BARNESLEY LOCAL OFFER
FOR CARE EXPERIENCED
YOUNG PEOPLE

April 2019

www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare
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1 Introduction

This document describes the support that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council offers our care leavers. It sets out the legal, statutory entitlements that Barnsley care experienced young people can expect of us, as well as information about the additional help and support that Barnsley Council, together with our partners will provide to you as a care leaver.

Barnsley takes its corporate parenting responsibilities very seriously for children in care and care leavers, referred to in this document as care experienced young people. The question and welcomed challenge that we must always ask is, ‘would this be good enough for my own child?’. We want all our care experienced young people to have the support they need to achieve their aspirations and goals; to be happy and healthy; to have positive relationships and experiences, with maximum opportunities to achieve maximum outcomes for the future.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 also requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care experienced young people. The local offer should set out what support all local authorities will provide (not just Children’s Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles.

Barnsley Council is fully committed to achieving these principles which are:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being of children in care and care experienced young people.
- To encourage children in care and care experienced young people to express their views, wishes and feelings.
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children in care and care experienced young people.
- To help children in care and care experienced young people to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by us and our relevant partners.
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children in care and care experienced young people.
- For children in care and care experienced young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- To prepare children in care and care experienced young people for adulthood independent living.
- To prepare care experienced young people for adulthood and independent living.

This Local Offer has been developed in direct consultation with care experienced young people in Barnsley. Our offer and this document will be reviewed on an annual basis and the test of its success will be measured against what care experienced young people tell us and their direct experiences of services.

An annual smart survey will be undertaken prior to the annual update to ensure all care experienced young people have had the chance to put their views and opinions forward regarding this Local Offer.

Our offer to care experienced young people is available on line at: www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare. It is also available in paper format; copies can be requested from your Personal Advisor or obtained from The Hub at 18 Regent Street. It may be translated where English is not the first spoken language of a care experienced young person.
2 The Purpose of the Barnsley Local Offer for Care Experienced Young People

This document tells you about all the support that we have in Barnsley for you as a care experienced young person. Just because you are leaving care, or have already left care, we haven’t stopped caring about you. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for advice and help.

Barnsley’s care experienced young people have helped develop this local offer. We will continue to ask and listen to your views to make sure the services that we offer, are what you need.

To be able to get the support set out in this document, you will have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting to 13 weeks) which began after age 14 and included some time after your 16th birthday. If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, ask your Personal Adviser.

Who is a Care Leaver?

- **Eligible child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still being looked after.

- **Relevant child** is a child aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16, but who were looked after immediately before being detained.

- **Former relevant child** is a young person over 18 who was previously ‘eligible’ or ‘relevant’. Councils support this group until aged 21, or longer if they are in education or training.

- **Qualifying child** is any young person under 21 (or 24 if in education or training) who stops being looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or being privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).

- **Former relevant child pursuing education** is any former relevant child whose case was closed, for any reason. If we’re informed that they’re planning to continue education or training they can ask the council for support again. If eligible, any help would last until their 25th birthday.

- **Extension to 25 years old** - If you are under 25 year old and previously open to the leaving care team, under the Children and Social Work Act 2017 you are entitled to return for support, contact the leaving care team and ask to speak with the duty officer.
3 Our Offer to Care Experienced Young People

3.1 A Personal Advisor

You will be able to ask for support from your Personal Advisor (PA) up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

Your Personal Adviser is there to help you to prepare to live independently and to offer advice and support after you leave care. Personal Advisors should talk to you about what support you need and record this information with you, in your Pathway Plan.

Your Pathway Plan is written by your Personal Advisor with you and in consultation with important people in your life. It sets out your assessed needs, views and future goals, and identifies exactly what support you will receive from us. Your Pathway Plan will be in place at 16 years of age and we will review your pathway plan with you regularly so that it is kept up-to-date.

The amount of support that you receive through your Pathway Plan from your Personal Advisor will depend on your needs, what you want and your circumstances.

Future Directions, our Leaving Care Team will consider with you what extra support you may need. You might for example, need extra support because:

- You have special educational needs or a disability.
- You are an unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) and your immigration status is unclear.
- You are in or leaving custody or you have had contact with the criminal justice system.
- You are a young parent; or
- You are going through a difficult time in your personal life.

Support Aged 22 to 25 Years of Age

Your Personal Advisor will talk to you about whether you need or want to continue receiving their support after you turn 21. If you do, your Pathway Plan will be reviewed with you to record what support is needed at this time. Support from your Personal Advisor will continue for as long as you need it to; until you turn 25.

If you decide you would like the support to end but you decide at a later time that you need it to start again, it is your responsibility to make this request. You may want to request support if you are having difficulties with managing your independence or adjusting to adult life. You may not need or want the same amount of support from a Personal Advisor that you had when you were age 18-20, but you are still entitled to ask for it. You can do this at any time until you are 25.

Your Personal Advisor is based at Future Directions, our Leaving Care Team:

18 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2 HG   Tel: 01226 775550.

The offices are centrally based in Barnsley Town Centre close to the bus/rail station.

There is a duty worker available on the above number 08.45am to 5.00pm if your allocated worker is unavailable.

Jayne Shaw is the Team Manager who can be contacted on 01226 775550 if you are having any difficulties.
3.2 The Care Leavers Hub

The Care Leavers “Hub” is located on the Ground Floor of 18 Regent Street. The “Hub” consists of a:

- Kitchen including laundry facilities
- Comfortable communal area
- Toilet
- Shower
- Meeting room

A duty worker is available from 8.45am to 5.00pm or contact your Personal Advisor for advice, guidance and support

**Drop In Support Sessions:**

Regular monthly drop in sessions are held at the “Hub”

- Employment, Education and Training
- Health advice and support.
- Money management

There is no need to book, you can just call in and get information, support and guidance.

**Group Work Sessions**

Regular Group Work sessions will be run throughout the year, for example healthy eating, cooking etc. For more information regarding the Drop in’s and Group Work sessions please refer to [www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare)

3.3 Your Right to be Heard and Taken Seriously

You have a right to be involved in all decisions about your plans for leaving care. You have a right to support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you. Independent advocates can inform you about your rights and help you to be heard in meetings. They are separate from Children’s Social Care Services.

**Children’s Rights/Advocacy team**

The Children’s Rights Team are based in The Targeted Youth Support Service and provide independent advocates for all children and young people in care and care experienced young people.

Advocates are people who will listen to you and help you get your point across if you feel people aren’t listening to you, if you’re unhappy with any decisions made about you, or if you just want something to change. They’ll also support you if you need to make a complaint.

Children’s Rights can also help you if:

- You want some help in saying the things you need to say to those who make decisions about you.
- You are unhappy about the way you are being treated or supported or you are worried about plans being made.
- You need information and advice and want to know your rights.
- You need help to make sure you understand what people are saying and make sure people listen to you.
You want particular people at your meetings.

Advocacy support is available from the Children’s Rights Team who can be contacted directly on 01226 753406. If you are in any doubt your Personal Advisor will be able to offer you support in accessing an independent advocate.

The Targeted Youth Support Service offers the Independent Visitors scheme alongside the Children’s Rights and Care Councils. These teams are now located in the same building as the Care Leaver’s Hub making it easier to access advocacy services which will mean your voice will be heard.

Care4Us Council

The Care4Us Council is supported by dedicated participation workers for children in care and care experienced young people within the Targeted Youth Service. All its members are children and young people who are in, or have been in, care. You too can be part of the council. It gives you a chance to meet the Executive Director for People, the Service Director for Children’s Social Care Services, the Lead Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Children’s Services, local councillors and service managers, to talk about things that are important to you and to other children and young people living in, or leaving care.

The Care Experienced Group is for young people aged between 18-25 years old. The meetings are held at the Care Leavers Hub at 18 Regent Street Barnsley on a Wednesday evening 5pm to 7pm.

To contact the Care4Us Council contact the Targeted Youth Support Team on (01226) 775270. The Youth Participation Co-ordinator, Jo King on 01226753406 / 07734693647.

For further information please refer to www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare

3.4 Access to Your Files

You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care. As a care experienced young person you can request access to your files through the Subject Access Request (SAR) process.

https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/information-and-privacy/request-to-see-your-personal-information/

You will be fully supported by your Personal Advisor when receiving your files, who will also support you in understanding your past. If you wish to do this, please talk with your Personal Advisor about how to do this.

3.5 Leaving Care before 18 Years of Age

We will encourage you to stay with your carers until you are 18. Most young people still live at home with their families at this age.

If you choose to leave care before aged 18, we will assess your needs and provide a range of suitable housing and supported housing provision for 16 and 17 year olds.

3.6 Support to Engage in Education, Employment or Training

We are deeply committed to your education as we believe that you can, with support, achieve your full potential, your dreams and ambitions. We will ensure that you have the highest levels of support and assistance to achieve your goals in life.
You will be supported by your Personal Adviser, who will support you all the way and will be ready to proudly celebrate your achievements with you. We will offer you:

- Careers information and advice is available from our Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (TIAG) Service. Information and advice includes things such as help to develop your CV, advice about job interviews, including what you might wear. Every young person will have a personal TIAG Advisor.

- Importantly, your TIAG adviser will be able to:
  - Explain all the education and training courses available and guide you to find the right one;
  - Help to find work experience;
  - Help you get support to help you look for a job;
  - Help you to find job vacancies locally;
  - Help you chose from the range of apprenticeships available and support your application for it.
  - TIAG hold a monthly drop in session at the “Hub” (18 Regent St) please refer to [www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare](http://www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare). There is no need to book, you can just call in and get information and support and guidance.

- Support to purchase a Travel Card for travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews.

- Support to buy tools, equipment, essential clothing and books.

- Support to join your local library.

- To have access to IKIC; Barnsley’s I Know I Can (IKIC) is a Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Project which is about building confidence; creating dreams and aspirations; raising qualification levels; strengthening life skills; using help and support; taking ownership and developing a real ‘I Know I Can’ attitude

- I Know I Can provide Pathways to Success, a menu of opportunities for young people to develop their employability & transferable skills. This includes engagement/employability programmes, traineeships, apprenticeships and graduate/undergraduate opportunities (including care leavers and young people with SEND to 25 years).  [http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/pathways-to-success/](http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/pathways-to-success/)

- I Know I Can provide a variety of options available to young people post 16 – 19 years inclusive of mainstream providers, such as general further education colleges and schools, Special schools, Independent Specialist Provider – day and residential placements, Employment with Training/Apprenticeship.

- A Curriculum Map enables young people to find suitable Provision in Barnsley and identify steps they need to take to achieve their goals.  [http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/post-16-provision/](http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/post-16-provision/)

- The chance to attend and help organise celebration events when young people achieve education, training and employment milestones.

- To have opportunity of a ring fenced corporate apprenticeship which means you would start to train for a job with BMBC the ‘family business’ and be better prepared for further training or employment.

**Support to go to University**

We will support you if you choose to go to University, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, travel costs at the start and end of term, and making sure you have somewhere to live during the holidays. You will be supported by
your Personal Advisor with choosing the right course and University that matches your talents and interests.

In Barnsley we will ensure that if you are in higher education you will have:

- Your accommodation costs paid directly to your hall of residence or other suitable accommodation on a termly basis by direct payment to the accommodation.
- Assistance in purchasing any equipment required for your course by accessing any funding for your course and ensuring any deficit is paid by Future Directions.
- Any travel costs associated with contact with family/former carers are assessed and paid directly to you or reimbursed to you.
- We will provide you with somewhere for you to stay during University or Higher Education holidays (or funding for this if you would prefer to make your own arrangements).
- Support you when you are choosing to go to University, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, travel costs at the start and end of term. We will pay all costs associated with visits to University and ensure that any university loans are explained and applied for promptly. If your loan is not available at the start of your course, we will ensure that your fees are paid and that you have an allowance pending the receipt of the loan.
- We will help you choose the right course and the University that matches your talents and interests.
- A bursary of £2,000 over the cost of the course to help with the cost of books and materials. This is paid annually at the start of each semester.
- Care experienced young people are a priority group for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund administered by Further Education colleges, which pays a bursary of up to £1,200 a year.

3.7 Accommodation

If you are aged over 18 your Personal Advisor will help find you suitable accommodation. This might involve:-

- If this is what you and your foster carer(s) want, we will support you to remain with your foster carers under what is called a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement. This can last until you are aged 21.
  http://www.proceduresonline.com/barnsley/cs/p_stay_put.html
- If you do not wish to remain in a ‘Staying Put’ arrangement, but later change your mind, we will support this to happen up to aged 21 subject to agreement of your former foster carer.
- We know it can be very hard having your own place for the first time. We will do whatever we can to ease the pressures on you and from the 1st April 2018 Barnsley Council exempts all care leavers from paying council tax.
- We work with Berneslai Homes and Housing Services and Providers to provide you with suitable housing, taking into account your needs and wishes, including supported accommodation if you are not ready or don’t want to have your own tenancy.
- Ensure that your Personal Advisor visits within a week of you moving into a new home, and then visits at least every 2 months after that, but more often, if this is what you need.
- Visit you regularly in your home and help fix any minor repairs and check that you are maintaining your home.
• Help you arrange practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home.
• Ensure that we access rent deposits and bond guarantee schemes if using the private rented sector and not use your Setting Up Home allowance for this purpose.
• Review where you are living through the Pathway Plan Review process within every 6 months and sooner if you move home or experience a significant change in your circumstances.
• Help you to claim housing benefit/universal credit if you are eligible and not in employment.
• Advice about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent arrears, paying bills and budgeting.
• Support you if you have a housing crisis, including helping if you are threatened with or lose a tenancy.

An Independent Living Skills workbook / training package is currently being developed for launch in July 2019. This will assist young people in ensuring they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to move into independent living.

3.8 Health and Wellbeing

We want you to be healthy and well! Below are some of the ways your Personal Advisor / Nurse can support you to stay healthy and look after your physical and emotional health.

• Give you information on eating healthily:

• Give you information on healthy living, like stopping smoking and alcohol consumption:
  o If you would like to stop smoking please speak with your Personal Advisor or nurse who can offer you and advice and support. The website below has details of the many places in Barnsley you can get help to stop smoking - Stopping smoking. There is also a free NHS App available to help you to stop smoking. But, please speak to your nurse or personal advisor for help and advice.

Part of being healthy is keeping fit and eating healthily. Your nurse and Personal Advisor can help you achieve this and let you know about ways to do this.

• Live Well Barnsley has a website where you can find information about help and support services within the borough. The site contains information and contact details about all types of services and activities that can help you look after yourself, stay independent and get involved in your community. [https://www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk](https://www.livewellbarnsley.co.uk)
  o Barnsley Leisure Card - is a concessionary scheme that allows eligible groups including care experienced young people in Barnsley to access discounted sports and leisure activities in the area. Please ask your Personal Advisor for a letter of eligibility for the BLC.
  o Running Club - There is also a running club especially for children in care or those who have been in care. It meets every Tuesday 5.15- 6pm at Locke Park and runs from April to October. T shirts are provided. For more information contact Steve 01226 772470

• Give you information on getting help to pay for prescriptions.
• Support you to register with a GP:
  o If you do not already have a GP, speak with your Personal Advisor or nurse who can help you to get registered. Or follow this link for more information - How to register with a GP

• Support you to register with a Dentist:
  o If you do not already have a Dentist, speak with your Personal Advisor or nurse who can help you to get registered. Or follow this link for more information - Registering with a Dentist

• Support you to register with an Optician.

• Support you to attend any appointments.

• Support you to transition from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health Services.

• Pregnancy:
  o If you become pregnant and would like to speak to someone about this, please contact your nurse or Personal Advisor who can support you and help you to access relevant services. If you are under the age of 21 you will be supported by a specialist midwife. You don’t need to do anything to access this support other than go along to your GP (Doctors) who will book your pregnancy and let the midwife know. The midwife has lots of experience in working with young people and gives you the right sort of support if you need it.

  • Give you information about counselling and Adult Mental Health Services that are available locally.

  • Give you help with transport costs when attending health appointments.

  • Give you information about sexual health services:
    o You can get a whole range of support, advice, testing and contraception (free of charge) from Spectrum - Spectrum Integrated Sexual Health Service provides all methods of contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and support, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.
    
    o The main clinic is in Barnsley town centre at Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street; Barnsley S70 2RD. Clinics are also available in some GP surgeries. For more information and to book an appointment online visit Spectrum Health or call Spectrum Barnsley on 0800 055 6442.

    o If you would rather not go to the clinic please contact your nurse who can give you advice and support around sexual health and issue you with a ‘C card’. She can also support you to attend a clinic or (in some circumstances) arrange for someone from the clinic to meet you somewhere of your choosing.

    o Your GP may also be able to provide contraception, and your GP or local pharmacy may also be able to supply free emergency hormonal contraception (“morning after pill”).

• Work with you to develop a ‘health passport’ containing key information from your childhood and your current health needs.
  o You will receive a booklet named ‘Personal Health Record’ containing key information about your health from your childhood. For example, when and if you've had immunisations and your current health needs. It also contains helpful health information that you may need as you move to independence.
NHS Website

The NHS website offers an A-Z of health and health conditions and has lots of useful information. Please follow the link – https://www.nhs.uk/ You can also download a free NHS health app (NHSgo) especially for 16-25 year olds that contains loads of really useful information and A-Z of health https://nhsgo.uk/ For more Apps on various health issues that have been tested and approved by the NHS, please follow this link. Many of these are free of charge. https://www.nhs.uk/apps-library/

For information or support on any of the above or if you have any concerns regarding accessing / getting health care or meeting your health needs please speak to your Personal Advisor or nurse. If you do not know who your nurse is, please ring 01226 774411.

The nursing team also hold a monthly drop in session at the “Hub” (18 Regent St) please refer to www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare. There is no need to book, you can just call in and get information, Support and Guidance.

3.9 Finances

The financial support you receive will be set out in your Pathway Plan which should be developed with you. It will set out the areas of support, amounts to be paid and how often you will receive payments. You should have a bank account by the time you are 16 (unless you are a newly arrived asylum seeker). Payment of all allowances and grants will go into your bank account unless there is a reason why you are not able to manage your own money.

Just before your 18th Birthday you will be expected to submit a claim for benefits. Your Personal Advisor will discuss and plan this with you as part of your Pathway Plan and provide support with the application process. You will be supported to manage your income so your everyday needs such as food, travel, toiletries and any contribution to service charges, utility bills and rent are met.

Aged 22-25

Your Personal Advisor can support you to access any benefits you are entitled to claim.

You will be supported by your Personal Advisor with budgeting. We will try to help you financially, including:

- Payment of £57.90 per week, or the equivalent of benefit, if you are 16-18 years living in semi-supported accommodation and unable to access benefits
- Once you have made your Universal Credit application by your 18th Birthday; should there be a delay in the payment of this benefit, you will have the opportunity to apply for an advance payment. If this is delayed you may receive a personal allowance of £57.90 for up to 3 weeks.
- If you receive a Sanction in relation to your Universal Credits which is beyond your control, you will receive a personal allowance of £57.90 for up to 4 weeks, a further assessment will need to take place should your benefits not be in place.
- If you receive a Sanction due to you not having complied with benefit requirements, only emergency support will be considered at a reduced rate. Please contact your Personal Advisor to seek guidance and assistance.
- Provide a leaving care Setting up Home Allowance to help you buy essential things when moving into your own home to a value of £2,000. Your Personal Advisor will help get you the best deals on carpets, white goods and other essential household items.
- Giving you exemptions on paying Council Tax up to the age of 25.
• Providing or telling you about relevant money management courses, this will be in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Citizen’s Advice Bureau and outreach tenancy support services. A monthly drop in advice session at the “Hub” will be provided. Please refer to www.barnsley.gov.uk/childrenincare

• Helping you to get a job – Your Personal Advisor and TIAG worker will support you.

• Support to purchase a Travel Card. Usually travel passes are available from your further education/training provider. If not or if you are having difficulty getting to your training or appointments, talk to your Personal Advisor who will undertake an entitlement assessment.

• Information on how to access your Junior ISA or Child Trust Fund. A letter will be given to you after your 18th Birthday by your Personal Advisor who will support you to access this fund and transfer the money to your own account

• Support to open a bank account

• Support to gain important identification documents before you are 18 years such as a copy of your birth certificate and or your first passport including check and send or a provisional driving licence.

• Support to get your National Insurance number.

• Emergency Payments - If you find yourself in an emergency where you have no food, gas/electricity or have difficulty travelling to appointments, get in touch with your Personal Advisor who will undertake an assessment. The support offered will include sign posting to other services providing direct work to help you budget better in the future.

• Exceptional Financial Support in Emergencies. This will be by direct payment from Future Directions or by request for funding if over £500

• Providing a financial gift of £30 at Birthday’s and Christmas.
  o At 16- 18 years if you are living in semi independence you will receive a gift to the value of £30.
  o At 19, 20 and 21 years you will receive a gift of £30.

• Festival Allowance
  o At 16 – 18 years if you are living in semi independence you will receive a gift to the value of £30 towards a celebration such as Christmas or Eid.
  o At 19 - 21 years if you are living in semi independence you will receive a gift to the value of £30 towards a celebration such as Christmas or Eid.

• In Custody - If you are an eligible/relevant/former relevant care leaver in custody or on remand you will receive a postal order or online payment of £40 per month under 18 years and £20 per month for over 18 years.

3.10 Relationships

We know that consistent, stable relationships are really important for care experienced young people. We will try to enable you to keep the same Personal Advisor, wherever this is possible. You will be supported by your Personal Advisor, who will offer you additional practical and emotional support if you need it, including:

• Providing you with a mentor/peer mentor.

• Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers, Independent Visitors or social workers.

• Support to re-connect with family where it is in your best interests.

• Support to access counselling.
- Support to make new friends, through social groups, interests and activities.
- Support you in building healthy relationships and staying safe.

3.11 Participation in Society

We want our care experienced young people to be active members of society, and to have all the chances in life that other young adults have. We will help you participate in society in the following ways:

- Listening and taking account of your views about how we support you.
- Providing information on groups, activities, facilities and clubs you may wish to join
- Informing you about relevant awards, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests
- Encouraging and helping you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in future elections
- Offering work experience
- Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in
- Informing and possibly helping with the cost of leisure activities
- Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver
- Sharing information about voluntary work.
4 Who Can Help - Key Services and Contact Details

4.1 Your Personal Advisor

Your Personal Advisor is based at: 18 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2 HG
Tel: 01226 775550.

The offices are centrally based in Barnsley Town Centre close to the bus/rail station. There is a duty worker available on the above number 08.45 am to 5.00 pm if your allocated worker is unavailable.

4.2 Out of Hours Help in an Emergency

The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) is contactable on 0122 6787789 for urgent help in a crisis outside of office hours. Your Personal Advisor will update EDT if there are things which are happening in your life which might need a response out of hours or at weekends.

If you think you are not getting the support you need, please get in touch with your social worker/personal advisor first to let them know what you want so that they can help.

If this does not work, or you are unhappy with the response, you can always get in touch directly with the Future Directions Team Manager, Jayne Shaw 01226 775550 who will try to resolve any difficulties.

4.3 Housing Advice

Berneslai Homes - General Enquiries 01226 775555
(Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturday 8am – 1pm).

4.4 Education, Employment or Training Support

Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (TIAG) Service
Wellington House, Barnsley. Tel: 01226 775270


Barnsley I Know I Can http://iknowican.co.uk

4.5 Barnsley Leadership for Children’s Services

Jon Banwell, Head of Service for Children in Care - jonathanbanwell@barnsley.gov.uk

Mel John-Ross, Service Director - melaniejohn-ross@barnsley.gov.uk

Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director for People – racheldickinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Cllr Margaret Bruff, Lead Member for Safeguarding and Children’s Services - CllrMargaretBruff@barnsley.gov.uk

4.6 The Care4Us Council

To contact the Care4Us Council contact the Targeted Youth Support Team on (01226) 775270

4.7 Advocacy Support

The Children’s Rights Team can be contacted directly on 01226 753406
5 Other Local and Available Services for Young Adults

5.1 Sexual Health

Spectrum Integrated Sexual Health Service provides all methods of contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and support, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The main site is located in Barnsley city centre at Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street; Barnsley S70 2RD. Clinics are also available in some GP surgeries.

For more information and to book an appointment online visit: http://spectrumhealth.org.uk/services/sexual-health/

Or you can call Spectrum Barnsley on 0800 055 6442. Your GP may also be able to provide contraception. In addition, your GP or local pharmacy may also be able to supply free emergency hormonal contraception (“morning after pill”).

5.2 Mental Health Services

Not all young people will require or feel able to access mental health services. Care experienced young people can access their Personal Advisor or someone else they feel comfortable with, like a mentor, a participation worker, their carer, for emotional support and who will support them in accessing other services, if they feel this is necessary.

If you’re concerned about your mental health you can ask for help from the Mental Health Service. You can refer yourself or ask your GP. You may then be referred onto a mental health team for support, as detailed below.

Community Mental Health Teams are for adults over 16 years of age who are experiencing acute or long term mental health problems. The teams are organised by GPs and are open between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. There is a single point of access for new referrals on (01226) 645000.

The following link is a list of all the services in Barnsley that provide services to support the emotional wellbeing of young people in Barnsley. Unfortunately they don’t all go to the age of 25 but your Personal Advisor, nurse or GP will be able to help and guide you: http://www.chilypep.org.uk/uploads/Open%20up%20Barnsley%20Directory%202018.pdf

5.3 OASIS

OASIS (Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services) is a group based in Barnsley that aims to empower young people to shape mental health services.

The group meets every Thursday 5.00pm-7.00pm at Horizon College and discuss campaign ideas, awareness posters and put together their own Mental Health First Aid Kit.

If you’d like to get involved with the group, you can contact project worker Chantelle by email at Chantelle.Parke@chilypep.org.uk
5.4 Targeted Youth Services

Our Targeted Youth Support Service brings together a range of agencies who work together to help young people who are taking risks or experiencing difficulties getting back on the right path. Support may be needed at any point in a person’s life and families may need help in making positive changes. Through early help or the early identification of an issue, we can offer a range of support to prevent problems from getting worse. The service supports children and young people from 8-19 (and those up to 25 with additional needs) and is made up of staff from Barnsley Council, NHS, South Yorkshire Police and the National Probation Service, working together to support young people to make a positive transition into adulthood. Support includes:

- Health and emotional support e.g. confidence building, self-esteem, anger management.
- Risk taking behaviour including sex, drugs and alcohol.
- Sexual health advice, contraception and STI screening.
- Promoting positive relationships.
- Diversion from crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Staying safe - including internet and social media safety.
- Support to encourage volunteering and active citizenship.
- Signposting to find work, education and training opportunities.

To contact the Targeted Youth Support Team call (01226) 775270.

5.5 Care Leavers as Parents

The Barnsley Early Help offer, either through universal or targeted services, is based on individual need, which is identified through an Early Help Assessment of the whole family. Parents may self-refer for universal services or to access information, guidance and signposting.

For children, young people and families who face more challenges and may have multiple needs, targeted services provide additional capacity and expertise to address their needs. A programme of targeted group provision and one to one support is available through our family centres.

Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 0345 340

5.6 Childcare

If you would like to talk to someone about your options and find out what childcare is available in your area, contact the Families Information Service on 0800 0345 340

5.7 Youth Offending Team

Youth Offending Team, 18 Regent Street, Barnsley
(01226) 774986 Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm

5.8 Youth Council

The Youth Council is a group of local young people who are elected by their peers every two years to represent the views of all other young people living in the borough, at a local, regional and national level.
Youth council members are elected to represent the voice of all children and young people in Barnsley, the school or college that they attend, and also the area in which they live.

The Youth Council works closely with the Care for Us Council and Barnsley Council in order to make sure that young people’s voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives. They are supported by Participation Workers from the Targeted Youth Support Serviced and members of the Youth Council are elected to represent Barnsley in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament and our young people are also represented in shaping the future for Barnsley through the Sheffield City Region. They attend regional meetings and national events, including an annual debate in the House of Commons.

The full Youth Council meets monthly in the council chambers at the Town Hall. Members also attend meetings in their schools and local areas to gain the views of as many young people as possible.

5.9 Alcohol and Substance Use

If you are using drugs or alcohol and would like help to stop, reduce your use or keep yourself safe whilst using, please speak to you nurse or Personal Advisor. You can also get support from the following services. If you are under 18 you can access help from the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Team – phone 01226 705980. If you are over 18 you can access help from Drug and Alcohol Services. Please speak to your nurse or Personal Advisor who really can help. For more information check out these websites

Talk to Frank     NHS Drug Abuse     Alcohol misuse

5.10 BSARCS – Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services

BSARCS (Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services) is the only group in Barnsley offering specialist services to people whose lives have been affected by rape, sexual abuse, sexual assault or any kind of sexual violence.

They work with women, men, children and young people who live in the Barnsley area.
Tel: 01226 320140.

The Core County Way, Barnsley S70 2JW
National Helplines
For Women 0808 802 9999
For Men 0808 800 5005

5.11 IDAS

IDAS is the largest specialist charity in Yorkshire supporting anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. Their services include refuge accommodation, community based support, peer mentoring, group work and access to a free, confidential out of hours’ helpline.

Local offices Barnsley  01226 320 112
Domestic Abuse Helpline:  03000 110 110
Rape Support Line: 0300 111 0777
Useful Contacts and Information for Care Experienced Young People

The Care Leavers’ Association [www.careleavers.com](http://www.careleavers.com)

The Children’s Society [www.childrenssociety.org.uk/careleavers](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/careleavers)

The Children’s Commissioner for England [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Coram Voice [www.coramvoice.org.uk](http://www.coramvoice.org.uk)

Shelter [www.youngpeopleoutcomes.shelter.org.uk](http://www.youngpeopleoutcomes.shelter.org.uk)

Rees Care Leavers Foundation [www.reesfoundation.org](http://www.reesfoundation.org)

Become [www.becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk)

The National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (Run by Catch 22) [www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)

Rotherham & Barnsley Mind  Tel:  01226 211188.
Young Minds - [https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/](https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/)