017).

Youth Supported Independent Living			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, British Columbia	2017	Sault, 2017	Supported Housing Program
Description of model			
<p>Youth Supported Independent Living (YSIL) is a supported housing programme for young people ages 16 to 21. The Vancouver-Fraser YSIL programme provides services in the Greater Vancouver Area, including Burnaby, New Westminister, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. YSIL allows young people to transition to adulthood in a stable environment through housing subsidies covered by the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) in the Vancouver-Fraser Valley region. This subsidy covers rent and the cost of a support worker for young people in the programme. Support goals are individualised and can include nutrition, home management, money management, education planning, medical self-care, stress and time management, problem-solving, and community integration. YSIL programmes also cover areas outside of Vancouver but currently there are not many options for young people in rural areas. In the future, YSIL is looking to expand to other areas in B.C.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people can work with a support worker to design an individualised service plan that works for them and utilises available resources offered through YSIL. • Young people have autonomy and can transition to adulthood in an environment that promotes independence, is free of conflict, and is financially supportive. • Funding is available to cover medication costs for young people with mental health issues; additionally, the cost of therapy is also subsidised through YSIL. 			

- Young people as young as 16 can enrol in the programme.

Challenges and risks

- Enrolled young people cannot remain in the programme once they turn 21. This potentially means losing a support team as well as supportive systems such as access to a psychiatrist and therapist. The individual then has to apply to other supportive housing offered through B.C. Housing for adults, such as Adult Supported Independent Living.
- Very limited spots are available in this programme, which is representative of the framework of many such youth housing programmes. Therefore, it is difficult to get into most youth housing programmes in the Province due to limited spots and waitlists.
- Previously, the programme had a training apartment where young people could try spending a few trial nights where they could prepare to make the transition to living on their own. Unfortunately, due to the high costs of having a vacant apartment available for this purpose, they no longer have this component as part of their programme.
- The current housing market makes it very difficult to house young people due to low vacancy rates in the Greater Vancouver Area and, due to the high amount of competition, landlords are reluctant to rent out to young, unemployed people.
- Access to supportive housing for young people in rural areas is limited due to a lack of YSIL centres.

7.6. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

- The foyer housing model in B.C. requires enrolment in school for young people in the programme and also offers vocational training services to them. The low barrier, scattered-site housing support programme also provides education support resources (Momoh et al., 2018).
- The Supporting Education for Foster Youth programme supports long-term education for foster young people and former foster young people currently receiving housing support. In this programme, young people are connected with an educational specialist and receives assistance in applying for bursaries and training opportunities for a variety of schools and programmes. Bootstraps is an employment support programme which provides occupational skills training, certifications such as Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) and First Aid, and other workplace-relevant training related to communication, teamwork, and problem solving (Aunt Leah's Place: Registered Non-Profit, 2021).
- The 10K Supportive Housing Program offers one-to-one support in the areas of education, employment, and mental health care and substance use (Directions Youth Services, 2021).
- SOS B.C. has developed a year-long programme for young people aging out of care to continue living in a supported environment, while they attain the essential skills to prepare them for independence. The programme focuses on short-term goals of providing resources to transfer out of foster care,

advocating for their rights, and building a sense of community, and long-term goals of fostering independence, stability, and self-efficacy (SOS Children’s Village, 2021).

- In 2019, the SOS B.C. programme supported eight young people in their Year Intensive Housing Program and three young people transitioned to independent living. 58 young people were supported in their Transition to Adulthood Programme. There was a 100% graduation rate; young people in care achieved their GED or high school diploma before exiting the programme (SOS Children’s Village, 2019).

Supporting Education for Foster Youth Program			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, British Columbia	2018	Aunt Leah’s Place: Registered Non-Profit, 2021	Support service
Description of model			
<p>The mission of the Supporting Education for Foster Youth (SEFFY) programme is supporting long-term education planning for foster youth and former foster youth in care, primarily between the ages of 16 to 24. The SEFFY model emphasises a strengths-based approach (i.e., highlighting strengths), focusing on needs and advocating for resources that lead to academic success for young people. There are two parts to the SEFFY model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An educational specialist working in partnership with foster youth and other caring professionals in their lives to promote education permanency, with specific focuses on advocacy, resources, reducing barriers and career planning. • An advisory committee made up of educators and staff from community support agencies to provide guidance on programme direction as well as assessing recipients for bursaries on a wide range of educational, skill enhancement and training opportunities rounds up the other part of the SEFFY model. 			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEFFY receives funding from the City of Vancouver, Coast Capital Savings, TELUS, HSBC, The Seedling Foundation, and the R.R. Smith Foundation so it ensures that young people have access to education and employment support services. • SEFFY is representative of other programmes in BC that offer education and employment support to young people. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEFFY only supports foster children and does not offer services to other at-risk young people populations. • There is an application process to receive support through SEFFY. Due to this, there can be long waitlist times for potential applicants. 			

Ontario

7.7. Overall youth in care demographics

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario issued a moratorium on young people “aging out” of care until September 2022. This means that no young people will be forced to transition out of care until after September 2022 (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2021).
 - In Ontario, there are 50 designated Children’s Aid Societies (OACAS, 2020).
 - 12 are Indigenous Child and Family Well-Being agencies.
- Three are faith-based Child and Family Well-Being agencies.
- In 2019/20, there were an average of 9,300 children and young people in care during a single month (OACAS, 2020).
- 45% of young people in care were ages 16-20.
- Indigenous young people are over-represented in the youth homelessness population in Ontario (Gaets & Melanie, 2016).
- More than a third of young people who experience homelessness in Canada are from Ontario, which is proportionate to Ontario’s population (Gaets & Melanie, 2016). However, because of the significant proportion of Canada’s total homeless youth population that are located in Ontario, their provincial programmes provide additional insight into youth housing initiatives in Canada.
- 1 in every 100 youth experience homelessness each year in Toronto and they represent 28% of the total homeless population in the Province. 40% of total homeless young people in Toronto, Ontario experience homelessness at a particularly early age before they reach the age of 16, 74% are members of a racialised group, and 14% identify as Indigenous (Youth Without Shelter, 2021).

7.8. Housing and types of support available

- The Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services offers several supports to youth aging out of care. Youth access supports through their care agency (e.g., Children’s Aide Society).
 - The Continued Care and Support for Youth programme offers eligible young people up to \$850 per month, as well as guidance and support until the age of 21.

- The Transition and Life Skills programmes help to connect young people, ages 16-18, with community services and supports, including housing support.
- In 2016, the Province of Ontario released a policy brief on developing a strategy to combat youth homelessness. The brief focused on the Province working with youth community partners in a process of community action, extending a knowledge base, and engagement with young people on a provincial and federal level. The policy also established A Way Home, which is a cross-sectoral, national coalition which utilises programme planning and implementation to support communities and engage in systemic change at all levels of government. (Gaets & Melanie, 2016).
- Housing First is a predominant model in Ontario (Gaets, 2017).
 - Housing First for youth (“HF4Y”) is a model that focuses on securing permanent and stable housing that meets the needs of young people as quickly as possible.
 - Under this model, housing is viewed as a right, rather than a commodity, therefore there are no preconditions to qualify for housing support and young people do not need to demonstrate that they are “ready” for housing (e.g., by being sober or having financial security). Housing and supports are separate, but related services/issues.
 - The model has a zero discharge to homelessness policy, meaning that young people are not discharged from the programme until they have stable, suitable housing.

Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Policy Brief			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, Ontario	2015	Policy Brief: Towards an Ontario Youth Homelessness Strategy	Policy Brief
Description of model			
<p>Based on a panel report from January 2015, the Province of Ontario implemented immediate and long-term actions including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting a target to end chronic homelessness in 10 years. ● Providing up to \$10 million over two years in targeted funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund to help prevent and end homelessness across the province. ● Adopting the recommended definition of homelessness, including chronic homelessness, to build common language and understanding about the problem and planning to require enumeration at the local level to gather data about homelessness. ● Prioritising provincial action to reduce homelessness in four areas: youth, Aboriginal, and chronic homelessness, as well as homelessness following transitions from provincially-funded institutions and service systems, such as jails and hospitals. 			

For homeless young people, Ontario's "Housing First" framework was adapted for young people. This included key programme initiatives where foyer housing and other transitional housing options are made available alongside employment training and support, mental health and addictions supports focused on harm reduction, and re-engagement in education.

Advantages

- The policy brief focuses on all areas of youth housing with a focus on street-entrenched young people. This highlights areas other than housing including education, mental health, and employment training.
- School-based early intervention programmes identify young people at risk of homelessness and provide necessary support to reduce these risks.
- Family First is an initiative of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in Ontario. This initiative focuses on working with young people and their family to mediate conflict, strengthen relationships, and nurture natural support for young people through case management support.
- Plans were designed separately for each community, expanding across small towns and rural areas as well, to ensure that the programme interventions for youth housing were tailored to the needs of that specific community.
- Separate funding was made available for Indigenous youth who are over-represented in the youth homelessness population.

Challenges and risks

- The policy brief outlines areas for specific ministries to engage with youth housing for vulnerable population in a multitude of areas. However, as a policy brief, the breadth and complexity of their recommendations may not have resulted in a parsimonious approach to youth housing.
- In a policy brief for the Government of Canada, they proposed an annual investment of \$16.5M to address youth homelessness through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy. This figure may be cost prohibitive due to the expansiveness of their initiatives and, depending on the jurisdiction and context, may need to be scaled back to be implemented. However, since 2015, the implementation of the policy brief has been rolled out as intended in the brief.

7.9. Housing for youth with special needs

- Community agencies provide different residential accommodations that help people with a developmental disability including specialised residences for people with a developmental disability who have additional needs, such as mental health services (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2018).
- The Ontario Ministry of Child and Youth Services offers housing for young people under 18 years old, including those with special needs. Access to special education classrooms within the residences, individualised goals, and access to support workers allow young people with special needs to be supported in these homes (CMHA Ontario, 2021a).

- Children and young people may be placed in residential settings by parents, children's aid societies, other placing agencies, community access mechanisms or in the case of youth justice, ordered through the courts. The children and young people come from a variety of backgrounds and may have a multitude of needs. Residential settings provide a range of services from basic accommodation, care and supervision in a family home setting to specialised programmes in treatment settings for children and youth with complex special needs or who are medically fragile (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2020).
- 12% of Toronto youth who experience homelessness have a physical disability, 18% have an addiction, and 39% have a mental health issue (Youth Without Shelter, 2021).

Developmental Services Ontario			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, Ontario	2017	Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, CMHA Ontario	Housing Programme
Description of model			
<p>Specialised residences are available for youth with developmental disabilities or who have additional needs. Individuals contact Developmental Services Ontario to apply for these residences and, if eligible, staff help them and their families complete an application and access relevant supports as they become available. The Host Family Program connects individuals with developmental disabilities with family homes. However, this service is geared more towards adults with developmental disabilities. For youth, the Ontario Ministry of Child and Youth Services operate publicly funded group homes for young people up to the age of 18. These homes are community-based and all children have care goals that are updated every 90 days. Special education and treatment are focuses of these homes and supporting youth with special needs is part of this focus. Some residences have special education classrooms and support workers can assist youth with special needs as they attend classes.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individualised approach to goal-planning, the degree of supervision and guidance from support workers, and approach to individualised living and community integration are all flexible aspects of residential housing for youth in Ontario. Therefore, individuals with special needs are supported in these homes. • Special education classrooms in some residential locations allow individuals with developmental disabilities to receive additional support in their living environment. • Semi-institutional residences tend to have a higher ratio of staff to residents. They provide more supervision than group homes and sometimes offer other supports such as nursing care. These residences would be most appropriate for youth with special needs in need of housing. 			
Challenges and risks			

- While the supports for youth are integrated into the youth housing system in Ontario, they are not specifically geared towards youth. Instead, there are supportive elements that can serve special needs populations alongside other youth in the Province. Due to the non-specific nature of the supports, elements may not be as applicable to youth with special needs as they could be.
- The focus on independence and community integration may make it difficult for individuals with high support requirements to thrive in the programmes.

7.10. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

- In 2011, Comprehensive Mental Health and Addictions Strategy committed to investing \$257 million over three years for child and youth mental health services and the Canadian Mental Health Association recommended that the government take steps to develop a Housing First Model to provide housing options and rent supplements to vulnerable populations to include more a focus on offering options to youth with mental health and addictions issues (CMHA Ontario, 2021b).
- Residential services for youth with mental health issues include counselling, behavioural intervention, crisis support, family support and training, prosocial skills building, and psychiatric treatment (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2020).
- Addressing the needs of young people with mental health and addictions issues continues to be a major challenge for those working in the homelessness sector. Young people who are homeless are more likely than housed youth to exhibit not only serious mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, but also very high levels of depression, anxiety, hostility, paranoia and suicidal ideation due to the reality of life on the streets. One consequence of these challenges is that many young people resort to the use of substances to cope. Mental health issues are then both a contributor to youth homelessness, but also a barrier to transitioning from the streets (Gaets & Redman, 2016).
- Some programmes are designed specifically for young people who have been diagnosed with a mental health problem. Other residences may accept children or youth who simply cannot live in the family home: Many of these young people will have mental health issues, but the kinds of problems they have will vary. Both group homes and institutions are available as potential housing options for youth with mental health issues (CMHA Ontario, 2021a).
- Raft Niagara Resource Service for youth is a programme that helps youth ages 16 to 24 years of age who experience homelessness by providing access to permanent housing. Works support youth and help them navigate service systems specific to their needs (Government of Ontario, 2017).

Residential Services Operated through the Ministry of Child and Youth Services			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, Ontario	2015	CMHA Ontario	Support Services / Legal Policy
Description of model			
<p>Most group homes in Ontario are set up to serve teenagers. There are two types of adolescent homes, treatment- or transition-oriented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment-oriented: The purpose of placement in these homes is to help the teen work through problems, so that they can leave more able to handle their lives. The goal is to help the teen change and grow. • Transition-oriented: These homes tend to be for older teenagers who are not able to live in the family home, but are also not quite ready for independent living. <p>Of these two types of homes, treatment homes are more catered to at-risk youth with mental health issues, substance use, or behavioural concerns. Community-based group homes generally have four to ten beds. At least one staff member is always present, and (depending on the needs of the group members) there may be two or three staff members: a residential supervisor; often, a family worker; and a cook and/or housekeeper.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-risk youth can receive assistance with mental health concerns through individual therapy, counselling, group therapy, and support from care workers. • Treatment-oriented residences allow youth to remain the setting until they turn 18. Most stay in these specialised residences from anywhere from 3 to 15 months. • Services are catered to youth with diagnosed mental health issues, family conflict or trauma, pre-existing conditions such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), or behavioural issues including a history of violence. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A referral process requires parents or guardians to place youth under the age of 16 in residential services, youth 16 or older can refer themselves. This could potentially be a barrier to at-risk youth under the age of 16 who require housing support. • Many residential programmes have a wait list. The wait can be anywhere from one week to several months, depending on the needs of the child or youth, and the mix of young people in the programme. • Publicly funded residences are free for the residents, which means that families do not pay a fee. However, if these programmes are full or not accessible, privately owned residential services can be very expensive. 			

7.11. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

- Youth between the ages of 18 and 21 who are “aging out” of care but need additional time to complete high school, may be eligible to remain with their caregivers (e.g., a foster parent) through the Stay Home for School program (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, 2021).

- The Carriage House in Peterborough, Ontario has been in operation for over fifteen years. It provides a space for students to continue and complete their education. It works in partnership with the Program for Academic and Creative Extension (PACE) and other local schools to ensure that young people are able to continue their education via literacy basic-skills pre-credit programming, independent studies, or mainstream programming as they achieve housing and other forms of stability in their lives (Nichols, 2019).
- Youth unemployment is a challenge in Ontario but one that presents particular barriers for young people trying to escape homelessness. For young people who experience homelessness and are considered ‘employment ready’, there is Hire Up, a national hiring portal that connects employers with youth-serving organisations to create meaningful employment opportunities for youth with lived experience of homelessness. For those who are more deeply entrenched on the streets, there is Train for Trades (modelled by Choices for Youth, St. John’s Newfoundland) a unique training programme that focuses on energy retrofits. Using a wrap around supports model (including accommodation, life skills, mentoring, job coaching, mental health and addictions supports) young people are given a solid foundation to pursue training and education. Working in collaboration with a training college, trade unions and local businesses, Train for Trades teaches young people to retrofit houses, resulting in reduced energy usage and energy poverty. Young people leave the programme with marketable skills, greater housing stability, confidence and a chance to contribute to their community. The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness has created a comprehensive toolkit based on Train for Trades that enables communities to adapt the model (Gaets & Redman, 2016).
- The Sagatay (A New Beginning) programme is an Indigenous housing programme in Ontario that helps homeless Indigenous youth transition into permanent and stable housing over a three to six months programme called Apaenmowineen (Having Confidence in Myself). This programme offers workshops on literacy, addictions, employment, community activities, drumming, sharing circles, and other traditional teachings (Government of Ontario, 2017).

Residential Services Operated through the Ministry of Child and Youth Services

Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Canada, Ontario	2011	CMHA Ontario	Policy brief

Description of model

Working in collaboration with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing invested in training and support for young people who are homeless, integrating this into a Housing First for Youth strategy. Train for Trades targets youth homelessness and provides youth with opportunities for skill development. Given recent announcements by the province (investment in energy retrofits) as well as the federal government (enhanced infrastructure investments), going to scale with Train for Trades and combining it with Housing First for Youth presents an opportunity to make a major impact on youth homelessness.

Advantages

- Hire Up is a national hiring portal that is recommended as a means to support youth seeking employment. It offers information about employment and features a contact form for youth. The online platform is easily accessible and can be accessed by youth in supportive housing with support from care workers.
- Access to education, income and employment opportunities were identified as a priority in the policy brief from the Canadian Mental Health Association for Ontario. Although a new government is now present in Ontario, they continue to build on this 2011 policy brief by expanding youth homeless programmes and improving community-based services. This ensures that education opportunities are present through the special education classrooms built into some community housing for youth.

Challenges and risks

- There is a lack of specific employment resources throughout Ontario, specifically, that are offered to youth in supportive housing. Instead, resources such as Hire Up, are not region-specific and may not be as applicable to youth seeking employment.
- The focus on much of Ontario's youth education focuses on the preventative role of education in terms of preventing youth homelessness. There is not as much attention paid to high quality education resources for youth in housing.

8. Appendix 3: Housing models for youth by jurisdiction: United States (New York and Minnesota)

8.1. Federal context and initiatives of note

- Currently, there are an estimated 4.2 million youth (ages 13 to 17) and young adults (ages 18 to 25) that are homeless in the US. Of these, 700,000 are unaccompanied minors. Each night, throughout the country, 41,000 youth ages 13 to 25 experience homelessness (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2021).
- This year (2021), the American Rescue Plan Act was signed. It provides states with funding to support youth experiencing homelessness. \$800 million USD in funding was made available to address learning loss among homeless children and youth in foster care during COVID-19. This act also allows homeless youth and foster youth to claimed additional tax credits (Yarmuth, 2021).
- The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act was originally signed in 1974 and authorises federal funding for three programmes assisting youth: The Basic Centre Program, Transitional Living Program, and Street Outreach Program (Family and Youth Services Bureau, 2018).
- The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 ensured enrolment, attendance, and success of children and youth in school by eliminating transportation and attendance barriers. This was started in New York and then rolled out across the country (Committee on Education and Labor of House of Representatives, 2002).
- The Chaffee Foster Care Independence Program provides states with funding to support youth ages 18 to 21 who age out of foster care. This money can be used for housing, education, and independent living. The U.S. Federal Government increased the funding to the states to support foster youth until they turn 21 as long as they are in school or have extenuating medical circumstances. This programme also involves housing assistance, vocational training, college help, and counselling for children who age out of foster care (Children's Bureau, 2012).

New York

8.2. Overall youth demographics in housing and types of support available

- Supervised Independent Living Programs (SILPs) in New York provides beds for youth aging out of New York’s foster care system each year. In the state-funded programmes, youth were provided with a rental subsidy of up to \$300 USD per month for up to three years. The Administration for Children’s Services also provided \$400 USD for shelter and transitional beds from about 2000 to 2011. (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2002).
- The state’s Supervised Independent Living Program provides an apartment setting for youth transitioning out of foster care and covers youth ages 17 to 21. There are no fees but some required documentation and an application process (211CNY, 2021).
- In 2011, the Administration for Children’s Services dismantled SILP funding with the justification that youth “should have a family to support them throughout their lives” rather than transitioning through a state-funded SILP. The programme was very costly and there was some confusion about which youth would be placed in the programme so they further justified the decision due to this. The SILPs cost \$4,422.317 USD per year with the city paying 33% of this. When these programmes closed in 2011, those currently in SILPs would either go back into the foster system or into other public housing arrangements (Center for New York City Affairs, 2011).
- Since the state funding through the Administration for Children’s Services is no longer available, SILPs have had to be established and funded separately through the many organisations in New York. Some of these SILPs have expanded to better provide support to certain sub-populations. For example, young parents are targeted in the Mother-Baby SILP offered through the Children’s Home organisation (Children’s Home, 2019).
- Across New York, roughly 40 organisations provide housing and services to more than 600 homeless and at-risk young adults. This was previously supplemented by the supportive housing currently funded by the state, 200 units of which offered supportive housing for youth aging out of foster care and 200 units for youth leaving psychiatric institutional care, until 2011. These organisations now take on most of the youth housing in the state with an additional 400 shelter and transitional beds for youth still funded by the state. In total, the roughly 1,000 units are strained to meet the needs of the roughly 1,300 youth that age out of the New York foster care system each year, not to mention the other youth in need of supportive housing (Supportive Housing Network of NY, 2021).

Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP)			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New York, US	2000-2011	211CNY; Children’s Home; Corporation for Supportive Housing	Housing program
Description of model			
<p>Supervised Independent Living Programs (SILPs) are transitional residential independent living programmes that are supported and funded by different government entities. The 400 beds available in New York’s SILP were separated into 200 beds designated for those aging out of foster care, and 200 beds for youth leaving psychiatric care. This programme focused on strategies to prepare older youth for the transition to independent living. This time-limited approach supported youth during a brief window from age 17 to 21 and focused on facilitating successful transitions to adulthood. Since the funding from the Administration for Children’s Services ceased in 2011, independent organisations have taken on the role of providing SILP to youth. As part of this, certain organisations have focused on sub-populations of interest such as young adults with children. SILPs in these organisations sometimes have housing units with trained personnel on site who are thoroughly vetted to ensure they are suited to work with youth in these settings.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth in SILPs gain experience with financial management; living skills such as cooking, shopping, and cleaning; and still have some stability through access to support workers. • Facilitates an effective transition to adulthood. • Has targeted sub-populations including young parents, youth aging out of the foster system, and youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the lost \$1.5 million per year in funding from the Administration for Children’s Services in New York, SILPs have to be funded from other sources and are therefore in shorter supply. • SILPs currently do not meet the demand for youth housing and other housing programmes and policies are required. There are currently 40 independent organisations in New York providing 600 units. • SILPs are expensive to run and the programme could not be sustained at a cost of \$100 USD per day to run. Therefore, the government funding could not be continued. • As a short, time-limited process, transitional living programmes the SILPs in New York typically only help youth within a narrow age range (ages 17-21) for a few years (average of 2 years in the programme). Therefore, this is not a sustained housing solution with a possibility of youth being able to get a head start on housing, but instead a residential programme to temporarily decrease their likelihood of experiencing homelessness until they exit the programme at age 21. 			

8.3. Housing for youth with special needs

- The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Programme seeks to improve the system of care for children and youth with special health care needs from birth and up to 21 years of age and their families. The programme helps to shape public policy so families can get the best health care for their children (New York State Department of Health, 2021).
- Children with physical conditions, intellectual or developmental disability, and/or behavioural or emotional conditions are served by the CYSHCN programme. The CYSHCN assists families and youth financially with medical payments until 21 years of age in New York who meet medical and financial eligibility requirements (New York State Department of Health, 2021).
- CYSHCN regional support centres provide assistance, training, mentorship, and coaching to improve local health departments' ability to support families with CYSHCN (New York State Department of Health, 2021).
- Almost half of New York households receiving assistance from CYSHCN have income that falls below 200% of the federal poverty level. Therefore, paying medical bills, ensuring their child goes to school each day, and is equipped to transition to an appropriate housing situation as they transition to adulthood would be difficult if they were not receiving financial assistance from the programme (New York State Department of Health, 2019).

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New York, US	2013	New York State Department of Health	Support programme for youth with special needs
Description of model			
<p>The CYSHCN program is administered by the Bureau of Child Health in the Division of Family Health. Conditions include but are not limited to ADD or ADHD, allergies, anxiety, arthritis/joint problems, asthma, autism or autism spectrum disorder, behavioural/conduct problem, blood disorders, Cerebral Palsy, Cystic Fibrosis, depression, developmental delay, diabetes, Down syndrome, epilepsy/seizure disorder, genetic or inherited condition, head injury, hearing problem, heart problem, intellectual disability, learning difficulty, migraines, other mental health condition, muscular dystrophy, sickle cell anaemia, speech or language disorder, substance abuse disorder, Tourette syndrome, and vision problem. The programme is not limited to these conditions. If families meet financial eligibility requirements as well, CYSHCN provides funding for medication and other resources to the family.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth with special needs receive required financial support so they can have more stable access to education and experience a higher quality of health. 			

- Because the funding continues up until youth turn 21, youth can have housing stability if they are cohabiting with their families.

Challenges and risks

- After youth turn 22, they are no longer eligible for funding.
- There are no programmes in New York that specifically provide housing to youth with special needs, although this indirectly could contribute to housing stability for youth with special needs in difficult financial situations.

8.4. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

- Because the number of beds provided by the Supervised Independent Living Program is somewhat limited, Good Shepherd Services is one of many programmes focusing on youth housing for vulnerable populations (Supportive Housing Network of NY, 2021).
- All 40 foyer tenants at Good Shepherd Services are formerly homeless, at risk of homelessness, or aging out of foster care. After progressing through the programme, 100% secure housing upon completion of the programme and 94% of those in the Transfer High School program maintain internships successfully following graduation. (Supportive Housing Network of NY, 2021).
- Good Shepherd Services was established in 1857 and started a family support programme in 1972. They established residential programmes for adolescents and young adults. The Chelsea Foyer is one of seven such programmes, and was the first Foyer programme in the US. The programme provides case management, job training, education, and promotes the development of life skills. As the first programme of its kind in the US, it is an excellent case study to look at how the UK's foyer model can be applied elsewhere (Good Shepherd Services, n.d.).
- The Chelsea Foyer focuses on providing housing for children aging out of foster care while building capacity and skills for long-term self-sufficiency (Good Shepherd, n.d.).
- The average age of admission is 21, the residents are 40% male, 58% female, and 1% transgender. The majority of residents are Black (61%) and Latino (33%). 47% came from emergency shelters, 28% directly from foster care, and 3% from transitional programmes. 36% of all residents have a history in foster care. 92% have experienced at least one serious traumatic event and 45% meet the cut-off for clinically significant PTSD symptoms. A year after completing the programme, 95% of alumni were in stable housing situations and employed (Hinds, 2016).
- Residents at the Chelsea Foyer participate in personalised programming that runs up to 24 months and it incorporates the Good Shepherd's Youth and

Family Development Approach, The Sanctuary Model, and Life’s WORC (which provides residential services to individuals with developmental disorders across several counties in New York) (Hinds, 2016).

- There is no dedicated funding stream for the Chelsea Foyer so Good Shepherd pieces together funding from a variety of grants and funding at the federal, state, and municipal levels as well as private contributions. As of 2016, the NYS Supportive Housing Program was among the funding contributors to Good Shepherds Services (Hinds, 2016).

Good Shepherd Services – The Chelsea Foyer			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New York, US	2002	Supportive Housing Network of NY; Corporation for Supportive Housing	Housing programme
Description of model			
<p>Good Shepherd Services provides social service and youth development through supportive housing in a foyer system. They run city-wide residential and foster care services including diagnostic and residential treatment centres for adolescents. They are one of the more prominent programmes, especially for youth requiring extra support with behavioural or mental health issues. The foyer allows young adults to gain the skills and capability required for continued education, employment, and social wellbeing. This is done through integrating youth who need a range of support alongside individuals who require intensive services. Youth coming out of foster care can transition to these foyer settings from the ages of 18 to 25. Therefore, these apartments can provide a temporary solution for youth aging out of foster care during a critical stage of growth and development. As of April 30th, 2002, the Chelsea Foyer was established as 200 four bedroom apartments with initial investments of \$23.9 million from the state and other stakeholders. Nineteen years later, the foyer is running strong and has seen many youth progress through the programme, since they typically spend two years in the foyer. Currently, 40 homeless and at-risk youth are supported in this programme at a time.</p> <p>Data from the first five years of operating the programme show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77% of the 120 people who graduated from the programme had stable housing when discharged; and • One year after leaving the Foyer, 84% of participants still had stable housing; 91% were employed; 56% were in school; 28% had graduated college or university. 			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully bridges the gap between care and adulthood while ensuring youth are not homeless during this critical point. • Youth in the foyer are all formerly homeless, at risk of homelessness, or aging out of foster care. In this sense, the most at-risk youth are directly targeted by the programme. • Good Shepherd Services is only one of many separate programmes that run in a similar capacity and support a similar population. Therefore, there are many options available for at-risk youth in New York through programmes such as the Lantern Organisation, the Neighbourhood Coalition for Shelter, Inc, The Door, and other 			

organisations running scattered site programmes which offer educational and vocational support to youth aging out of care.

- Good Shepherd Services is well established and has been supporting youth housing for 150 years. The stability of their programmes over time, therefore, is relatively high and dependable for youth looking to engage with their programme.

Challenges and risks

- Currently, the Chelsea Foyer has 40 Four bedroom units. Therefore, 160 youth can live in this apartment at a time. Since individuals typically spend an average of two years in the programme, there is somewhat limited space for youth looking for housing. Luckily, there many other programmes and organisations which have filled much of this gap so there are still options for these individuals. Examples of such programmes include a 91-unit supportive housing project, a 24-hour drop in centre run through SafeSpace, residential and educational programmes focusing on offering residential accommodation for LGBTQ youth through Green Chimneys, Covenant house residential and employment programmes, Safe Horizons outreach and drop-in centre, and several other programmes.
- For youth leaving psychiatric institutional care or requiring additional support, there are no on-site support workers involved in this programme. Therefore, for some individuals, foyer programmes such those offered through Good Shepherd Services may fall short of meeting their needs.

8.5. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

- Some supportive foyer housing, such as what is offered through the Good Shepherd Services at the Chelsea Foyer, provides some vocational and educational support to youth (Chelsea foyer, n.d.).
- After receiving vocational and educational training at the Chelsea Foyer, 91% were employed two years after exiting the programme, 55% less likely to be incarcerated and the percentage enrolled in college increased to 40% (Hinds, 2016).
- When youth age out of foster care, the New York Administration for Children's Services' Housing Academy Collective (HAC) provides resources to youth ages 16 to 21 to help secure housing. In addition to this, the HAC helps youth with resume building, employment and career planning, educational goal setting, financial literacy, referrals for education and employment, and job training partnership with FEGS Academy, Swiss Board, Year Up and CO-OP Technical (NYC Children, n.d.).
- The HAC provides five core training sessions for youth ages 16 to 21 in any of the employment and vocational areas they specialise in (NYC Children, n.d.).
- The McKinney-Vento Act was first passed in 1987 to address youth homelessness and assist children in an education environment, providing support at school for students that are temporarily housed. This includes living in temporary or inadequate night-time residences, as was the case for

148,000 students in the state of New York in 2016-2017 (New York State Education Department, 2019).

Supervised Independent Living Program (SILP)			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New York, US	1987	New York State Education Department	Legal policy
Description of model			
<p>The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act was passed in 1987. This Act is the only major federal legislation dealing with homelessness. The programme ensures that supports are available at school for students that are temporarily housed. Over the years, the Act has been amended many times to strengthen its scope and strengthen its provisions. In 2015, there were steps taken to remove barriers to enrolment, attendance, and provide homeless students with an opportunity to succeed in school. A homeless liaison works in schools to provide students with access to food, medical services, tutoring, transportation, and connect them with further information and resources. They also removed address requirements from school that prevented some students from attending in the past.</p> <p>Children and Youth who are experiencing homelessness have the following rights guaranteed under the McKinney-Vento Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there; • The right to choose between the local school close to where they are currently living and their school of origin, which is the school they attended before losing their housing or the school where they were last enrolled; • The right to be immediately enrolled and to participate in school without providing any documents, such as proof of residency, immunisations, school records, or other documents normally needed for enrolment; the right to transportation to and from the school where they were last permanently housed or last attended; • The right to receive free meals at school, without filling out an application; and, • The right to access the same special programmes and services, if needed, as those offered to other students who are eligible to receive them. 			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of barriers allows students to more readily participate in education and be connected with helpful resources. • This policy ensures that the educational rights of students are met regardless of their living situation. • Additional resources are available to students with unstable living environments to maximise the value they receive from their education. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The resources are only available to current students and once they graduate, some of this support may not be available and they must look towards other avenues. • The funding required for this Act to be adhered to is substantial since the costs include transportation, the creation of additional support staff positions, and resources to stabilise the living situation of roughly 150,000 students per year. This may be cost-prohibitive, depending on the jurisdiction and proportion of youth experiencing disrupted education due to unstable housing situations. 			

Minnesota

8.6. Overall youth demographics in housing and types of support available

- On any given night in Minnesota, 6,000 youth experience homelessness (Youthlink, 2021).
- Programmes such as The Link support 2,000 youth annually in terms of housing and their 22 programmes (13 of which are housing-based) operate across the state of Minnesota (The Link, 2021).
- The Link (formerly Life's Missing Link Inc), and RS Eden Inc. are two corporations who have responded to the need for youth housing in Minnesota. The collaboration has produced 24 safe, affordable housing units for adults ages 16 to 24, all with private bathrooms. There are also staff onsite including a counsellor and community liaison, several case managers, site manager, and maintenance personnel. This semi-supervised independent living format allows youth to effectively transition into self-sufficient adult living (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2002).
- The Link runs 13 youth housing programs, with specific, targeted programmes for African American youth, LGBTQ youth, and young families. These programmes provide a continuum of support for youth and young families who are experiencing homelessness: homeless prevention, street outreach, drop-in centre, emergency shelter and housing. These programmes also include services such as early childhood programming and support for young parents, case management, support with education and employment, mental and physical health care support, independent living skills, youth leadership development and a variety of positive activities (The Link, 2021).
- The Link also runs a dynamic response program to assist youth ages 15 to 17 who are at risk of homelessness, experiencing homeless, or experiencing unstable housing. This is done in partnership with the YMCA and The Youth Law Project (The Link, 2021).
- In 2017, 8,711 youth received serves through YouthLink, a 31% increase over the previous year (Charity Intelligence Canada, 2020).
- The Link is supported by a combination of community funding, corporate funding, government contracts, in-kind contributions, and events; the bulk of their funding is from government contracts (\$6.6 million USD out of \$9 million USD). Their program services cost \$7.1 million USD in 2019, with 42% of this cost being from housing and the remainder consisting of administration costs, juvenile justice, and safe harbour for vulnerable youth. The juvenile justice and safe harbour make up the remainder of their 22

programmes and are not related to the roughly \$3 million in the cost of housing (The Link, 2019).

- The Lindquist Apartments also include a community room, computer lab, tenant lounge, laundry facilities, and a courtyard (RS Eden, 2021).

The Link and RS Eden Collaboration			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Minnesota, US	2002	The Link; Corporation for Supportive Housing	Housing Programme
Description of model			
<p>The collaboration between The Link and RS Eden, two of Minnesota’s primary providers of supportive youth housing, focuses on providing an all-encompassing support service to young adults that focuses on community engagement, and encourages them to be productive, independent adults. The collaborative program has a focus on supporting homeless youth. Lindquist Apartments provides housing and services for youth for as long as the youth need. The goal of the program is to provide young people with support during their transition out of homelessness into stable housing and a happy and healthy future. There are also programmes for younger adolescents ages 15-17 to secure more stable housing in the future. Housing costs The Link \$3 million per year to support roughly 2,000 youth. The Lindquist Apartments provide additional services onsite to youth involved such as case management, life skills education, vocational training, services connecting youth with post-secondary education opportunity, mental health treatment, healthcare services, leadership development opportunities, and support groups for LGBTQ youth. RS Eden operates below the apartments and provides services to homeless and individuals with disabilities.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The all-encompassing and inclusive nature of the programmes offered onsite at the Lindquist Apartments. • Because the project is a collaboration between two of the main youth housing providers in Minnesota, participants in the programme benefit from resources from both organisations. • Youth can enter the programme at 16 and remain until 24. Therefore, they are supported for a significant period and have ample time to transition to independent, adult living. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are only 24 spaces for youth in the programme at the Lindquist Apartments, although both The Link and RS Eden have other services youth can potentially access including the roughly 2,000 spaces for youth housing in total that The Link offers each year. • There is a small fee for youth to pay to participate in the housing programme, although the fee is affordable. The fees individuals pay vary based on their individual circumstances. 			

8.7. Housing for youth with special needs

- The Link has 30 units of scattered site supportive housing for youth with a physical disability. The supportive services that accompany the housing involve connections with health care services. Youth with developmental or intellectual disabilities could receive support from this service; however, it is not targeted to them (The Link, 2021).
- RS Eden also provides services to youth with disabilities in their main offices below the Lindquist Apartments but these services do not involve targeted housing (RS Eden, 2021).
- At another location run by RS Eden, their Seventh Landing Apartments, they give preferential access to the 12 units to individuals who experience disabilities alongside homelessness. They are then given access to support services including case management, life skills, and access to employment services (RS, Eden, 2021).

RS Eden			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Minnesota, US	2000	RS Eden; Corporation for Supportive Housing	Housing Program and Support Service
Description of model			
<p>At the Seventh Landing Apartments, RS Eden offers some serves to youth with special needs. In their main offices, they provide service to youth below the apartments, in their main offices. Mostly, this involves physical disabilities here. At another location, Seventh Landing Apartments, individuals with disabilities, including developmental and intellectual disabilities, are the priority when assigning the 12 units. There is support for these individuals that extends past meeting basic needs.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 RS Eden locations give access to some services for youth with special needs who are also in need of housing. • In addition to providing basic assistance, support services extend to improving individual’s lives and increasing their capacity for independence. • Individuals are given preferential housing, based on their special needs at the Seventh Landing Apartments. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their main offices only serve individuals with physical disabilities, not those with intellectual or developmental disabilities. • Although there is some housing given preferentially to individuals with special needs, it is not designated for them and they still consider homelessness when assigning units. Therefore, if an individual had special needs, but was not homeless, they would not necessarily be given priority for securing housing. 			

- The limited 12 units mean that there is still an unmet need for housing for youth with special needs in vulnerable circumstances.

8.8. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

- The Link provides support to Minnesota youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness. The drop-in resource centre (C.O.R.E.) provides assistance with basic needs, case management and connections to a variety of resources including housing, healthcare and education. The street outreach programme provides street and community-based outreach to youth who are at-risk of or currently experiencing homelessness and/or sexual exploitation (The Link, 2021).
- The Link offers a Housing First Program which includes 30 units of scattered-site supportive housing for youth experiencing homelessness that also have a mental health and/or chemical dependency diagnosis or a physical disability (The Link, 2021).
- The Northside Prevention Program helps youth and families in North Minneapolis who are facing eviction stay in their homes and avoid experiencing homelessness. The programme is run through The Link and provides immediate financial assistance and supportive services as well as housing for youth who would otherwise fall through the cracks of the housing system. This programme was started in 2019 (The Link, 2021).
- RS Eden offers employment services at both their Seventh Landing Apartments and the Lindquist Apartments. They also have support workers that encourage youth to continue with education and provide computers to do so and enable activities such as resume-building and applying to post-secondary programmes (RS Eden, 2021).

The Northside Prevention Program

Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Minnesota, US	2019	The Link	Housing Program and Support Service

Description of model

The Northside Prevention Program was started in 2019 and made possible due to the extra in-kind contributions offered the year prior by the community stakeholders of The Link. This programme helps adults ages 18 to 24 and families with youth ages 13 to 24 who are present in the home. They assist them with the need for financial support to afford rent payments or utility payments to avoid eviction. They also provide trauma informed and strength-based support services for youth including case management, life skills education, assistance with education and employment, connections to mental health and chemical dependency treatment, connections to health care services, support groups, positive youth

development activities and leadership development opportunities. In order to be eligible for the program, the following requirements must be met:

- must have ties to North Minneapolis;
- be a young adult ages 18-24 or family with youth ages 13-24 in the home;
- have an immediate need for financial assistance including past due rent or utilities bills;
- be able to provide verification/documentation of need; and,
- be willing to participate in Prevention Supportive Services for a minimum of 90 days.

Advantages

- At-risk youth in impoverished home settings with a high potential of experiencing homelessness in the next few years are offered assistance that may work towards preventing homelessness.
- Assistance is offered to whole families and not just to individuals.
- Financial assistance with rent payments ensures that families are able to stay together. Therefore, youth are able to have this social support present in their lives during a critical period of development.
- In addition to the financial assistance offered, they also provide support groups and assistance with mental health and development opportunities for youth with behavioural issues.

Challenges and risks

- The eligibility requirements may present a barrier to some at-risk and vulnerable individuals.
- For youth requiring a more controlled, safe environment, they do not offer housing but instead allow them to stay where they are. Therefore, those needing a change of setting are not able to secure this.

8.9. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

- YouthLink is a programme in Minnesota that works with youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness. They have been involved in this work for 45 years. They work with roughly 2000 youth each year in a collaborative model which brings together multiple organisations to provide resources, focus on employment and education goals, access mental and physical health resources, and provide meals. They service youth ages 16 to 24 in this drop-in centre (YouthLink, 2021).
- Archdale Apartments is a youth supportive housing project in Minneapolis that provides 30 affordable housing units for formerly homeless youth, ages 16-20. Central Community Housing Trust (CCHT) developed these apartments with YouthLink as the service provider. The Archdale apartments offer case management, independent living assistance, and extensive employment and training. Youth in the programme must be employed or in school with the exception of those with a disability. The independent living skills counsellors are accompanied by 24-hour supportive staff on-site at Archdale. YouthLink provides services and resources from its drop-in centre to Archdale residents (Corporation for Supportive Housing, 2002).

- YouthLink provides services and resources from its drop-in centre to Archdale residents.
- In addition to housing, The Link also provides trauma-informed and strength-based supportive services for youth that include but are not limited to case management, life skills education, assistance with education and employment, connections to mental health and chemical dependency treatment, connections to health care services, support groups, positive youth development activities and leadership development opportunities (The Link, 2021).
- The Fresh Grounds Café is a non-profit business that offers youth a platform to learn and practice work skills in a 4-week job experience, followed by a 4-week vocational workshop, a stipend and connection with other employment opportunities, and options for paid internship leading to full employment. The programme is designed for youth ages 15 to 24 who experience homelessness and face barriers to finding employment. 70% of programme participants are linked to employment after graduation (RS Eden, 2018).

YouthLink and Archdale Apartments			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
Minnesota, US	2002	YouthLink website; Corporation for Supportive Housing	Support service
Description of model			
<p>YouthLink provides services to vulnerable populations and focuses on finding employment, and work through education requirements. Youth can work on completing their GED, receive workplace training, and get a photo ID so they can work.</p> <p>Supportive services at the Archdale consist of case management, instruction in independent living, and extensive employment and training services. Residents work closely with staff to devise individual case plans to meet their self-sufficiency goals. Youth are expected to be employed or in school unless they need reasonable accommodation of a disability. The program’s intensive staffing pattern includes three Independent Living Skills Counsellors, each of whom carries a caseload of approximately ten residents and runs Life Skills classes. In addition, there is 24-hour supportive staffing, which provides overall supervision, trouble-shooting, and monitoring of resident behaviour. Residents in the transitional housing units participate in the onsite supportive services programme. Residents who transfer from transitional housing or move directly into permanent housing receive six months of supportive services.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides low-barrier education and employment resources to homeless youth alongside services to fulfil their basic needs. Anyone ages 16 to 24 can access the centre. • Staff provide additional information and connect youth with relevant platforms to improve long-term employment outcomes. 			

- Onsite clinic and other amenities to ensure basic needs are met and youth can focus on education.
- YouthLink gets homeless youth in touch with various shelters so they can increase their ability to secure housing.
- The support of YouthLink at Archdale provides case management, extensive employment, and job training services to residents.

Challenges and risks

- Some avenues are present for youth to search for and attain housing through the YouthLink website and through working with staff. However, these programmes are not run by YouthLink, they simply act as the liaison for Archdale Apartments. Therefore, those who only access the drop-in centre may benefit from the Archdale Apartment housing but may only be able to utilise resources from YouthLink due to a lack of space or long waitlists.
- Considering that there are only 30 units in the Archdale, this programme cannot support a large portion of youth at any given time.
- The case management costs with the fully integrated programme of YouthLink and Archdale is considerable and a wider rollout is therefore difficult. In order to run their program, YouthLink receives roughly \$2.1 million a year in funding per year. Of this funding, 20% is accounted for in administration costs, 23% in overhead, 3% on fundraising, and the remainder covering programme costs and building fees (Charity Intelligence Canada). The total amount received in funding per year equates to \$1,050 per youth enrolled, considering that YouthLink serves an average of 2,000 youth per year.

9. Appendix 4: Housing models for young people in and leaving care: Australia (New South Wales)

9.1. National context and initiatives of note

- One in six Australian youth ages 15 to 19 state that they have experienced homelessness, based on responses to a 2019 survey. Of these, 13% have couch surfed and some for as long as six months at a time; putting them at risk of experiencing homelessness as an adult. Those who had experienced homelessness indicated that they faced barriers to effective completion of school work, and to meeting academic and work goals (Mission Australia, 2020).
- The majority, 50% to 80%, of homeless youth have some experience of mental illness in New South Wales, based on data from 2016 to 2017 (New South Wales Government, 2018).
- As of 2018, Australia is shifting to a focus on building more Youth Foyer programmes, following the UK model (New South Wales Government, 2018).
- Recommendations from a 2020 investigation into youth homelessness in Australia called on their government to create sustainable, community driven opportunities for youth, provide measures to reduce household conflict, provide mental health resources, increase social security payments such as Youth Allowance and Commonwealth Rent Assistance to increasing housing affordability for youth, fund youth employment services and apprenticeship programs, implement employment-related services for youth in rural areas, establish more youth foyers, and take many further actions related to youth housing (Mission Australia, 2020).
- In 2017, 65,600 children in Australia (14.1 per 1,000 children ages 0 to 14) received assistance through homelessness services. Children made up roughly one quarter of people receiving assistance from Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS), which is the primary support for people who are experiencing, or are at risk of homelessness (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020).
- Among Australian children ages 0 to 14 who were homeless in 2016, Indigenous status and rural location were two of the most significant predictors of homelessness (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2020).
- The Commonwealth Rent Assistance programme is a national programme offered in Australia which offers financial assistance with rental payments to those with disabilities and youth receiving youth allowance. Rental assistance for youth, depends on their payment type and whether they live with a parent or guardian. Under this program, for every \$1 of rent paid, they are entitled to 75 cents. They also establish minimum and maximum

rent payments per night that are eligible for rent assistance (Australian Government, 2020).

- Youth living with their parents who are younger than 22 years old can apply for ABSTUDY living allowance if they are caring for a child, are Indigenous, or in a relationship that qualifies them as independent. Youth up to 24 years old can apply for rental assistance if they care for a child or are a member of a couple (Australian Government, 2020).

New South Wales

9.2. Overall youth demographics in housing and types of support available

- The Rent Choice Youth Subsidy (RCY) programme helps youth ages 16 to 24 years to find a place to live, get approved for a lease, and assist with rental payments for up to three years. Even if youth currently are paying rent in a location but are having difficulty making payments, the RCY Subsidy can offer them financial assistance. Youth in the RCY programme pay 25% of their weekly income for rent alongside Commonwealth Rent Assistance they qualify for and they cover the rest for the first 12 months. After one year, the amount they pay increases (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- Sometimes youth in the RCY programme have difficulty making payments when they increase. For those in this situation, they may be eligible to take part in the Youth Share programme which allows youth to share accommodation with others. Sharing the financial responsibilities for the property increases the affordability for youth struggling to make rental payments that increase after one year (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The RCY programme also links youth with a support worker who helps youth work towards study or work goals with the aim of encouraging self-sufficiency as they transition to adulthood. This support worker works with the youth so they can make rent payments on their own without assistance (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- Eligibility requirements include: being 16 to 24 years old; unfulfilled housing needs; Australian citizen or permanent resident; motivated to secure and maintain employment; willing to engage with a support provider in training, education, and employment activities; and being on low-income or enrolled in studies (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The Live 'N' Learn Campus at Miller in New South Wales (a foyer housing programme), was evaluated by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute in 2004 (Randolph & Wood, 2005). The evaluation findings are limited but do provide some insight into the success of the programme. The evaluation from 2004 considers the outcomes of only 15 programme participants and follow-up data was available for only seven programme participants; therefore, it is unclear whether these results reflect most of the youth who access the programme:
- 15 current residents were interviewed:
 - Two-thirds were enrolled in full-time education
 - Nine residents felt that rent charges were affordable, three residents felt rent charges were not affordable.
 - When asked, nine of fifteen residents said their personal goals had been fully (n=5) or partially(n=4) met with the support of the programme.

- Over one-half of residents interviewed felt that a two-year stay limit was generally appropriate but felt there needed to be flexibility depending on the needs of the residents (e.g., those finishing three or four year higher education programmes may need extended support to allow them to graduate)
- Key performance indicators were collected from seven residents:
 - No residents had entering independent accommodation.
 - One resident was living in safe and stable accommodations after exiting the programme.
 - Four residents were completing education or training courses.
 - Three residents were in paid employment.
- Outcomes of five residents who left the programme during the evaluation:
 - None moved on to permanent accommodations:
 - One went to visit parents.
 - Two moved to other services.
 - One was on sickness benefit.
 - One was not traceable.

Rent Choice Youth Subsidy programme

Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New South Wales, Australia	2017	New South Wales Government; Mission Australia	Housing programme

Description of model

The Department of Communities and Justice in New South Wales works with local service providers to provide case management support to youth ages 16 to 24 years of age. Youth work towards financial security and are supported in their financial goals. They are the main lease holder and therefore maintain their housing once graduating from the programme. Some financial assistance is provided but is done alongside work and education training to engage in employment opportunities and ensure they are self-sufficient. Financial assistance applies to housing secured while youth are enrolled in the programme and also extends to leases they held prior to programme enrolment. The financial assistance offered through this programme is supplemented by other funding programmes available to youth with housing needs in New South Wales.

Advantages

- In addition to offering financial support for youth in New South Wales, support workers directly work with youth to find employment opportunities and engage with further education.
- Work and study goals foster a sense of responsibility in youth and help them make the transition into self-sufficiency and independence in adulthood.
- Youth are the leaseholder so they can therefore take on the rental property once graduating from the programme. This allows them to have more permanency, remain in the same living situation, and not have to figure out alternate living arrangements once they are no longer receiving the Rent Choice Subsidy (RCY) support.

- In order to gain support, youth can access one of roughly 100 RCY support centres throughout New South Wales. These centres help connect them with further resources and navigate available support systems.

Challenges and risks

- The RCY Subsidy programme can only be paid to youth enrolled if the rent is affordable. This is based on programme participants' weekly income plus any commonwealth rent assistance they are eligible for. This may create barriers for some individuals in terms of finding housing.
- The amount paid by youth increases after 12 months so they must find and maintain employment to remain in the programme. For youth who have difficulty in doing so, this programme may not be ideal.

9.3. Housing for youth with special needs

- The Disability Support Pension (DSP) is offered by the Australian government to youth who are living with their parents when they are either a member of a couple or care for a dependent child. For those under 21 years old who receive the Disability Support Pension, they automatically qualify for the Youth Disability Supplement, which is \$131.90 AUS per fortnight in addition to what is received through the main DSP. If they are younger than 18 and are living away from their parents home due to a health condition, they also qualify for this funding. Youth are separated into either independent or dependent; the maximum rates per fortnight by age group are as follows: single, younger than 18 years old and dependent- \$435.10 AUS; single, younger than 18 years old and dependent- \$644.40 AUS; single, 18-20 years old and dependent- \$486.50 AUS; single, 18-20 years old and independent- \$644.40 AUS; couple, younger than 21 years old- \$644.40 AUS (Australian Government, 2020).
- Youth older than 16 can be approved for DSP if they meet residency, income, and disability requirements. They may have to prove they have gone through a programme of support and are unable to work for at least 15 hours per week due to their disability. They must also be an Australian resident and be in the country on the day they claim disability (Chronic Illness Alliance, 2021).
- For youth under the age of 21, the amount of DSP they qualify for is based on whether they are dependent or independent. This is based on their relationship status, absence of parental care, work arrangements, special conditions, and other unique circumstances that may change over time (Australian Government, 2020).
- In addition to the DSP, youth with special needs can access other services offered by the Australian government such as the Skills for Education and Employment programme and Disability Employment Services (Australian Government, 2020).
- The Social Housing Policy in New South Wales run through the Department of Communities and Justice prioritises individuals with special needs in

securing housing for individuals in need (New South Wales Government, n.d.).

Disability Support Pension			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New South Wales, Australia	2009	Australian Government	Support Service
Description of model			
<p>While this is not a programme offering housing to youth with special needs, the abundance of youth housing programmes in New South Wales is supplemented by these payments. For youth who are unable to meet the employment aspects of the various youth housing programmes they are enrolled in, the Disability Support Pension (DSP), may help them to cover this gap. Youth ages 16 to 21 can qualify for the pension if they are unable to work at least 15 hours a week due to their disability. The amount of funding they receive is based on factors including their relationship status, absence of parental care, work arrangements, special conditions, and other unique circumstances that may change over time. When transitioning to adulthood, services such as Social Housing offered in New South Wales prioritises individuals with special needs. Therefore, this funding can supplement and get youth through a transition to more independent living setting.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional funding is available to youth with special needs that can supplement what they receive through other housing programmes and support services in New South Wales. • Funding is available for youth from the ages of 16 to 21 and is applicable to youth with special needs in a variety of circumstances. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme is not specific to youth and the requirements for youth to receive funding are complicated and difficult to navigate. • The DSP does not directly provide housing to youth with special needs but instead provides additional funding. If youth have not already secured housing, this programme would be limited in its effectiveness. • The programme is run by the government of Australia and not the New South Wales government, therefore it may not be as applicable on a local level. 			

9.4. Housing for at-risk youth or youth with behavioural issues

- The government of New South Wales has many programmes and services available to assist young people at risk of homelessness. These include the Specialist Homelessness Services Programme, Housing Pathways, Rent Choice Assist, Premier's Youth Initiative, an initiative for unaccompanied children, and the Homeless Youth Assistance Programme (HYAP). This last programme, the HYAP, directly targets at-risk youth in a position where they are vulnerable to experiencing homelessness (New South Wales Government, n.d.).

- Children and youth who experience homelessness are more likely to experience abuse, neglect, family violence, and mental illness while also being more likely to abuse substances. The HYAP, NGOs are funded to provide targeted and holistic responses to help unaccompanied children and young people ages 12 to 15 who are either homeless or likely to experience homelessness. These services can be easily accessed? on the Human Services Network website based on the community they reside in (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- Nineteen service programmes focus on reunifying and re-establishing contact between youth and their support networks with the goal of bringing them into more long-term, supportive accommodation offered by the government for emerging adults (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- Other programmes, such as the Connect 100 programme, assist people who are homeless which involves providing 100 clients at any given time rental accommodation leased and managed by community housing providers and help from specialist homelessness services and other support (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The Specialist Homelessness Services Programme helps roughly 54,000 of the at-risk, vulnerable population such as young people leaving care, people with mental health conditions, those experiencing domestic violence (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The HYAP works towards reducing the total number of individuals in this sector by intervening at an early stage when children are ages 12 to 15. This works towards ensuring the stability and long-term financial feasibility of other programmes such as the Specialist Homelessness Services Programme and Connect 100 (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The elements of HYAP case management include:
 - Assessment of individual needs and strengths
 - Identification of specialist services and supports to meet needs
 - Engagement and monitoring of specialist services
 - Establishment of effective communication channels with key stakeholders (e.g., case review panels)
 - Ensuring services are being delivered effectively and contributing to client goals and objectives (NSW Government, 2016).
- Supportive housing is available for youth who are living at home but are at risk of homelessness, staying in and out of home, or not currently living at home and not receiving Centrelink income. Centrelink income is the government body responsible for basic Youth Allowance payments, which is a separate form of funding. (NSW Government, 2016).

Homeless Youth Assistance Programme			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New South Wales, Australia	2016	New South Wales Government	Support service
Description of model			
<p>NGOs providing services to vulnerable youth are funded through the Homeless Youth Assistance Programme (HYAP). Youth ages 12 to 15 are targeted by these programmes. In addition to this, they have unveiled 19 service packages across New South Wales to reunify youth with their families and support networks, enabling them to transition to long-term supported accommodation. These services, provided through separate NGOs, are available throughout different communities in New South Wales and can be found through an online catalogue. The core objectives of the programme are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebuild family, kin and cultural connections and work towards family reconciliation, where appropriate • Successfully transition to independence • Engage with education, training and/or employment • Access mainstream health, mental health and wellbeing services • Engage with the broader community to support their successful transition to independence. <p>A strengths-based case management approach is taken to develop a structured plan that works collaboratively with clients to meet their individual needs.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme is specifically for youth and therefore does not share resources with the Specialist Homeless Services Programme which targets adults in New South Wales. • The funding for organisations that support younger children who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness later on in life works as an early intervention to help mitigate homelessness. • Other programmes exist for youth once they are older which are directly related to this programme. The goal of the service packages the HYAP has established through NGOs is to connect youth with these resources so they are less likely to experience homelessness later on. • Reducing the number of homeless youths lessens the need for youth housing and therefore increases the sustainability of the model. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth older than 15 have to turn to other resources to receive support. • This programme does not directly provide housing but instead funds in-person support centres for youth. The programme does not necessarily meet the needs of those in this age group requiring immediate housing support due to a crisis. • Because the funding is given to NGO's, there are some potential concerns for oversight and quality assurance of the programmes they offer to youth. 			

9.5. Additional resources including post-secondary education or employment support

- The Department of Communities and Justice has allocated \$4.3 million in funding over 3 years to the introduction of nine mobile non-government therapeutic caseworkers to work with unaccompanied children who present themselves to homelessness services and provide connection between families, the department, and other services (Ombudsperson New South Wales, 2020).
- The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) supports youth leaving out-of-home care identified as vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. Youth ages 16 years and 9 months old to 17 years and 6 months old are screened for eligibility into PYI. Once eligibility is established, services are offered to youth (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The PYI programme provides a personal advisor to mentor youth, support them with their personal goals and plan for leaving care, as well as to access any support services they need. They also connect youth with education and employment mentoring based on their interests and aptitude to identify and find suitable education, training, and employment opportunities (New South Wales Government, n.d.).
- The PYI represents a \$40 million AUS effort funded by the New South Wales Department of Family and Community Services to prevent homelessness among at-risk young people leaving care by enabling them to move from foster care into more sustainable, independent living (Taylor et al., 2020).
- Based on a 2020 evaluation of the initiative, at-risk youth who did not receive services from PYI were 182% more likely to become homeless after age 18 than young people who received this support. Based on a sample of 334 youth younger than 18 compared with a sample of 273 youth who were older than 18, the programme showed significant improvements in the social connectedness, living accommodation stability, employment, and living skills but did not show significant improvements in education-seeking behaviour (Taylor et al., 2020).
- A transitional support worker in the PYI programme will provide support in developing the skills and knowledge to manage their transition into independent living (New South Wales Government, n.d.).

Premier's Youth Initiative			
Country, Jurisdiction	Date Launched	Source	Legal Status
New South Wales, Australia	2015	New South Wales Government	Support Service and Housing Programme
Description of model			
<p>The Premier's Youth Initiative (PYI) provides youth with personal advice, mentoring, transitional support, and accommodation. A personal advisor works with youth with regards to employment and education. Not only do they help them find employment and education opportunities, but they also help identify areas of interest and skills to direct them towards relevant opportunities. A transitional support worker also guides them through future pursuits. While the programme also provides subsidised accommodation to some youth in the programme, the focus is on expanding their engagement with education and employment opportunities while fostering further independence moving forwards.</p>			
Advantages			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to a personal advisor and social worker ensure that youth are engaged with employment and education opportunities. • Personal advisors work proactively with youth to identify areas of strengths and interest. • Youth are encouraged to be more independent in the future. 			
Challenges and risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme offers support to youth during a very brief window of ages 16 to 17 so is therefore a supplemental programme to other programmes in place for youth at-risk of experiencing homelessness, rather than a complete housing programme. The programme serves roughly 530 youth each year. • Subsidised rental accommodation is provided to some, but not all, of PYI participants. Annual expense breakdowns of the programme by service provider placed rent as a fairly minor expense, accounting for an average of \$315,324 AUS out of roughly \$8 million total costs, or 4% of their total expenses. More significant programme costs were salaries (51.8%), overhead costs (13.5%), contracted services (11.5%), brokerage (7.9%), and supplies and materials (6.4%). Youth spent a maximum of one year receiving services from the programme which cost an average of \$15,145 AUS over the total amount of time they are engaged with the programme. 			

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