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## Temporary Accommodation for Young People

**In the past year, from April 2023 to April 2024, how many young people below 18 years of age have been placed in any form of temporary accommodation, including emergency shelters, hostels, and B&Bs, by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust?**

There were 16 young people aged under 18.

**Please list the types of temporary accommodations used, specifying how many young people were placed in each type.**

Jointly Commissioned Supportive Living including a NIHE Commissioned Short Term Homeless Assessment Placements	10
Air BnB Accommodation	4
Hostel / BnB / Hotel	2

**For each type of temporary or emergency accommodation used, please confirm whether all staff, including temporary and permanent staff working with young people, have undergone Access NI checks prior to employment.**

As outlined in point 7 any young person placed in temporary Air BnB or Hostel/BnD/Hotel were accompanied by Trust staff all of whom are required to have acceptable ACCESS NI completed.

**What percentage of staff working directly with young people in these accommodations are fully trained and certified in child protection and safeguarding practices?**

All Trust staff have attained the required children's services statutory training, as noted in point 3 any young person placed in temporary Air BnB or Hostel/BnB/Hotel were accompanied by Trust staff

All staff in Jointly commissioned services are required to have completed child protection training and adult safeguarding training as part of those staff's induction into that service and there after annually.

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**What measures are in place to monitor and ensure the safety and welfare of young people placed in these temporary accommodations?**

All accommodations require assessed levels of staffing present (either Trust or regulatory approved jointly commissioned providers) based on the required needs of the young person.

**How frequently does the Trust review these accommodations for compliance with regulatory and safety standards?**

The majority of services used by the Trust are subject to a regulatory framework and standards and those that do not are outlined in the table below. Those outlined below require Trust staff to be present and those staff operate under Trust policy and procedures and statutory requirements.

**Has the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust placed any children or young people in unregulated accommodations such as B&Bs from April 2023 to April 2024? If so, please provide details on the circumstances and durations of such placements.**

Placement Type	Circumstances	Average Duration
1. Air BnB Accommodation	Emergency accommodation provision in lieu of an alternative (foster placement, Joint Commissioning or residential placement) being available or in such times as joint commissioning placement has broken down as a result of young person's presentations. Trust staff or commissioned staff are present.	0-3 months
2. BnB / Hotel	No alternative accommodation at 1-4 above – alongside Trust staff on a temporary basis until something more suitable has been located. Trust staff are present.	8 days

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**What steps are taken to ensure the safety and suitability of these unregulated accommodations before placing any young person there?**

<b>Placement Type</b>	<b>Steps undertaken by the Trust concerning Safety and Suitability and Staffing</b>
NIHE Homeless Assessment Beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Development of a Safety Plan</li> <li>• Accommodation is staffed 24/7</li> <li>• Placement Review</li> </ul>
Joint Commissioning Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Development of a Safety Plan</li> <li>• Accommodation is staffed 24/7</li> <li>• Referral process/meetings</li> <li>• Placement review</li> </ul>
Air BnB Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Development of a Safety Plan</li> <li>• Accommodation is staffed 24/7 when deemed necessary</li> </ul>
Unregulated Foster/Kinship Placements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACCESS NI completed</li> <li>• Social Services systems check completed</li> <li>• GP check completed</li> <li>• Risk Assessment / Safety Plan developed as required.</li> <li>• Weekly Social Work visits undertaken.</li> <li>• Looked after Child Procedures (and where required Child Protection Procedures).</li> </ul>
Hostel / BnB / Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Development of a Safety Plan</li> <li>• Accommodation is staffed 24/7</li> </ul> <p>Safety Plans</p>

**Please provide comparative data on the use of emergency and temporary accommodations for young people across all five trust areas in Northern Ireland for the same period.**

The Trust is not responsible for holding regional information.

**Are there any plans or ongoing initiatives to reduce the reliance on temporary accommodations such as B&Bs for young people, especially in unregulated settings?**

Each HSC Trust has established a Local Planning Partnership to scope existing housing / accommodation services for care experienced and homeless young people

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and to develop a future housing framework for homeless young people and care experienced young people.

The Trust has weekly escalations meetings that are chaired by the Co-Directors to ensure placements are only temporary and to find more suitable accommodation.

The Trust has established an Options Prioritisation Panel that meets on a weekly basis and considers support strategies for cases approaching an edge of care situation and also for those cases where placements are fragile.

The Trust operates a weekly Escalation Meeting chaired by Co-Directors to review edge of care cases, plans for admissions and requests for crisis / emergency placement requests.

The Trust operates care experienced Jointly Commissioned Supported Living Admissions and Planned Move On Panels.

The Trust has reviewed its Edge of Care Services for families and lowered the accessibility to age 4.

The Trust is participating in a regional review of supported living arrangements for homeless young people and care experienced young people.