Fostering with Herefordshire Council – could you provide a home for a local young person?

Julie's Supported Lodgings Story.

What does being a supported lodgings provider involve?

Supported lodgings is about helping young people leap into independence. You provide homes for care-experienced young adults aged 18 to 25. It is their opportunity to get things right in a safe environment - from cooking and budgeting, to managing their own front door.

What do you enjoy about providing supported lodgings?

Seeing young people progressing and making the most of opportunities that present themselves. They don't always get it right and need that person who they can come to when they need help.

What is your greatest achievement with a young person?

We fostered a young lady at 14. She had average grades, minimal family support, and was angry at the world. After sixth form, we provided supported lodgings and saw her attain a first-class degree before being headhunted by a major international company to a senior marketing position.

What would you say to someone who is thinking of offering supported lodgings?

It's about letting teenagers find their feet in a safe environment - you need to be supportive but not controlling, and understand the challenges they face. Without doubt you will need patience, the ability to keep calm and a sense of humour. It is so rewarding and you get a great sense of personal achievement.

If you'd like more information about fostering, email fostering@herefordshire.gov.uk , call 01432 383240 or visit herefordshire.gov.uk/fostering