

Future Directions Barnsley's Local Offer For Care Leavers



Including financial
procedures for Care Leavers
and Guidance for Personal
Advisors

(Revised version April 2025)

Foreword

We are both delighted to be able to share the revised and improved Local Offer to Care Leavers (2025/2026) and are very proud to be able to say that we have already made massive progress in the support we provide to our care leavers since the previous Local Offer was published in 2023.



Cllr Trevor Cave
Cabinet Spokesman
Children's Services



Carly Speechley
Executive Director
Children's Services

Whilst much of the offer is enduring in nature and will remain in place on an ongoing basis, we have listened to the experiences of care leavers and embarked on a direct consultation process to further refine the levels and types of support available. Many of the revisions and updates contained in this revised Local Offer are therefore a direct result of this consultation and in response to the expressed wishes of care leavers themselves.

If you don't live in Barnsley, you will still be entitled to a personal adviser and financial support as outlined in the financial section of this Local Offer. However, some of the support and services referred to may not be available outside of Barnsley but we will support you to ensure you can access every available benefit in the area that you are living.

We totally understand that leaving care can be a worrying and challenging time for you, but we will let you into a secret – very few of us have moved to live independently without making at least one mistake or wrong choice. This Local Offer is designed to help you navigate the complex maze of adult life and pointing you in the right direction to access the information you need to minimize the impact of any mistakes you make but, more importantly, please remember you do not have to do this on your own – we will be there for you as and when you need any additional help and support so use us as your Corporate Parents for as long as you can.

One of the most significant developments over the course of the past 2 years has

been a far greater level of engagement and commitment from partners across the wider Council and a greater recognition of all of our Corporate Parenting responsibilities. One of the very real outcomes from this improved partnership is a far closer working relationship with Berneslai Homes which, in turn, has significantly improved the accommodation offer available to care leavers. As a result, over the second six months of 2024 there are far more care leavers who have moved to or in the process of moving to their 'forever homes' and at a faster rate. That means that when your Personal Adviser is confident that you are tenancy ready you will have a much shorter wait until you can move into your 'forever home'. In addition, although more of our care leavers are in Education, Employment or Training than our comparator local authorities we want to support more young people to become positively engaged in these opportunities. As a result, in 2025 we are planning to enhance our work experience and mentoring offer for those young adults who have, as yet, been unable to engage in employment or training to support them to be better prepared for such opportunities.

Many of the improvements in the levels of support available to care leavers has received external validation since the original Local Offer was published. Ofsted rated the Care Leaving Service as being 'Good' in the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Service (ILACS) undertaken in November 2023 and further stated that,

There are strong, supportive and respectful relationships between care leavers and their workers. Personal advisers are persistent in making sure that young people receive the right levels of visiting and help that meet their individual needs. Consequently, care leavers are confident in asking for additional help and reassurance when needed.

and

Most young people are living in suitable, safe accommodation that meets their needs and receive the right levels of support to help develop their independence and confidence.

In the Ofsted Focused Visit undertaken in November 2024 which reviewed the care planning processes for older children, they identified that,

In the children's plans and reviews seen during this visit, older children in care make good progress because of the experiences and support that they receive from their carers, social workers and personal advisers.....There is much-improved collaboration with partner agencies since the last inspection. This is now ensuring that children's current and future care needs are identified in preparation for adulthood.

However, we remain incredibly ambitious to provide our care leavers with a truly outstanding service. As a result, we have invited Mark Riddell MBE, National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers, Department for Education, to visit Barnsley to share his expertise and to advise us as to how best to further develop

our service. We anticipate that his experience, knowledge and expertise will help us to further refine our strategy and practice to ensure that our care leavers have every possible support to enable them to be more confident in making those first steps into adulthood.

We also want to set up a fully functioning Care Leavers Council so that care experienced young people can help develop and improve the service for those young people who are following in your footsteps.

So why don't you get involved and help us to make it even better?



CARE LEAVER GUARANTEES

- Named Personal Adviser from 16 ¼ to 25 (opt in from 21).
- Direct involvement in writing your Pathway Plan.
- Support in accessing all relevant grants, discounts and care leaver entitlements.
- A passport before your 19th birthday.
- Access to an Advocate up to 25.
- Support to access and understand your case file, the information you want in the format you understand.
- Support to secure your 'forever home' when we agree you are tenancy ready.
- Any additional Bedroom Tax to be paid for you up to the age of 25.
- Setting Up Home Allowance of up to £3,200 and access to discounted suppliers.
- A final Health Assessment and access to your Care Leaver Summary Booklet at 18 and access to the CiC Nurse up to your 20th birthday.
- Access to the Care Leaver Pantry for emergency food supplies at a discounted rate.
- Access to a full range of support services including DWP and careers advice at the Hub.
- Access to WiFi, laptops and 1:1 support at the Hub to support you in job searches and applications etc.
- Guaranteed interview for any Council job vacancy/apprenticeship.
- Work experience opportunities that match your needs and areas of interest.
- A provisional license, 10 driving lessons, 1 x theory test, 1 x practical test if you are in ETE.
- A Celebration of Achievement Award of up to £50 p.a. up to 21.
- Birthday or Cultural Celebration Award of up to £150 p.a. up to 21.
- Higher education support up to 25 including accommodation and vacation accommodation costs, graduation ceremony costs and an essential equipment bursary.
- Support as a young parent including maternity clothing and a new baby starter box of up to £50.
- Access to CAMHS up to 21*
- Discounted access to Barnsley Council Leisure Facilities*
- Free Optician and Dental check ups up to the age of 25 *

*denotes offer under review and subject to agreement from wider partners

Contents

Foreword.....	2
CARE LEAVER GUARANTEES	5
How We Will Support You	9
Your Personal Adviser	10
Out-of-Hours Help in an Emergency	11
Our Corporate Parenting Principles	11
Your Rights and Entitlements	11
Your Pathway Plan	11
Support For People Aged 22 to 25	13
Children’s Rights and Advocacy Services.....	14
Care4Us Council	14
Access to Your Files	15
Accommodation	16
Staying Home	17
Independent Living	17
Private Rented.....	17
Housing Associations (registered social landlords).....	17
Living with Friends and Family	17
Supported Housing.....	18
Health Offer	19
Final Annual Health Assessment	19
GP Records.....	19
Ask Jan Membership	19
CAMHS	20
Fitness and Leisure	20
Domestic Abuse	20
Pharmacy	20
NHS 111.....	21
Opticians	21
Sleep.....	21
Sexual Health	21
Pregnancy	22
LGBTQ+	22
What is your Leaving Care Legal Status?	23
Money	24
Emergency Support in Exceptional Circumstances	25
Living Independently.....	27
Accommodation Costs	27

Housing Bonds/Rent /Deposits	27
Setting-up Home Allowance	28
What it Pays For?	28
What You Might Need When Setting Up Home	29
Insurance	30
Education and Training	31
Assistance for Education and Training	31
Celebration of Educational Achievement.....	32
Apprenticeships	32
Work Experience	32
Income Top Up:	33
Higher Education Assistance (University)	34
Bursaries, Grants and Loans.....	34
Accommodation Costs	35
Weekly Allowance Payments	35
University Graduation.....	35
Higher Education Bursary	35
Vacation Accommodation and Staying Home	35
Other Costs	36
Master's Degree	36
Other Help	37
Clothing Allowance	37
Maternity Clothing	37
Birthday & Cultural Celebrations.....	38
Driving Lessons	39
Passport.....	39
Health, Dental and Optical Assistance	40
Registering for Services	40
Register with a GP.....	40
Young People in Custody	41
Young People in Custody.....	41
Summary of Payments.....	42
Local Services.....	43
Housing Advice	43
Berneslai Homes on (01226) 787878.	43
Live Well Barnsley	43
Mental health services.....	43
CHILYPEP	43
Improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT).....	43

Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services (OASIS).....	43
Pregnancy	44
Support for young parents	44
Barnsley family centres	44
Barnsley families information service	44
Sexual health.....	45
Stopping smoking	45
Substance misuse	45
Getting fit, being active and eating healthy.....	46
Develop your skills and gain valuable experience	47
I Know I Can	47
Volunteering	47
Work Experience	47
Consultation Event.....	48

How We Will Support You

Our local offer tells you the support we offer to our care experienced young people. It sets out the legal bound duties that Barnsley's care experienced young people can expect from us. It also gives advice about the extra help and support that we, and our partners, will provide you as a young person leaving care.

Our local offer has been developed by speaking to care experienced young people in Barnsley. We review it each year and measure its success against what people tell us about their direct experience of the support and services they receive.

Our Care Leaving Service is called **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**. Future Directions is a part of Barnsley Council, and our intention is to drive the personalization agenda. This means each young person and young adult we support will have their own specifically designed support package to meet their individual support needs.

You can contact the Future Directions Service on (01226) 775550 and if your Personal Advisor is not available, there will always be a Duty Personal Advisor at the end of the line. In March 2023 we opened the Hub where the Future Directions team is based which is designed to provide:

- A safe place for young people to speak to their Personal Adviser.
- A Venue for group activities including 'Cooking on a Budget', Money Management and Healthy Relationships with plans to establish a parent and toddler group in 2025.
- Opportunity to discuss Education, Training and Employment options.
- Somewhere to do your laundry, have a shower or collect a food parcel
- A base for the Care4Us Council meetings
- Simply somewhere to chill!

The Hub has become a real asset to the service that is much valued, by young people, and we aim to expand the activities offered in 2025 to include physical and emotional health wellbeing sessions and parent and toddler groups. If there is any additional support or service, you think should be provided at the Hub please just let us know and we will see what we can do.



Your Personal Adviser

Our pledge is to allocate all young people in care a Personal Advisor (PA) when you turn 16 years and 3 months of age. Your PA is there to help you to prepare yourself to live independently and will offer advice and support after you leave care. Forming stable relationships is important to us and we will try and ensure you have the same personal adviser for as long as possible as we recognise how important consistency is for you alongside the opportunity to build a positive relationship with your worker. Your Personal Advisor is there to support you and having a trusting relationship is key for you and a pledge from us.

Your personal adviser will support you with:

- Giving you a mentor or peer mentor.
- Helping to keep or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past. This could be 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 events.
- Support you in building healthy relationships and staying safe.
- Support you in making your housing application, and to apply for any education, training or employment opportunities.
- Generally, assist you in making that huge step from care to independence.

You can ask them for support up to the age of 25, whether or not you are in education or training.

You will be given contact details for your personal advisor and the opportunity to call down to the Hub and spend time in a safe, warm, and friendly space. If they are not available, you can contact Future Directions between 8.45am and 5pm on (01226) 775550 to speak to a duty worker. Your worker will always make sure to contact you once they are available again.



Out-of-Hours Help in an Emergency

The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) is contactable on (01226) 787789 for urgent help in a crisis outside of office hours. Your personal adviser will update EDT if there are things which are happening in your life which might need a response out of hours or at weekends.

Our Corporate Parenting Principles

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) requires councils to consult on and publish a local offer for their care experienced young people. It also requires them to consider their Corporate Parenting principles when exercising their duty for looked after children and care experienced young people.

The local offer sets out the support local authorities provide to fulfil these principles;

- to act in the best interests and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and 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 and young people,
- to help children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the Local Authority, and it's relevant partners,
- to promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people,
- for those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- to prepare children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

Your Rights and Entitlements

If you're a child in care or a care experienced young person you have certain rights, this will be detailed within this Offer, you can also find out more via Coram Voice. [Find out more about CoramVoice.](#)

Your Pathway Plan

Personal advisers should talk to you about what support you need and record this information with you, in your Pathway Plan. Your PAs will also listen to what support you feel you may need and what services you would like to access. This will also be incorporated within your Pathway Plan.

Your Pathway Plan will identify what your needs are, what support you will receive from us and what services you can access to ensure progression in your life. Your identified needs will include your health, (both physical and mental health) your education, training and employment, your family relationships and social networks, your finances, your home, your independence skills and your plans for the future.

Your Pathway Plan is your plan, and it is really important to us that your voice is heard within it. This means that your views, wishes and feelings, aspirations in life and what your worries may be are clearly recorded within your plan.

Your Pathway Plan will be completed alongside you when you turn 16. It will be kept up to date and regularly reviewed and will always clearly reflect what your needs are at the time, all offers of support that will be given to you, who will be providing the support and how long the support will be in place for.

This is vital for your transition to becoming 18 years old and it also will allow you to know exactly what to expect and who to expect it from and by when. Your Pathway Plan will continue to be updated with you every six months, or if a significant change occurs such as moving home. Your Pathway Plan will be in place until you turn 21 years old and beyond if you remain in higher education. You can request a review of your Pathway Plan at any time, especially if there are any major changes in your life. You should always be given a signed copy of your Pathway Plan so that you can keep it and need to refer back to it for any reason.

The type and amount of support that you receive will depend on what your individual needs are, what support you feel would help you and your circumstances. Future Directions will always consider any extra support you may need. Other people can ask about your plan, such as your family, foster carer, teachers, health services, IRO (up until you are 18) and advocate, but not without you knowing about it.



The experience of other care leavers has taught us that a successful transition to adulthood is more likely to be achieved if it is achieved by a series of smaller steps rather than huge leap straight from placement to independence. As a result, once you reach school leaving age, we will look to support you to move from your care placement to semi-supported accommodation in Barnsley where we will work with you to ensure you have as much of the skills and knowledge you will need to live independently as an adult. As you approach your 18th birthday, and once we agree you are tenancy ready, we will support you to secure a tenancy best suited to your needs and wishes. It is our ambition that this will be your “forever home” for as long as you want it.

However, we will also support you if you want to remain with your foster carers beyond your 18th birthday (so long as they agree) or to remain in the area where your placement is, especially if you have developed strong friendship groups, attend a local college or employment and have developed a positive local connection.

You therefore have the right to be fully involved in all of your plans for leaving care. You also have a right to receive support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you.

Support For People Aged 22 to 25

Your PA will talk to you about whether you need or want to continue receiving support after you turn 21 and what that support will look like. If you do want to continue to get support from Future Directions post 21 then your Pathway Plan will be reviewed alongside you. Your Pathway Plan will reflect what type of support you will receive, who will provide it and for how long.

The support that you need might look different to what it was when you were younger, but you are still entitled to support up to the age of 25 should you need this. If you decide that, at 21 you no longer require support, then you will be ‘closed’ to the Future Directions team. However, should something happen in your life that you need a little help with then you have the option to “opt” back into Future Directions for support at any point up to the age of 25. It is our pledge to you that should you need to opt back into Future Directions then, if it is at all possible, you will be given the same Personal Advisor you previously had as we recognise the importance of relationships and consistency in achieving the best outcomes for you.

You might not need the same amount of support as you had when you were younger, but you're still entitled to ask for it up to the age of 25.

If your support has ended and you decide you want it again, you need to request this yourself. You can opt in and out of the Future Directions Service as many times as you want or need to between the ages of 21 to 25 years.

Children's Rights and Advocacy Services

The Children's Rights Team is based in the Targeted Youth Support Service. They provide independent advocates for all children and young people in care and care experienced young people. Advocates are people who you can talk to about what help you need and provide advice, information and signposting to support you if you feel people aren't listening to you. They're there to help 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.

Independent visitors are adult volunteers who befriend and develop long-term relationships with you and will play an important part in your social, emotional and educational development. They give their time to help you develop new interests, skills and hobbies and enjoy activities together. You can contact them on (01226) 753406.

It is part of our ambition for our care experienced young people that, on reaching the age of 21, you will all have at least one trusted adult who is not a social care professional that you can call on in an emergency. To support this ambition, we will be looking to expanding the Independent Visitor Scheme specifically with the aim of providing more I.V.s for care leavers for those young people who request one.



Care4Us Council

The Care4Us Council is supported by dedicated workers for children in care and care experienced young people. All its members are children and young people who are in or have been in care.

Being part of the council gives you the chance to talk about things that are important to you and other children in and leaving care. We strive to deliver excellent support packages and a comprehensive leaving care service. Listening to your voice and hearing what is important to you enables us to make sure that we are getting it right for you. Being a part of the Care4Us Council will provide you with the opportunity to help shape the leaving care service and make it better for those young people who will leave care after you.

One example of this was when the Care4Us Council recently compiled a list of

potential additional support requests. These were then fully costed up by the Finance Dept and returned to the Care4Us Council to make a fully informed decision regarding which options may be the most cost-effective and viable to progress.

To find out more email care4usinfo@barnsley.gov.uk or take a look at the [Barnsley Care4UsCouncil page](#).



Access to Your Files

You have a right to see the information we keep about you. This includes the files and records written about you when you were in care. This forms part of our pledge to you that by the time you leave care you will know everything you need to know about why you came into care in the first place and your journey through care afterwards

Find out more about [requesting to view your personal information](#) or ask your personal adviser for advice.



Accommodation

We're committed to helping you find the right place to live, one that you can call your 'forever home'. You can have a chat with your personal adviser who will ensure you get the right support at the right time.

[Help finding a home that is right for you](#)



[The Housing Options Team](#) will work with you to find the best housing for you by going through all your options and helping you to register and apply. For those of you who live or want to live in Barnsley our local Housing provider is Berneslai Homes and the advantage for you is that Barnsley Council has deemed care leaver status to be a 'Protected Characteristic'. This means that you are afforded certain privileges and priorities that will ensure you are not disadvantaged because you are a care leaver. As a result, you will be given Band 1 priority status for housing which should limit the time you have to spend on the waiting list for a tenancy.

Where we can't secure a tenancy best suited to your needs and wishes through Berneslai Homes we will work with you to secure a private tenancy and may help you with a bond, act as guarantor and any up-front rent required to achieve this although this will very much depend on your individual circumstances.

To ensure you get the best support to ensure you will be tenancy ready by your 18th birthday we will be launching our Independent Living Programme in 2025 that will aim to prepare you for every eventuality you may encounter as an adult. Your Personal Adviser and carers will work through this programme with you when we think you are ready, but you will only be expected to complete sections in small bite size chunks.

We will also be transferring all of the information in the Programme onto an App so that you can refer to it at any time in the future as and when you need it.

[Find out more about applying for a property on the Berneslai Homes website.](#)

One of the key developments in 2024 has been a strengthened partnership with Berneslai Homes. This means that you can now register with them from the age of 16 you will then be allocated a Housing Coach who will support you to bid on properties that are right for you.

You can start bidding for properties from the age of 17 ½ with the support of your Personal Adviser and the care leaver Band 1 status should give you an increased level of priority when tenancies are allocated. In addition, the Council is also purchasing a range of starter homes across the Borough ring-fenced for care leavers and will continue to work with private landlords and property developers to ensure you have as much choice as possible in selecting what we hope will be your 'forever home'. This means that we are better placed than ever

to meet our commitment to provide our care leavers with “Nice Homes in Nice Areas”.

Staying Home

If you and your foster carer(s) decide that it is not the right choice for you to move out after the age of 18 then we will fully support you with this choice. You will be supported to stay with your carer(s) under what is called “Staying Home” arrangements. Your home will not be a foster home anymore, as you will have more independence and responsibility. A staying home agreement will be put in place between you and your carer(s).

[Barnsley Children's Social Care Online Procedures for Staying Put](#)

Independent Living

If you're ready to move into your own place and live independently, there are a number of options for you. These include private rented housing, housing association housing or council housing.

Private Rented

Private rented housing means renting your home from someone who owns a property i.e a landlord. They could be an individual who owns one place or a company who owns lots of properties. We'll help you understand exactly what a tenancy is and what your rights, roles and responsibilities are when renting a house in the private sector.

Sometimes you need to pay a deposit or a bond when you take up a tenancy. The landlord may want someone to act as a guarantor for the rent payments. We can help you with this if you're over 18 years old and it's part of your pathway plan.

Housing Associations (registered social landlords)

Housing associations are 'not for profit' organisations who provide social housing for people in need of a home. There are a number of these operating across Barnsley and often the council has 'nomination rights' to these properties. So, if you're applying for council housing it's also worth ticking the box that says you're willing to consider a housing association property. You can also apply directly to the individual housing association to see what properties are available. Although it can vary between organisations, a lot of housing associations also provide a range of support and housing management services.

Living with Friends and Family

Once you've turned 18, you may decide to live with your birth family or friends. If this is something you wish to consider then your personal adviser can help you to

achieve it.

If you decide to live at home with your family, this can affect how long you get leaving care services support for. We'll ensure that you get the right support to help you do this.

Supported Housing

When you move on from foster or residential care you can move into supported housing. In Barnsley this is provided by [Centrepoint](#) and is available for young people aged 16 to 24. Centrepoint can help you learn how to manage your money so you can pay your bills, claim benefits such as Universal Credit and help you understand what managing a tenancy is like. They'll also work with you to find appropriate 'move on' accommodation when you're ready.



Health Offer

Final Annual Health Assessment

When you turn 18 the annual health assessments for children in care completed by the Children in Care Nurse will come to an end. However, a Children in Care Nurse will be accessible up to your 20th birthday if needed including providing advice as to how to stay physically, emotionally and mentally well. Children in Care nurses will be available for health and support at 'The Hub' on selected days. Anyone that has been diagnosed with a learning disability is also able to access a yearly health check at the GP.

At the last annual health assessment, a 'Care Leaver Summary Booklet' will be offered by the Children in Care nurse. This will provide key health information to allow you to gain a good understanding of your health history. This booklet will provide information from birth and includes immunisations, growth charts and significant illnesses and treatments. Within this booklet information will be provided about health services available in the area. Personal Advisors will also be able to support in accessing the right services and transition to any adult health services. With consent the 0-19 Service will share your health information with your Personal Advisor and GP. If you are struggling to access adult services can be supported by the Deputy Chief Nurse Angela Fawcett 07887530291 or angela.fawcett@nhs.net.

GP Records

GP records can now be accessed online on the NHS app. People who are registered will be able to view parts of their health record, view immunisations, see tests results, make appointments and order repeat prescriptions. Registration for this is available by following this link. <https://www.nhsapp.service.nhs.uk/login>



Ask Jan Membership

Barnsley has partnered with the Rees Foundation to commission their 'Ask Jan' services for you, to be offered a membership at your final health assessment, again at 21 years or in accordance with needs. Ask Jan provides life-long help and support to care experience young people with no upper age limit. The Foundation has a team of workers who are themselves care experienced or individuals who are experienced by profession. The offer includes:

- 24/7 Counselling Helplines
- Face to Face Counselling
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Finance Advice – pensions, life cover, mortgages
- Housing Advice

- Advice on Legal Matters
- Debt Management
- Wellbeing Advice
- Discounts and Special Offers on Days Out and Attractions
- Annual Rees e-Birthday Card

CAMHS

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) also now offer an ongoing service to care leavers so that you do not have to transition to adult mental health services at 18 years. This ensures consistency of your mental health professional and ability to sustain a trusted relationship with your CAMHS worker until you are ready to be discharged from the service.

Fitness and Leisure

Care leavers up to the age of 25 can apply for a Barnsley Leisure card which gives discounts at various leisure facilities across the town. <https://bpl.org.uk/barnsley-leisure-card/>

Pure Gym also offer 50% off gym memberships for care leavers: [50% Off Gym Memberships for Care Leavers - Care Leaver Covenant](#)



However, we accept that even despite such discounts these facilities can still be unaffordable and so we will be continuing to work to secure free access to support your physical and mental health.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone both in a relationship and between family members. It can include physical, sexual and emotional abuse. It is important that your support network helps you to recognize when you may be involved in an abusive relationship either as a victim or perpetrator so that you can get the support that you will need. The local service, IDAS has information on how to help you recognize domestic abuse and how to get help. <https://idas.org.uk/what-we-do/domestic-abuse-support/about-domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-faqs/>

If you have been a victim of sexual abuse/violence you can also access the local service BSARC [Home Page - BSARCS](#)

Pharmacy

Pharmacies offer a range of health advice and support in accessing over the counter medication for minor illnesses. Pharmacies have a range of opening hours and do not require an appointment. They will often have a private consultation room to speak in

private. To find a local pharmacy follow this link <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy>

NHS 111

NHS 111 is available online (over the age of 5) or over the telephone, if the GP is unavailable during the day or if it is out of hours. 111 gives access to emergency prescriptions and emergency dental help using the online system. 111 is used for help now, if it's an emergency, always call 999.

Opticians

NHS sight tests are offered free up to the age of 19 for anyone in full time education, financial support for sight test and glasses after this can be provided in other circumstances. You can find an optician that offers NHS tests here <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-nhs-sight-test/location>



Sleep

Sleep support and strategies are available online <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/sleep/>

Sexual Health

Spectrum's Barnsley clinic is based at Unit 1, Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street, Barnsley, S70 2RD and operates an appointment only service. Some appointments may be offered as telephone consultations. To make an appointment telephone 0800 055 6442 or email Barnsley@spectrum-CIC.nhs.uk. A young person walk-in clinic (under 19's) operates on a Wednesday 3pm-6pm. appointment availability is based on a first come first service basis until capacity is reached. Spectrum also offer Monday to Friday a 'Test no talk clinic', which provides convenient Sexually Transmitted Infection testing without the need for an appointment. Refer to their website for the daily 'Test no talk clinic' times. <https://spectrum-sexualhealth.org.uk/>

Services offered include:

- STI testing
- Contraception
- Emergency contraception
- Free Condoms and C-Card
- Pregnancy advice and support
- Relationship advice and support
- HIV testing and support

Pregnancy

There are different services that can provide help and support to people when they find out they are pregnant. If the pregnancy is unplanned, support is available regarding any decisions that the person needs to make.

If a person chooses to continue with a pregnancy or it is a planned pregnancy, it is important to access antenatal care to be provided information on the current health advice. Self-referrals to Barnsley maternity services can be made online or by contacting the GP, a midwife will arrange a booking appointment usually between week 6 and week 10.

Later in the pregnancy contact will be made by the 0-19 health visiting team to arrange an antenatal contact, the health visiting service can provide different levels of support.

Care experienced people under the age of 18 will be offered a referral into the Intensive Home Visiting Team midwives who can provide extra support in the antenatal and postnatal period. Access to Early Help Services is available that can provide more support as a new parent, providing information on developing routines, and accessing the local family centres and parenting courses.



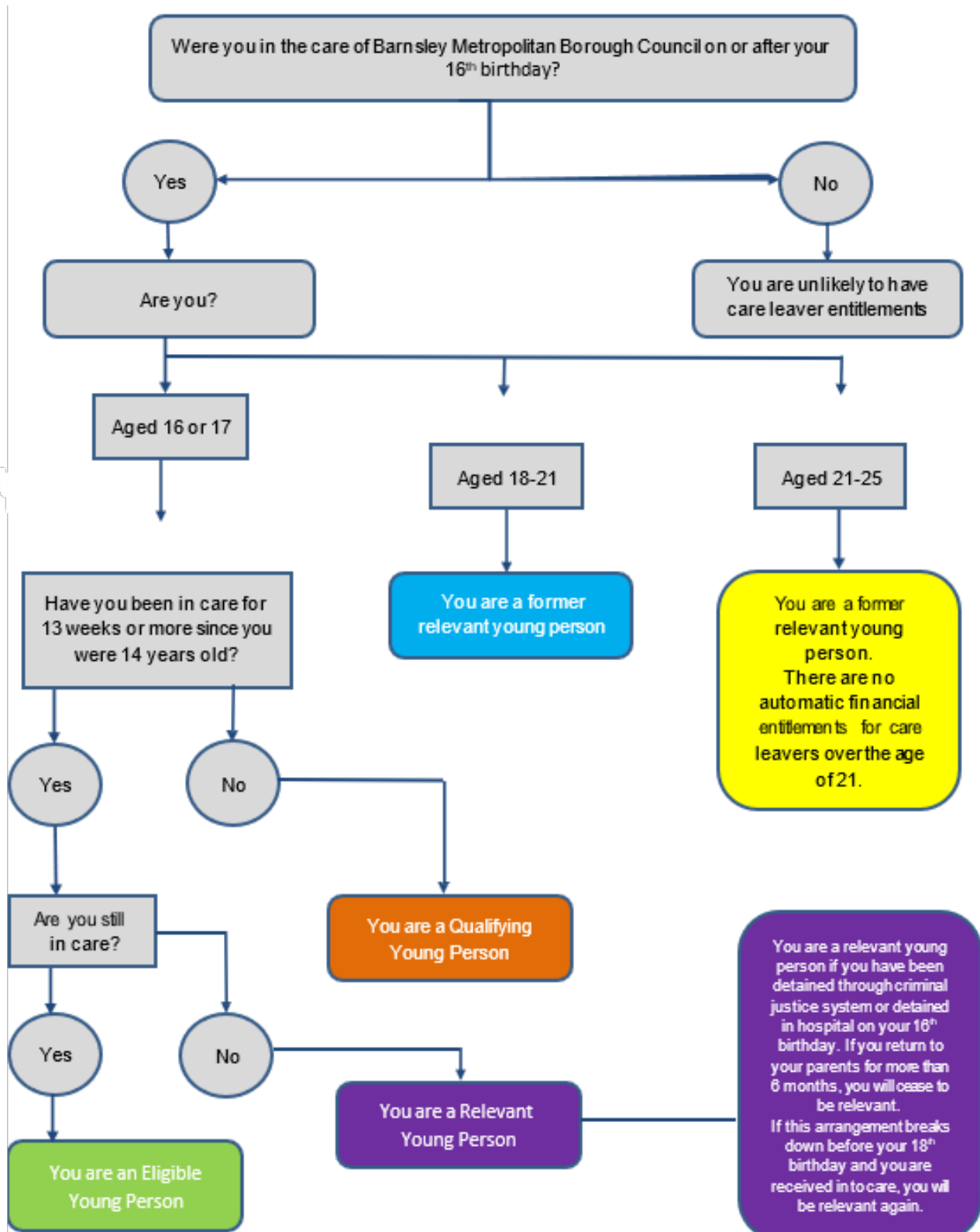
LGBTQ+

<https://www.lgbtyouthincare.com/help-and-advice> provides support for children in care and care leavers.



What is your Leaving Care Legal Status?

This flow chart will help you to understand what your leaving care legal status is which will help you to understand your entitlements. Use the colour code throughout this guide to help you identify what support you can receive.



Money

Weekly Allowance

EYP

RYP

Weekly allowance payments of £73.15 (2025/6 rate) are made to you if you have reached the age of 16, are living independently, or semi independently in the community (i.e. not with a foster carer or in a residential home) and are unemployed. This is in line with the amount you would be in receipt of on Universal Credit. Payments will continue until a change occurs in your circumstances i.e. you gain employment, or you reach the age of 18 and are able to claim benefits through the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). If you are in employment and earn £80 or more per week, you will no longer be entitled to receive the weekly allowance.

The weekly allowance will also not be paid if you are in receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Personal Independence Payment's (PIP) will not affect the financial support that you will receive from the Leaving Care Service as these are non-means tested benefits. The £71.70 weekly allowance payment will be paid directly into your bank account on a weekly basis, unless detailed otherwise in your pathway plan. Where it is felt to be in your best interest, payments may be made in the form of food vouchers, or the Leaving Care Service can top up your utility payment cards.

The Leaving Care Service can make arrangements, on your behalf, to deduct money and pay accommodation service charges from your weekly allowance. This would be agreed with your personal advisor and detailed in your pathway plan.

Young people living in foster care, or a residential home will receive pocket money and financial support supervised by the Fostering Service or Residential Service.

If you have returned to live at home, your entitlement to your weekly allowance will reduce to £10 per week and be paid for a period of 6 months at which point you will become a Qualifying young person. If you are on a full care order and return home, these payments will continue at this rate until your 18th birthday.

Weekly Allowance

FRYP

At the age of 18 years old, you become entitled to claim benefits if you are not in employment or you are in education. Your personal advisor will support you with this process. It is expected that a benefits claim will be started 28 days prior to your 18th birthday and submitted on or just after your 18th birthday. Provided this has been completed, the Leaving Care Service will offer financial support at the rate of £73.15 (2025/26 rate) per week, for the first five weeks. This will allow time for your benefits claim to be processed and for you to receive your first

payment. This financial support will be provided for the first Universal Credit claim only. This support will be given on the understanding that you do not make a claim from the Job Centre for an “Universal Credit advance payment”. If, at any point your circumstances change, your personal advisor will complete a needs assessment with you.

Weekly Allowance

FRYP

FRYP

Additional financial support will be considered if you are moving from “heritage benefits”, such as JSA or ESA, on to Universal Credit for the first time. This will be for the first five weeks only. This will allow time for your benefits claim to be processed and for you to receive your first payment. This financial support will be provided for the first Universal Credit claim only and will be given on the understanding that you do not make a claim from the Job Centre for an “Universal Credit advance payment”.



Emergency Support in Exceptional Circumstances

EYP

RYP

FRYP

In exceptional circumstances or emergencies, your personal advisor will explore financial help dependent on your situation. An assessment will be completed by your personal advisor to determine underlying issues. Any financial support offered will be at the discretion of the senior field work manager and may be in the form of a food parcel or utility top up.

- ☐ All regular income maintenance payments should be made directly into the young person's bank account.
- ☐ If a young person receives payment in the form of food vouchers or utility top up, this is instead of, not as well as their income maintenance payment.
- ☐ Weekly allowance payments can be split if deemed appropriate for vulnerable young people.
- ☐ 28 days prior to the young person's 18th birthday, the personal advisor will support the young person to make a Universal Credit claim if the young person is unemployed, in education or training, or on a low income. Provided this has been completed, the LeavingCare Service will provide income maintenance payments for 5 weeks until a Universal Credit claim is in place. The proviso for this is that the young person has not made a claim for "Universal Credit advance claim".
- ☐ The LCS/Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) protocol must be followed to ensure all young people receive support from Single Points of Contact (SPOC's) in each Job Centre.
- ☐ If you have concerns about your young person managing monthly Universal Credit payments, more frequent payments can be requested through the SPOC at the Job Centre.
- ☐ Emergency support in exceptional circumstances – if the young person is in receipt of benefits, the personal advisor will explore options with DWP to see what financial support is available. If support is unavailable from DWP, the personal advisor should discuss the specific need with the Future Directions team manager. If support is agreed, this will not exceed a maximum of £10 per day which can be in the form of a food parcel, supervised spend or vouchers. Please note that emergency support must not exceed £200 within a financial year. This must be recorded on Mosaic.
- ☐ Utility top ups – these should not exceed more than £20 per week for each energy source.

Living Independently

Accommodation Costs

EYP

RYP

Up until the age of 18, accommodation costs will be supported by the Leaving Care Service. Payments will be based on circumstances. In most cases, property rental costs will be met in full. However, if you are in employment and earning above Weekly Allowance levels (£71.70), an individual assessment will be made, and an appropriate level of contribution will be agreed by the Future Directions team manager. This applies to care leavers living both in and out of Barnsley. The Leaving Care Service will make payments to the accommodation provider on your behalf.

Accommodation Costs

FRYP

If you are accommodated in Supported Lodgings or with a Staying Home provider, there is an expectation that you pay a contribution to your board (approximately £20 per week). Payment is expected to cover food costs. If you have chosen to do your own shopping and cooking, this payment may be reduced. All details will be agreed and recorded in your pathway plan.

Housing Bonds/Rent /Deposits

EYP

RYP

FRYP

When looking to secure your own tenancy, the preferred option is for you to secure accommodation in social housing (local authority), through a housing association or voluntary sector housing scheme. The Leaving Care Service works closely with these organisations, making each better placed to support your journey to independent living.

The Leaving Care Service encourages tenancies with Berneslai Homes (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council), as the preferred accommodation provider. Support for private tenancies, such as when local authority housing can not be readily sourced in your preferred location, will be considered on an individual basis.

If you decide to take up a tenancy with a private landlord, they will need to accept housing benefit/Universal Credit. Bonds and deposits can be taken from your setting up home allowance with the agreement of the Future Directions team manager, but you need to be aware that this will impact of the budget you will have to furnish and equip your home.

Dependent on your personal circumstances and tenancy readiness we may also agree to act as a guarantor for private tenancies.

Setting-up Home Allowance

EYP

RYP

FRYP

FRYP

Dependent on your circumstances, you can receive **up to a maximum of £3200** setting up home allowance from the Leaving Care Service, this is payable at any time up until you turn 25 years of age. Your personal advisor will need to have a copy of your tenancy agreement before money can be released. You may also be eligible for monies through the Household Support Grant or other cost of living funds or charities that are available in line with the current cost of living crisis. **If you are eligible for other grants and funds, the amount received will be deducted from the maximum setting up home allowance available from the Leaving Care Service.**

What it Pays For?

The setting up home allowance is a grant that is intended to support you to move to a more independent living situation and is for white goods (fridge, washing machine etc.), as well as other basic furnishings (carpets, bed, sofa, table and chairs, curtains etc). This allowance is held by the Future Directions service, your individual needs will be assessed by your personal advisor and an agreed amount will be available to support you with the purchase of additional items to set up your home. A list of suggested items can be found at the end of this document. Whilst your wishes and feelings will be taken into account, the Leaving Care Service will make the final decision in relation to setting up home allowance being issued.

Barnsley Children's Services have an agreement with **Help Out Barnsley** to enable care leavers to access their stock of preloved and reconditioned furnishings and household essentials. Whilst we appreciate that you may want to fill your new home with new goods this may not be financially possible so a combination of the new and pre-loved may stretch your money that little bit further – and the quality of goods from Help Out Barnsley is genuinely very high.

In addition you can access a 20% reduction on all personal and household items purchased at any of Barnardo's retail stores nationwide. [20% Discount - Care Leaver Covenant](#)

If you are a young person entering supported lodgings or living in staying put, you can access up to £500 to personalise your room. A record of items you receive will be made and this will be taken off any later setting up home allowance you may receive if you move to your own tenancy.

What You Might Need When Setting Up Home

Furniture	White Goods	Kitchen Equipment	Soft Furnishings	Other Essentials
Bed	Washing Machine	Plates/ Bowls	Duvets and Pillows	Smoke Alarms
Wardrobe	Fridge/ Freezer	Glasses and Mugs	Bedding x 2 Sets	Contents Insurance
Chest of Draws	Cooker	Cutlery	Towels	TV License
Sofa/ Armchair	Microwave	Pots and Pans	Lamp/ Lampshade	Removal Costs
TV Stand	Vacuum Cleaner	Ironing Board	Curtains/ Blinds and Fittings	Cooker Fitting
	Iron	Bin	Bathmat	Washing Machine Plumbing
	Kettle/ Toaster	Washing-Up Bowl	Shower Curtain	
	TV	Tea Towels	Carpets/ Flooring	



Insurance

The service expects that all young people take out the necessary contents insurance to protect their belongings. The service will not be liable to replace an individual's belongings in the case of damage or theft. Payment for insurance should come from a young person's setting up home allowance or their general income.

- ☐ Local assistance scheme - applications for furniture/carpets/white goods to be made to the local assistance scheme for young people on benefits or on a low income. The young person will need to have signed for their tenancy before this application can be made.
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/advice-benefits-and-council-tax/benefits-help-and-support/local-welfare-assistance-scheme/>
- ☐ The Household Support Fund can help with, food and housekeeping, telephone and broadband, gas and electricity, clothing, and white goods <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/advice-benefits-and-council-tax/help-with-the-rising-cost-of-living/support-for-households/>
- ☐ For young people outside of Barnsley, the allocated personal advisor will make contact with the local authority to request the local assistance grant.
- ☐ If a young person wishes to enter a private rented tenancy, the landlord must accept housing benefit/universal credit in all cases.
- ☐ For young people living in staying put/supported lodgings, they can access up to £500 from their SUHA. This will be deducted from their SUHA.
- ☐ For private rented accommodation, it would be expected that flooring would be provided by the landlord and would therefore not be paid for from the SUHA.

Education and Training

Assistance for Education and Training

EYP

RYP

FRYP

We believe that you can, with support, achieve your full potential, dreams and ambitions. We'll ensure that you have the highest levels of support and assistance to achieve your goals in life.

From 13-25 years, you'll be allocated and supported by a personal adviser from the [Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance Service](#) (TIAG), who will be ready to proudly celebrate your achievements with you.

As an eligible, relevant or former relevant young person, you may be able to receive financial support of £1200 a year direct from your school, Further Education College or learning provider. This is known as the 16-19 Bursary. Discretionary learner support may be available for older learners. These payments are in addition to your income maintenance payment if you are an eligible or relevant young person.

If your course equipment requirements are particularly expensive, then a further allowance of up to £100 may be granted. In such cases, we would ask you to provide the full equipment list required in order to thoroughly assess your needs.

If you are an eligible or relevant young person and are caring for your own child/ren whilst undertaking further education, your need for support with childcare costs will be considered. In the first instance the education provider should be approached to understand what support they offer.

Your personal advisor will support you to apply for 'Care to Learn' (<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>) to help with childcare costs while you study.



Celebration of Educational Achievement

EYP

RYP

FRYP

On achieving significant educational success, the Leaving Care Service will give the young person a gift or voucher to the value of £50 to acknowledge and celebrate their achievement. This can be given once per financial year.

- ☐ As the allocated personal advisor, you will need to find out what financial support is available to young people in the form of bursaries, bus fares or help with equipment, from their education/training providers.
- ☐ In South Yorkshire, young people aged between 18-21 can travel for 80p per journey. Each person will need to apply for the Zoom Beyond travel pass:
[Travel South Yorkshire](#)
- ☐ Young people aged between 16-19 can apply for the 16-19 bursary fund: <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>. Please provide a letter confirming your young person is a care leaver.
- ☐ Where a young person is receiving a bursary from LCS, it is the personal advisor's responsibility to verify continued attendance on the course at least every half term. Signed consent must be gained from the young person prior to commencing the course.
- ☐ Care to Learn is available to young people to cover childcare costs. The young person must be 20 or under at the start of their course:
<https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn>

Apprenticeships

EYP

RYP

FRYP

FRYP

We have a wide range of apprenticeships for care leavers so if you're keen to earn while you learn with us [take a look at our apprenticeships webpage](#).

If you are on an apprenticeship, you will be able to request a care leavers bursary from your employer after you have completed the first 60 days. The bursary can only be claimed once, and it is a one-off payment of £1000.

The Leaving Care Service will offer additional financial support if you live independently. We will top up your apprenticeship wage in line with the National Minimum Wage for your age. The rates can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Work Experience

We recognise that not all young people will be ready for the world of full-time employment or apprenticeships, especially if their experience of school was a less

than positive one.

This is why we will, in 2025/26, be working with the whole Council to offer every care leaver who expresses an interest a work experience opportunity within the “Family Firm” that most closely matches their expressed interests. The commitment required from yourself will be tailored to your own individual needs and, where necessary, start from a very low level that we can work together to gradually increase this over the course of the work placement.

In addition, we will be looking to closely match you with a work-based mentor that you will be most likely to be able to get on with (so not necessarily a manager) to give your work experience the best chance of success.

Income Top Up:

If you are in employment, living independently and are on a low income, you may still qualify for some financial assistance depending on how much you earn and your bills. Your personal advisor will complete a financial assessment with you to help determine your incomings and outgoings.

Income top up will be considered if you have less than £80 a week to live on, once the following items have been paid for:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Water rates

After these items have been deducted and you have less than £80 a week to live on, we will top up your income to £80 a week.

- Apprenticeship bursary – this is paid by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) to an apprenticeship training provider, where the apprentice remains on the apprenticeship for at least 60 days. The training provider passes payment on to the apprentice in a single payment within 30 days of receiving it, unless ESFA provide confirmation in writing that a longer period is acceptable.
- Apprenticeship top up – we will top the young persons’ wage to the National Minimum Wage in line with the young person’s age group. Please note that the apprenticeship wage will increase after year 1. The National Minimum Wage rates increase on 1st April each year. Current rates can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

Higher Education Assistance (University)

FRYP

FRYP

QYP

The Leaving Care Service are happy to support you to pursue higher education up to the age of 25. This will be detailed in your pathway plan throughout your education. The guidance below is based around studying for a three-year degree course, although we will continue to financially support you beyond three years if you decide to defer a year or need to re-sit any modules, resulting in course length exceeding beyond three years.



If you wish to study part-time, please discuss your circumstances with your personal advisor. Any changes of study will need to be agreed by the Senior Leadership Team before any commitment is made.

All university students will need to sign a consent form to agree for their personal advisor to maintain contact with university at least once per term. Funding will be withdrawn if you no longer remain on the course, or if attendance is below the acceptable standard set by each university.

Bursaries, Grants and Loans

As a young person attending university, you will be expected to claim all bursaries and grants available to you through the academic institution of your choice. Your personal advisor will be able to help you to do this.

You will most likely need to apply for a student loan to cover your course fees known as a 'Tuition Fee Loan' this is paid directly to your chosen university. In addition, you will need to apply for a 'Maintenance Loan', this is available to all full-time students and is means tested. This loan is expected to support the costs of things such as food and bills. Your personal advisor will need a copy of your statement of student finance in order to set up finance from the Leaving Care Service.

Universities also offer a 'hardship fund' which any student can apply for if you are in financial difficulty. Your personal advisor will be able to support you with this, if necessary.

Some universities also have a leaving care champion and these champions will offer you support and guidance on finances and University education. Your

personal advisor will help to link you in with a leaving care champion if its offered by the University.

Accommodation Costs

In order for you to attend university, the Leaving Care Service will support your accommodation costs on an annual basis up to **£7,500** outside London. For accommodation costs inside London, Bristol, Cambridge or Oxford, this will be up to **£10,000** per year. Your accommodation costs will be paid directly to your hall of residence or other accommodation. It will be on a termly basis by direct payment to them. You will be supported by your personal advisor to find a property that best suits your needs and will help you connect with the university of your choice for local support and knowledge around accommodation options.

Weekly Allowance Payments

The Leaving Care Service will help you with your living costs whilst at university by paying you a weekly allowance payment of £73.15 (2025/26) per week for the duration of your course. This will be paid throughout the year if you live independently or term time only if you return home to live with your former carers during non-term time. Consent for the university to share information with the Leaving Care Service must be given.

University Graduation

The university you attend may provide a grant, for care leavers, to pay for gowns and photos at a graduation ceremony. If this is not the case, the Leaving Care Service will pay £100 contribution for University Graduates towards gowns and photos if you are attending a graduation ceremony.

Higher Education Bursary




In addition, the Leaving Care Service will pay a bursary of £2500 to any Former Relevant young person attending higher education to support you with the cost of books and materials. This payment will be made in three instalments across the duration of the course. Payment arrangements will be agreed and detailed in your pathway plan.

Vacation Accommodation and Staying Home

Depending on your living arrangements whilst at university, you may require accommodation support during holiday periods. The Leaving Care Service will meet the cost of this accommodation, and this will need to be agreed with your personal advisor. This will include covering the cost of staying put for the duration of your course.

Note: young people without settled status in the United Kingdom, will need to

discuss university applications with their personal advisor at the earliest opportunity to ensure their eligibility for funding. You may not be entitled to higher education support until you have been granted leave to remain in the country.

Other Costs

We will fund any travel costs at the start and end of term to get to and from your chosen university and also fund any travel costs associated with contact with your family / former carers, this will be paid directly to you or reimbursed to you.

Master's Degree

If you wish to study for a master's degree, please discuss this with your personal advisor. Consideration will be given to funding accommodation costs to support you with further studies.

- For young people wishing to study part-time or on an Open University course, a financial assessment must be completed by the personal advisor before funding can be considered. This will include exploring other funding streams from the University or through DWP.
- The young person must provide evidence of their award statement from Student Finance. Income maintenance payments should only be made to young people once confirmed that they have applied for all grants and loans.
- Funding, as outlined above, would be for the duration of a three-year degree, however should the Young Person need to defer a year or re-sit any modules, then funding can continue on a discretionary basis agreed by the Future Directions Team Manager.
- The personal advisor will explore funding available through the university to support textbooks and equipment needed for the course and for costs related to graduation.
- The personal will explore what care leaver grants are available through the chosen university.
- The young person must sign a consent form to comply with data sharing legislation and this will be uploaded to Mosaic for future reference.
- The personal advisor must contact the university to confirm attendance at least once per half term.

Other Help

Clothing Allowance



If you are an eligible or relevant young person living independently, you are entitled to a clothing allowance of up to £400 per year. Your needs will be assessed by your social worker or personal advisor.

If you are an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker who has spontaneously arrived in Barnsley or has been allocated to Barnsley through the National Transfer Scheme, you are entitled to an initial clothing allowance of up to £200 and then up to a further £200 during the course of the year.

If clothing is lost or damaged, you may apply to the Leaving Care Service for assistance. Any assistance will be based on an assessment of your personal circumstances.

Internet Access

Are you struggling with the cost of living and in need of data? The Care Leavers Association Data Bank is here to help! In association with The Digital Inclusion Network, The Care Leavers' Association presents "Keeping Care Leavers Connected." We know how important staying connected is, especially in these challenging times. If you're a care leaver in need of data, please reach out to us at: info@careleavers.com. We're here to support you! N.B. This offer is open to care experienced people of any age Please email: info@careleavers.com with any queries [CLA Data Bank – The Care Leavers Association](#)

[FREE Broadband & Unlimited data for active job seekers - Care Leaver Covenant](#)

We have also ensured that there are laptops you can access at the Hub to enable you to undertake job searches and complete job or training applications etc.

Maternity Clothing



If you are pregnant and require maternity clothing, your needs will be assessed by your personal advisor. Following assessment, a clothing allowance of up to £100 may be granted post 25 weeks gestation.

If you are unemployed, you may be entitled to the Sure Start Maternity Grant. This will be a one- off government grant of £500 to help you to purchase items for your baby such as a pram, Moses basket, steriliser etc. The grant is only available for your first child.

<https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant>

Future Directions will also give you a baby box with essential items for you and baby ready for birth for you to use in hospital and when you first return home,

up to the value of £50. This will include nappies, wipes, sanitary wear, toiletries etc.

- A maternity clothing grant is available up to £100. This will be available after 25 weeks gestation unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- The personal advisor will support the young person to claim Health Start Vouchers after 10 weeks gestation:
<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>
- The personal advisor can support the young person to claim the Maternity Grant from 29 weeks gestation. This grant is for £500 and is to enable the young person to buy items for their baby. This is paid directly into their bank account:
<https://www.gov.uk/sure-start-maternity-grant>
- Pregnant women are entitled to free prescriptions and dental care during pregnancy and until their child reaches 1 year old.
<https://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en/articles/free-prescriptions-and-nhs-dental-care-in-pregnancy>.
- Government guidance is available for pregnant women dependent on their circumstances:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maternity-certificate-mat-b1-guidance-for-health-professionals/benefits-available-during-pregnancy-background-information>
- MAT B1 – some young people may be entitled to claim Maternity Allowance. This can be discussed with their SPOC to check entitlement. Here is some guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/maternity-certificate-mat-b1-guidance-for-health-professionals/maternity-certificate-form-mat-b1-guidance-on-completion>

Pregnant young women receiving Universal Credit are entitled to claim Healthy Start Vouchers and may be entitled to further benefits under government schemes. Your personal advisor will be able to support you with this.

Birthday & Cultural Celebrations

EYP

RYP

FRYP

If you are an eligible or relevant young person living independently, you are entitled to a birthday gift to the value of £150. This should preferably be a gift that can be bought in discussion with your personal advisor or can be made available via a selection of gift vouchers. You will also receive £150 for Christmas or other cultural celebrations such as Eid (1 payment per year).

For Former Relevant young people, the value of the gift you receive depends

on your age. If in foster care, your 18th birthday payment will come from your foster carer:

Age	Birthday payment	Celebration payment
18	150	50
19	50	50
20	50	50
21	150	

- For each young person's 18th and 21st birthday, you can purchase a cake up to the amount of £15.
- Birthday and celebrations allowance should be in the form of a gift or a supervised spend.

Driving Lessons

EYP

RYP

FRYP

The Leaving Care Service will purchase a provisional driving license for all young people.

For 17 – 21-year-olds engaged in education, training or employment, the Leaving Care Service will support you in learning how to drive by paying for your provisional license, ten driving lessons, one theory and one practical test. If you choose to complete an 'intensive driving course' you will be expected to contribute towards the increased cost. The Leaving Care Service will only provide funds for 10 singular driving lessons. You must pass your theory test before lessons will be paid for. You can search for an approved driving instructor by visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/find-driving-schools-and-lessons>.

The AA also offer Free a free driving theory test app to help you pass : [Driving Theory Test App - Free Download - Care Leaver Covenant](#)

Passport

EYP

RYP

FRYP

FRYP

The Leaving Care Service will pay the cost of a passport application or renewal. This would usually be purchased if you are going on a holiday abroad, on your 16th birthday or the point that you are no longer involved with Leaving Care depending on your stated preference. Some young people may need a passport prior to reaching adulthood as a form of proof of identity but you can use this until it expires even if you are over 18 so you will need to discuss the best option for you with your social worker/personal adviser. However, Children in Care/Leaving Care will only purchase one passport per person.

Health, Dental and Optical Assistance

Your health is important to us. We want to support you to live an active and healthy life and make sure you can access the right health services.

Registering for Services

Register with a GP

[Find out how to register with a GP.](#)

Register with a dentist

[Find out of how to register with a dentist.](#)

If you are under the age of 19 and in full-time education, you are unlikely to pay the majority of NHS dental and prescription charges. If not, you can claim assistance using an HC1 form which will entitle you to dental and optical care. Your personal advisor will support you in completing this.

If you have to pay for your prescriptions and need more than four prescriptions in a three-month period, you may wish to consider a prepayment prescription card. A card can be purchased for a three-month period or annually (with monthly payments). <https://www.gov.uk/get-a-ppc>

Young People in Custody

EYP

RYP

If you are under 18 years old, you will receive £40 a month to enable you to purchase toiletries and phone cards. Your personal advisor will detail how this will be given to you, dependent on the local rules of the Youth Offending Institution (YOI) you are in. This may be provided in the form of a postal order which is then processed by the YOI and credited to your prison account.

On your birthday, your personal advisor will assess your needs and where appropriate and in line with individual prison procedures, you will be given a payment or gift to the value of £150. This will also apply for cultural celebrations such as Christmas or Eid to the amount of £150. If you are unable to receive a gift to this value, then the equivalent amount will be paid into your government trust fund account which you will be able to access upon turning 18 years.

If you have been released from serving a custodial sentence and you are under the age of 18, you will be given a clothing grant of £100. This will be a supervised spend with your personal advisor and will be deducted from any further clothing grant allocations you may receive at a later date.

Young People in Custody

FRYP

If you are 18-21 years old, you will receive £20 a month to enable you to purchase toiletries and phone cards.

On your birthday, your personal advisor will assess your needs and where appropriate and in line with individual prison procedures, you will be given a payment or gift to the value of £50. This will also apply for cultural celebrations such as Christmas or Eid to the amount of £50.

On release from custody, your personal advisor will assess your transport needs in advance. A plan will be put in place for you to return to your home. If you have spent 12 months or more in prison. Your personal advisor will assess your clothing needs. If appropriate, a clothing grant of £100 will be allocated to your personal advisor to purchase relevant clothing upon your release.

Summary of Payments

		Eligible Young Person	Relevant Young Person	Former Relevant Young Person 18-21 Living Independently	Qualifying Young People (up to 21)	Former Relevant Young Person 21-25
General Income	Weekly Allowance	£71.70 pw dependent on circumstances	£71.70 (£10 if living at home) dependent on circumstances	IM of £73.15 available if not entitled to Universal Credit		IM Support if moving from heritage benefits to UC for 5 weeks
	Wage top up available for low earners	✓	✓			
	Clothing allowance (up to - based on needs assessment)	£400	£400			
Further Education	Equipment Grant	up to £100	up to £100	up to £100		
Higher Education	HE Bursary			£2500 (spread over duration of course)		£2500 (spread over duration of course)
	HE Accommodation			£7500-£10000	£7500-£10000	£7500-£10000
	HE IM			£61.05 pw	£61.05 pw	£61.05 pw
	Graduation Costs			£100	£100	£100
Accommodation & setting up home allowance (SUHA)	Accommodation allowance	Costs met	Costs met			
	Bonds/Deposit	From SUHA	From SUHA	From SUHA		From SUHA
	Local Assistance Scheme (if eligible)	Up to £1000	Up to £1000	Up to £1000		Up to £1000
	Leaving Care Service Contribution	£2,500 - £3,200	£2,500 - £3,200	£2,500 - £3,200		£2,500 - £3,200
	Supported Lodgings	£500*	£500*	£500*		£500*
Learning to drive	Driving Lessons x 10 if in education or employment	✓	✓	✓		
	Provisional License	✓	✓	✓		
	Theory Test if in education or employment	✓	✓	✓		
	Driving Test if in education or employment	✓	✓	✓		
Other	Passport	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Celebration of achievement award	up to £50	up to £50	up to £50		
	Birthday money	£150 if living in community	£150 if living in community	18 £150, 19/20 £50, 21 £150		
	Xmas/Eid money	£150 if living in community	£150 if living in community	£50 (under 21)		

Local Services

Housing Advice

Berneslai Homes on (01226) 787878.

They'll be available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and

Saturday 8am to 1pm.

Live Well Barnsley

You can find information about help and support services in the borough at

[Live Well Barnsley.](#)

Mental health services

If you feel like you need help and support with your emotional wellbeing you can:

- Speak to your personal adviser or nurse
- Contact your GP
- Refer yourself into mental health services by calling (01226) 645000.

In an emergency situation call 999 or go to the nearest emergency department.

CHILYPEP

[CHILYPEP](#) offers a list of services available in Barnsley that provides support on emotional wellbeing for young people in Barnsley.

Improving access to psychological therapies (IAPT)

IAPT help people to get quick and easy access to the best type of therapy for their own needs. Barnsley IAPT is a free service; they're part of the NHS and have a team of qualified and experienced professionals specially chosen to work alongside the young persons' local GP. Speak to your adviser for more information or [view our flowchart on how to make referrals](#).

Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services (OASIS)

OASIS is a CHILYPEP group based in Barnsley that aims to help young people to shape mental health services for young people in Barnsley.

The group meets every Thursday, 5pm to 7pm at Horizon College to discuss campaign ideas. For more details email chantelle.parke@chilypep.org.uk.

Pregnancy

If you become pregnant and would like to speak to someone about this, please contact your nurse or personal adviser who can support you and help you to access relevant services.

Support for young parents

Care to Learn

If you want to return to education but you need support with childcare costs, Care to Learn might be able to help. You might be able to get a weekly amount up to £160 to help pay for childcare costs. You must be a young parent below the age of 20.

[Find out more about Care to Learn.](#)

Barnsley family centres

[Barnsley family centres](#) offer services for families from pre-birth onwards.

Through groups, activities and much more they support;

- children to be ready for school and thrive in school
- parents and carers to develop their parenting skills
- healthier lifestyles for children
- families to build resilience
- families to meet and share experiences

For more information call 0800 0345 340 or email infofis@barnsley.gov.uk.

Barnsley families information service

Barnsley's Families Information Service (FIS) provides free and confidential information and advice for parents.

Use FIS to help you;

- apply for support to help paying for childcare
- find Ofsted registered childcare
- find fun things to do including local clubs or activities
- with employment advice, childcare career choices including how to become a childminder
- with information and advice for young people with SEND

Contact their freephone on 0800 0345 or email infofis@barnsley.gov.uk

You can use [Barnsley Family Service Directory](#) to search for information.

Sexual health

- You can get a whole range of support, advice, testing and contraception that's 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.
- [Find out more about Spectrum](#) or to book an appointment online or call 0800 055 6442. If you'd rather not go to the clinic, contact your nurse who can give you advice and support around sexual health and may be able to provide you with condoms.
- Your GP may also be able to provide contraception or supply free emergency hormonal contraception such as the morning after pill.

Stopping smoking

If you would like to stop smoking please speak with your personal adviser or nurse who can offer you advice and support.

The [NHS Yorkshire smoke free service](#) can also offer you support to stop smoking.

Substance misuse

If you're using drugs or alcohol and would like help to stop, reduce your use or keep yourself safe whilst using, please speak to your nurse or personal adviser.

You can also get support from:

- the Young People's Substance Misuse Team if you're under 18 by contacting (01226)705980
- NHS drug and alcohol services if you're over 18.

You can get support online by visiting:

- [Talk to Frank](#)
- [NHS Drug Abuse](#)
- [NHS alcohol misuse](#)



Getting fit, being active and eating healthy

Getting fit, being active and eating healthy weblink

Part of being healthy is keeping fit and eating healthily. Your nurse and personal adviser can help you in achieving this and let you know about ways to do this.

Running apps and resources

- [Walking for health](#)
- [Couch to 5K running](#)
- [Easy healthy meals](#)
- [Eat well](#)
- [Get fit for free](#)



Develop your skills and gain valuable experience

[Leaving care - our local offer for care leavers](#)

I Know I Can

I Know I can is all about helping young people fulfil their potential. They can help raise qualification levels and strengthen life skills, creating a real I Know I Can attitude.

[Find out more on the IKIC website.](#)

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to build confidence and develop those transferable skills employers are looking for.

[Take a look at our volunteering opportunities](#)

Work Experience

We want all young people in Barnsley to aspire high and achieve their full potential.

[Find out about work experience opportunities.](#)



Revised 22nd May 2025
Next revision due for April 2026

Consultation Event

During Care Leavers week in October a group of care experienced young people were consulted as to what additional support they think would be most beneficial in their transition from being a child in care to being a care leaver.

Like everyone else the Council does not have an endless pot of money and has to make careful decisions about what they spend their budget on.

Listed below are the options identified by the Care4Us Council alongside the projected costs. We plan to organize a Survey Monkey process to identify your preferred options to take to the Council for consideration out of the following list of options :-

- ☐ Increase the Setting Up Home Allowance to £3,500
- ☐ Provide carpets as this can take up most of the SUHA
- ☐ Birthday and Religious Festival allowance to be extended to the age of 25
- ☐ Free Bus Pass
- ☐ Clothing Allowance extended to the age of 21
- ☐ Purchase of the TV license for at least the first year of living independently
- ☐ A laptop and Wi-Fi access to enable job applications
- ☐ Free gym membership
- ☐ Free dentist and optician appointments
- ☐ A basket of essentials (cleaning materials etc.) for when you first move into your new home.
- ☐ Re-sit driving test costs.

Following the full consultation the young people agreed that the following should be the priorities for further action over the course of 2025/26:

- Laptop and Wi-Fi access via the Hub.
- Free rather than discounted access to Council owned gyms and leisure facilities.
- Free eye tests and dental checks.
- A more cost-effective means of securing flooring/carpets in our tenancies.