

# Local Offer to Care Leavers



A guide to services and entitlements for Care Leavers



Derby City Council

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## Contact details for the Leaving Care Team are:

Post address:

**Aspire  
Leaving Care Team  
Curzon House  
8 Curzon Street  
Derby  
DE1 1LL**

Phone: **01332 643907**

Minicom: **01332 256666**

# What you can expect from us

## About Derby City's Local Offer to Care Leavers

We know that it is a big step when you move out of care and start living independently on your own or with friends. Just because you are leaving care, or have already left care, we haven't stopped caring about you and we can help. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for advice and help.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 told us that we need to publish a 'Local Offer to Care Leavers'

This local offer will provide information about all the services and support that is available to Care Leavers who were in the care of Derby City Council. This booklet will tell you about what you can expect from us. This support may vary dependent on your circumstances.

The act also states that you will be able to ask for support from the Leaving Care services up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

If you have left the service and are still under 25 then you can contact us for further information on how to access the support you may need.

To be able to get some or all of support set out in this local offer, you must 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 you can contact the Leaving Care Team or speak to your Social Worker.

Derby City Care Leavers have been consulted with regards to the offer and this offer will be published and reviewed annually.

The Offer is open to all Derby City Care Leavers regardless of where you might be living.

We have some things that we must do as a service, but we have also consulted with a number of Derby City Care Leavers with regards to what else we could offer you.

# What does the Leaving Care Team do

We are your 'Corporate Parents' which means, it is our responsibility to be good parents to all young people in our care. Being a good parent means keeping you safe and providing you with the highest possible level of support to meet your individual needs. We can help you to access housing, education and training, work experience, health services and we are here to support you to make the most of leaving care. We will give you advice on obtaining a suitable placement, help with education, employment and training programmes. We will give you advice, encouragement and financial advice to help you make the most of your journey through the care system.

The Leaving Care Service is based at Connexions on Curzon Street. Our Team is made up of Personal Advisors who have a duty to provide you with support and assistance. We have to provide this support to you until you are 21 (or 25 if you want)

Once you turn 18, you will no longer have a social worker and your PA will become your main worker and continue working with you at least until the age of 21. However the Leaving Care Service can continue to work with you until you are 25 subject to your agreement.

Your PA will keep in contact and arrange meetings with you; they will visit you at home and also arrange to meet you in the community.

As a young adult the decisions and choices you make are your own – after all, you will have to live with the consequences. Your Personal Advisor will provide you with advice, information and guidance to help you make the best choices and decisions. The relationship between you and your Personal Advisor is important, make the most of your Personal Advisor, treat them with respect and keep in touch.

Young People between the ages of 16-20 who are in care or who are a care leaver will have a pathway plan, your first pathway plan meeting will be part of your annual Looked After Review. This will be based on and include your Care Plan and any Personal Education Plan (PEP) you have. The pathway plan has information on the best way to support you towards full independence and onwards into adulthood. It will cover your education, employment, health, finance, social needs, relationships and housing. The Pathway Plan is written in a way that should meet your individual needs; it will capture your hopes for the future and include your views and key messages. Your Pathway Plan will be regularly reviewed with you, at least every 6 months. These meetings will check that your goals and milestones are still right and are being met.

# Types of Care Leavers

The support you are entitled to is outlined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017. What you will get will depend on how long you have been in care and how old you are and the support may include help with housing, education and training.

## Who can we help?

The Leaving Care Act defines the categories of Care Leavers– eligible, relevant, former relevant and qualifying.

- Eligible Child – A child aged 16 and 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who are still looked after.
- Relevant Child – A child aged 16 and 17 who have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who have left care. This also includes young people who were detained (e.g. in a youth offending institution or hospital) when they turned 16 but immediately before that were looked after.
- Former Relevant Child – A Young person over 18 who was previously 'eligible' or 'relevant'. Local authorities now support this group up to 25 Years of age.

The support offered to Care Leavers who do not meet the requirements of the above may be eligible for a service as a 'qualifying child'

- Qualifying Child – Any young person under 25 who ceased to be looked after or accommodated in a variety of other settings, or was privately fostered, after the age of 16. This also includes young people who are under special guardianship orders.

If you feel that you are a 'qualifying' young person and feel that you are entitled to an assessment then in the first instance please contact the Leaving Care team on 01332 643907.

# Our Pledge to Care Leavers

## Respect and Honour your identity

We will treat you like adults, respect your privacy and work with the unique potential of everybody. We will treat you with respect and dignity and encourage a you to lead a healthy lifestyle

## To believe in you

We actively celebrate your achievements and will at all times have the very highest of aspirations for you in whatever it is you want to do. We will ensure that you have access to good Advice and Guidance in order that you are able to make well informed decisions about your future.

## To listen to you

We will be available to listen to you. We will continue to explore ways by which we can provide support in addition to the out of hours service.

We will make sure that the plan's we make with you have your views, wishes and aims at the forefront. Through the Care Leavers forum and Consultations, we will take your views on board to improve our service to you.

## To inform you

We will help you to understand and be informed of your Rights and Entitlements.

We will provide you with an Entitlements booklet when you reach 16 years of age that will provide you with the information you need as you make the transition to adulthood, such as support with travel costs for example. We will run a duty system so that you are able to call in for advice or give us a call and inform you of opportunities available to you.

## To Support you

We will allocate a Personal Adviser to you when you are 16. Your Personal Adviser will support you with regards to all the Life skills you will need. We will help you to make the best of your educational opportunities and be informed of your choices.

## To find you a home

We will continue to offer you advice and support to ensure you have secure and safe accommodation. We will be clear about accommodation options available to you and inform you of your choices. We will provide support for you to ensure that you make the most a successful move into your first home.

## To be a lifelong champion

We will ensure that you are able to return to us for advice and support even if our formal relationship has ended with you. We will help to signpost you to the other services available to support you, work in partnership with them to make sure that we enable you to succeed.

# How we will support you

To make this offer clear and easy to understand and follow we have used the following sub-headings:

- Support and Advice.
- Education, Training and Employment.
- Accommodation & Independence.
- Your Health.
- Your Money and Finances
- Your relationships.
- Your Identity and Participation in society.
- Being Heard

We understand that there may be times that the Leaving care team will also consider need to consider what extra support you may need, for example you may need additional support because;

- You have special educational needs or a disability
- You were an Unaccompanied Migrant Child and your immigration status is unclear
- You are leaving custody or have been in contact with the criminal justice system
- You are a young parent
- You are going through a difficult time in your personal life.

In these cases your PA will advise you of what additional support we can provide.

# Support and Advice

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
<b>Support and advice from the Leaving Care Service.</b>	16-25	You can access support from the Leaving Care Service until you are 25.
<b>Allocation of Personal Adviser.</b>	16-20	We will try to make sure that you keep the same Personal Adviser, but this isn't always possible.
	21-25	Allocation of a Personal Adviser is based upon your individual needs
<b>A Pathway Assessment (Needs Assessment).</b>	16-20	This should take place no later than 3 months after your 16th Birthday or 3 months after you become Looked After.
	21-25	You are also now able to return to the service for help and support from 21 to 25 and we will undertake an assessment with you to establish how best we can provide you with the support that you need.
<b>A Pathway Plan.</b> We will prepare a pathway Plan with you that sets out how we will help you to achieve the things you want to. We will review the plan at least every 6 months with you and we will always involve you in preparing your plan.	16-20	You are expected to actively participate in your plan so that we are able support you with your hopes and aspirations.  You should expect to receive a copy of the results of the assessment and Pathway plan and of each reviewed Pathway plan thereafter.
	21-25	A pathway plan will be completed based upon your individual needs  A pathway plan will be completed based upon your individual needs
<b>Participate in your Review</b> meetings and supporting you as you make the journey to adulthood.	16-20	Your Personal Adviser will help you to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully move into adulthood.
	21-25	The Leaving Care Service will support and offer advice where appropriate.
Support and guidance in accessing other forms of support and specialist advice.	16-25	Your Personal Advisor will help you to make contact with other community based resources and activities.

# Support and Advice

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
<p><b>Regular visits to see you and keep in touch.</b></p>	16-20	<p>We must have face to face contact with Care Leavers every 2 months. This can be more frequent if needed.</p> <p>For some 16 and 17 year olds this could be every three months if settled.</p> <p>We would expect other forms of communication in between such as telephone calls , emails</p>
	21-25	<p>Once you turn 21 contact arrangements can be decided and agreed between you and the Leaving Care Service.</p> <p>If you are not in touch with us, we will write to you every year to remind you that you can still contact us if you need.</p> <p>If you are under 25 and would like a Leaving Care Service, you can re-refer yourself directly to the Leaving Care Team</p>

# Education, Training and Employment

We are committed to supporting achieving your very best. Going into higher education and employment can be a difficult time and we want to help you to do this as much as we possibly can..

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
We will provide you with a <b>Higher Education (HE) bursary</b> .	18-25	University – A bursary is available to Care Leavers attending University – See financial entitlements for current bursary details.  Other Higher education routes – Your PA will discuss with you the support on offer.
We will provide somewhere for you to stay during <b>University holidays</b> (or funding for this if you would prefer to make your own arrangements) if you are in HE or in residential further education.	18-25	We would expect that you discuss your plans for the holiday in plenty of time with your personal adviser.
Ensure that you can access <b>careers guidance</b> .	16-25	This will be referrals/ appointments to Connexions or the adult careers service both of whom work in the same building as the Leaving care service. We would also encourage you to access careers guidance in your school, college or University.
If you have <b>special needs</b> we will make sure that you are able to access the necessary additional support/ service that you need.	16-25	You may have other services and professionals involved and we will work closely with them to ensure that your aspirations and needs are being met. This could be Social workers, teachers, college tutors or training providers. We also have good links with the Virtual school for looked after children and care leavers.
<b>Additional financial support</b> to cover travel costs, IT costs, book allowance, set up costs & material costs.	16-25	These needs to be discussed and agreed with your Personal adviser and recorded in your Pathway plan.
<b>Access to DCC apprenticeships/ work placements/ traineeships.</b>	16-25	We will promote apprenticeships to you as an option and support you through the process.
We will support you in terms of accessing a <b>bursary</b> if you are in training or at college. If the provider does not operate a bursary we will pay an equivalent amount.	16-25	The amount will of bursary we will pay will be the same as the national amount of up £1200 per year.  You will be expected to attend regularly and behave responsibly.

# Education, Training and Employment

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
We can help to provide you with support so that you can <b>obtain the necessary employment skills</b> .	16-25	We would expect that you would participate positively in these sessions
We will <b>celebrate your achievements</b> . This is both through incentives (see Finance section) or an event.	16-20 21-25	You can expect some financial rewards and also recognition from your corporate parents for your achievements.  Within this age bracket incentives are limited.
<b>We will be aspirational</b> for you with regards to your Education, Training or employment plans. Encouraging you to apply to university, apprenticeships and employment.	16-25	In or conversations with you we will try to encourage you to think positively about your options and to aim as high as you can.
Support you with accessing taster sessions and open days to our local universities and colleges.	16-25	

# Accommodation and Independence

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
Suitable accommodation.	16-17	If you have left care we still have this responsibility. We expect that you will engage with your PA and support workers. Failure to live in the accommodation could place it at risk.
	18-25	There are a range of options open to you such as living in your own property, semi-independent accommodation, shared accommodation, staying put with Foster carers, shared lives. We will support you in accessing suitable and stable accommodation subject to your needs.
Priority access to housing.	18-25	As a care leaver you will be entitled to priority points with housing options which will support your relevant housing applications.
Council Tax.	18-25	Derby City Council exempts care Leavers from Council Tax wherever you live in the country – speak to your Personal Advisor about this for more information.
Setting up Home Grant	18-25	To support you in setting up your first home.
<b>Home starter pack</b> to be used when moving into your first tenancy.	16-25	To support you with the basics for moving into your first home
TV Licence.	16-25	After the first year we will support you to set up the most suitable method to start paying the licence yourself.
Tenancy/Independence training for Care Leavers.	16-25	We will support you to access support/training around living independently.

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
A <b>Health passport</b> outlining your known health history.	18-20	You will receive this as you turn 18 years of age and it is a summary of your health information including any immunisations you may have had and is an important document for you to keep.
Help you to <b>register with health services</b> .	16-25	We will expect that you will work with your PA to ensure that this happens and that you are registered with all health services, such as GP, dentist and opticians.
Help you to manage your <b>emotional well-being</b> . This may include Children and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and then the transition to adult mental health services.	16-25	We will discuss this with you as part of your Pathway plan and ensure that we listen to you so that you can access the right support and help.
Support and advice to assist you to attend <b>hospital and doctors' appointments</b> .	16-25	This will not always necessarily mean a lift to these appointments but may mean access to public transport where it is suitable.
Provide help and support to you if you are a <b>young parent</b> .	16-25	We will make sure that alongside yourself we will get you the support you need.
Support and advice in accessing <b>specialist services</b> . For example Drug and alcohol services, Domestic violence support amongst others.	16-25	Your PA will discuss this with your before making referrals to other agencies.  If you agree then you would be expected to keep the appointments.
<b>Access to leisure and cultural activities</b> .	16-25	Your PA will support you in identifying suitable activities to assist in your physical and emotional wellbeing. Please discuss this with your PA and raise this in your pathway plan.

# Your Money and Finances

More details can be found in Derby City Council Leaving Care Financial Entitlements at [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
<b>Setting up home grant</b>	18-25	See accommodation section.
Higher Education	18-25	See education section.
<b>Maintenance Allowance.</b> Equivalent to Benefit rate	16-17	This is for those young people living semi independently who are relevant.
<b>Birthday and festival</b> (eg Xmas, Eid) allowances/ gifts	16-20	The amounts are reviewed each year. Please see Leaving Care Financial Entitlements section.
We will make sure that you can access the financial advice you need so that you can learn to manage your money		We would expect that you would take up the help of assistance if you are in need of help with regards to finances.
Communication Allowance. £15 per month. Reviewed annually. For all Care Leavers and 'Eligible' young people who are Living semi independently	18-20	You are expected to provide your PA and leaving care service with an up to date Tel number, e mail address etc in order to access this payment
Basic income principle for those engaged in in EET.	18-20	We have a principle that any Care Leaver should have a minimum income equivalent to the basic benefit rate plus £ 30 once housing costs, council tax and transport to work or training has been deducted.  Each case will be addressed on its individual merits but this is an underpinning principle so it's important that you discuss this with your PA.
<b>Council Tax exemption</b> for all Care leavers	18-25	See accommodation section.  Your PA will discuss this with you if you live outside of the city in the first instance or support you if there are any problems.
<b>Provide additional financial support if you need it in an emergency</b>	16-20  21-25	This will need to involve a discussion between yourself and your personal adviser in the first instance.  The Leaving Care Service will support and signpost you towards avenues of support.

# Your Money and Finances continued

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
We will support you to make in managing your <b>financial requirements</b> and support you with relevant applications and claims.	18-25	The Leaving Care Service will support you to achieve financial independence.
<b>Support with contact</b>	16-25	<p>Arrangements should be made with your PA and agreed within your Pathway plan.</p> <p>The finances available will assessed on an individual basis.</p>
<b>Support to participate in activities, hobbies and pastimes</b>	<p>16-25</p> <p>16-21</p>	<p>We will actively encourage you to participate in activities that interest you. This could be help with membership of clubs, sports equipment, music clubs etc.</p> <p>The Leaving Care Service will facilitate monthly and annual activities for you to engage with and enjoy. Please speak with your PA for a timetable of events.</p> <p>Financial Support may be offered to support you in accessing relevant activities. This needs to be discussed with your PA and recorded in your Pathway plan.</p>
<b>Support for independent transport</b>	18-20	Financial contributions may be offered towards driving lessons, purchase of a bicycle and other transportation requirements. This will form part of and be recorded in your pathway plan.

# Your Relationships

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
We will actively support you to <b>maintain and develop healthy and positive relationships</b> with important and significant people in your life wherever appropriate	16-25	This might include providing support to enable family contact, developing social networks and advice/guidance as required.
<b>Support with contact</b>	16-20	Arrangements should be made with your PA and agreed within your Pathway plan.  The finances available will be assessed on an individual basis.
	16-25	Your PA will support you

# Your identity and participation in society

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
We will ensure that you <b>have you own passport</b> , we will ensure that you have a national insurance number, copies of birth certificates if required.	16-20	Its important that you have the essential ID as you make the transition into adulthood.  As an adult you will be expected to take care of these very important items.
If you are an <b>Unaccompanied asylum seeker</b> we will support you as your claim is being processed. This will include financial support until your decision has been made	18-20	You would be expected to keep your PA informed of your asylum claim progress.
Support to open a <b>bank account</b>	16-20	You would be expected to work with your PA to make sure that you have a bank account set up and in place especially by the time you reach 18.
Provision of a <b>communication allowance</b> so that young people can maintain a mobile contact number and e mail address	16-20	This helps to enable you to keep in contact with the service and also aims to reduce isolation.  You are expected to provide your PA with an up to date tel number and email address if you have one.
We will provide you with information about <b>activities, events or volunteering opportunities</b> available in your local area that you can get involved in  To help with this we have <b>Local area Coordinators</b> in Derby City who can help you to feel a part of the community where you live	16-25	Your PA will also discuss these with you.  You may be introduced to a Local Area coordinator. This is voluntary , but they may be able to provide additional advice and support.
We will support and <b>encourage you to vote</b> and take your full part in society	18-25	We want you to feel part of the community and society where you live and the right to vote we feel is very important and we will encourage and support you to do this.

# Being heard

What we offer	Age Range	What you need to know and your responsibilities
<p><b>Care leaver's rights.</b></p> <p>You have the right to be involved in all decisions about you when you leave care</p> <p>We will make sure that you can let us know what you think of and how you feel about the services you receive</p>	16-25	<p>We will ask you individually how you feel about the services you are receiving or this might be by a questionnaire, consultation or event.</p> <p>It's important you are able to participate so that you can help to shape the service and suggest changes.</p>
<p>You have the right to an advocate at any time including if you want to challenge decisions about the care and support you are provided with by the local authority</p>	16-25	<p>Your PA will support you to access relevant advocacy.</p>
<p>You have the right to see the information your local authority has about you, including the files kept about you when you were in care</p>	16-25  25+	<p>Your PA will provide with help and support with regards to your rights to ask about the information held about you.</p> <p>You can contact the Leaving Care Service, who will support you in who to contact in this regard.</p>
<p>You have the right to complain and the relevant contact details can be found at the end of this document</p>	16-25	<p>We would want you to have already raised your concerns with your Social worker, PA or their managers initially.</p>
<p><b>Care Leavers forum</b></p> <p>A place to come together with other care leavers and discuss issues that affect you and contribute to improving the service you have received.</p>	16-25	<p>The forum will be promoted to you by your PA and you will be encouraged to participate or make a contribution in a way that suits you.</p> <p>The service want to be able to offer care leavers a regular number of activities that they can attend which will help us to keep in touch, participate in an activity and receive feedback about the service his might be trips out, sports activities, arts and crafts etc.</p>



We can give you this information in any other way, style or language that will help you access it. Please contact us on: 01332 643907  
Minicom: 01332 640666

## Polish

Aby ułatwić Państwu dostęp do tych informacji, możemy je Państwu przekazać w innym formacie, stylu lub języku.

Prosimy o kontakt: 01332 643907      Tel. tekstowy: 01332 640666

## Punjabi

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਨਾਲ, ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਬੋਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦੇ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ, ਜਿਹੜੀ ਇਸ ਤੱਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ 01332 643907      ਮਿਨੀਕਮ 01332 640666      ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

## Slovakian

Túto informáciu vám môžeme poskytnúť iným spôsobom, štýlom alebo v inom jazyku, ktorý vám pomôže k jej sprístupneniu. Skontaktujte nás prosím na tel.č: 01332 643907      Minicom 01332 640666.

## Urdu

01332 643907      یہ معلومات ہم آپ کو کسی دیگر ایسے طریقے، انداز اور زبان میں مہیا کر سکتے ہیں جو اس تک رسائی میں آپ کی مدد کرے۔ براہ کرا  
منی کام      01332 640666      پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔



Derby City Council