

Derby City Council.

Care leavers Offer.

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What is a Local offer?

The Local offer will provide information about all the services and support that is available to Care Leavers from Derby City Council. The Offer will include information about your statutory entitlements (services and support we **must** give you by law) in addition to any extra support that Derby City council may **choose** to provide.

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

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

PA to 25

Following changes introduced by the Children and Social Work Act 2017 you will be able to ask for support from your Personal Adviser and 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 the Leaving Care Service for further information on how to access the support you need.

Corporate Parenting Principles.

Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 also requires the Local Authority to show how they will provide a service to Care Leavers using the following Corporate Parenting principles.

What you can expect from your Corporate Parents.

- *to act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being, of those children and young people*
- *to encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings*
- *to take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people*
- *to help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its 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 those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.*

To be able to get the support set out in this offer, you must have been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16th birthday) or for 13 weeks 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 or keyworker.

This Offer is available online at [*website*], you can email [*contact*] to request more copies.

NB All care leavers have a Legal status and they are all entitled to access this offer with the exception of 'Qualifying ' young people, who are limited to Advice and Assistance and support for a Vacation accommodation if studying at university.

Your social worker or personal adviser will explain your legal status with you.

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Details of Derby City Council's Local Offer of Services and Support to Care Leavers.

This offer can alter dependent upon how old you are as a Care Leaver. This document identifies which age applies in each section. We will also clearly identify what services and support we ***must*** provide and what we ***choose*** to provide.

The age ranges are;

16 to 17

18 to 21

21 to 25.

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

The leaving care team will also consider with you what extra support you may need, for example you may need additional support because;

You have special educational needs or a disability

You are an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (**UASC**) and your immigration status is unclear

You are 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.

NB. UASC will be entitled to the same provisions as other children in the country and entitled therefore to this offer. They do however have an immigration status (applying for asylum, acceptance as a refugee, granted leave to remain or refused leave to remain) and this will be taken into account when considering the provision of services. UASC will be clearly informed about the affects their status has on Leaving Care provision by their PA.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|---|--|---|
| Allocation of Personal Adviser | We will try to make sure that you keep the same Personal Adviser, but this isn't always possible. | 16 to 25 |
| A Pathway assessment | <p>This should take place no later than 3 months after your 16th Birthday or 3 months after you become Looked After.</p> <p>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.</p> | 16 to 25 |
| <p>A Pathway Plan. We will prepare a pathway Plan with you that sets out how we will help you to achieve the things you want to. We start the Pathway plan just on or near your 16th birthday. We will review the plan at least every 6 months with you and we will always involve you in preparing your plan</p> | <p>You are expected to actively participate in your plan so that we are able support you with your hopes and aspirations.</p> <p>You should expect to receive a copy of the results of the assessment and Pathway plan and of each reviewed Pathway plan thereafter.</p> | 16 to 21 (25 where appropriate) |
| Regular visits to see you. Keep in touch. | <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> | 16 to 21 |

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| | <p>Once you turn 21 contact arrangements can be decided and agreed between PA and Care leaver and recorded.</p> <p>We would expect other forms of communication in between such as telephone calls , emails</p> | |
| <p>Participate in your Review meetings and supporting you as you make the journey to adulthood.</p> | <p>Your Personal Adviser will be helping you to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully move into adulthood. Working positively with your Personal Adviser will make this process much smoother you.</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|---|---|------------------------|
| <p>Access to Local Area Coordinators in Derby City</p> | <p>This is a new service aimed at care leavers living independently. You would be introduced to a coordinator who knows the area where you live very well and can support and advise you about what other support is available in your community.</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |

What we want to offer.

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|---|--|------------------------|
| <p>Access to mentors for care leavers</p> | <p>This would be someone with experience who could meet with you regularly to offer friendship , support and guidance and would be voluntary</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
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EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|---|---|-----------------|
| We will provide you with a Higher Education (HE) bursary of at least £2,000 if you go to University. | The bursary will be paid over 3 or 4 years and split over each term. The bursary is only paid if you are attending. | 18 to 25 |
| We will provide somewhere for you to stay during University holidays (or funding for this if you would prefer to make your own arrangements) if you are in HE or in residential further education. | We would expect that you discuss your plans for the holiday in plenty of time with your personal adviser | 18 to 25 |
| Ensure that you can access careers guidance | 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 | 16 to 25 |
| If you have special educational needs we will make sure that you are able to access the necessary additional support/ service that you need. | 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 | 16 to 25 |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Additional financial support to cover travel costs, IT costs, book allowance, set up costs & material costs. | These needs to be discussed and agreed with your Personal Adviser and recorded in your Pathway plan | 16 to 25 |
| Access to DCC apprenticeships/ work placements/ traineeships | We will promote apprenticeships available at Derby City Council to you as an option and support you through the process | 16 to 25 |
| We will support you in terms of accessing a bursary if you are in training or at college. If the provider does not operate a bursary we will pay an equivalent amount. | The amount of bursary we will pay will be the same as the national amount of up to £1200 per year. You will be expected to attend regularly and behave responsibly. | 16 to 21 |
| We can help to provide you with support so that you can obtain the necessary employment skills. | We would expect that you would participate positively in these sessions | 16 to 25 |
| We will celebrate your achievements. This is both through incentives (see Finance section) or an event | You can expect some financial rewards and also recognition from your corporate parents for your achievements. | 16 to 25 |
| We will be aspirational for you with regards to your Education, Training or employment plans. Encouraging you to apply to university, apprenticeships and employment | In our conversations with you we will try to encourage you to think positively about your options and to aim as high as you can | 16 to 25 |

What we want to offer.

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| Regular open days to our local universities so that we can raise aspirations | Your PA will promote these opportunities to you so that you can consider if university is for you by experiencing some time at a local | 16 to 24 |
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| | University and understanding what it really means. | |
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ACCOMMODATION/INDEPENDENCE

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Suitable accommodation | 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 | 16 to 17 |
| Suitable accommodation | There are a range of options open to you such as Independence, semi-independent, shared accommodation, staying put with Foster carers | 18 to 21 |
| Independence Grant. £2000 | To support you with the basics for moving into your own Tenancy | 18 to 25 |
| Priority access to housing | As a care leaver you will be entitled to priority points with housing options which will enable you to apply for your own property | 18 to 25 |
| We will explore remaining with your foster carers post 18 using the staying put scheme. See Link for the policy | These discussions will be done over a period of time from the age of 16 so that you are fully aware of what's happening when you reach 18. Please note. As part of the arrangement you will be expected to make a financial contribution dependent upon your income. | 18 to 21 |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Home starter pack to be used when moving into your first tenancy. This is reviewed annually | You are expected to purchase these items responsibly. This should include basic food items, cleaning materials, washing powder etc.. for when you first move into your home | 18 to 25 |
| Provide continuing advice about maintaining your tenancy , including paying rent, council tax and bills | This will be discussed at your Pathway plan reviews and your input and participation are very important | 18 to 21 |
| We will pay for your first television licence | After the first year we will support you to set up the most suitable method to start paying the licence yourselves. | 18 to 25 |

What we want to offer.

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| Tenancy/ Independence training for Care Leavers. This has been tried and we want to expand this to all care leavers. | You will be encouraged to attend sessions that provide you with additional skills and knowledge for when you move into your own tenancy | 18 to 25 |
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HEALTH

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|------------------------|
| <p>Health passport outlining your health history. We do this in partnership with the Looked After Children's Nurse.</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>16 to 17</p> |
| <p>Help you to register with health services when you move</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>Help you to manage your emotional well-being. This may include Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and then the transition to adult mental health services</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>Help you to attend hospital and doctors appointments.</p> | <p>This will not always necessarily mean a lift to these appointments but may mean access to public transport where it is suitable</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |
| <p>Provide help and support to you if you are a young parent yourself to make sure that you are able to access all the support and help you will need.</p> | <p>We will make sure that alongside yourself we will get you the support you need. Access to children's centres or a midwife for example.</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Support in accessing more specialists services . For example Drug and alcohol services, Domestic violence support amongst others. | Your PA will discuss this with you before making referrals to other agencies. If you agree then you would be expected to keep the appointments. | 16 to 25 |
| Access to leisure activities. We will provide some additional financial support to encourage you to maintain a healthy lifestyle | You need to discuss this with your PA and noted in your Pathway plan. You would be expected to inform us if you stopped undertaking the activity | 16 to 21 |

What we want to offer.

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| Improved and quick access to services that continue to promote good emotional wellbeing for Care Leavers | This could mean access to support services such as counselling that you are able to access at a time when you need it most. | 16 to 25 |
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YOUR MONEY /FINANCES (*More details can be found in Derby City*

Council Leaving care Financial procedures, located on DCC website.)

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Up to £2000 setting up home grant. | This will only be used to support Care Leavers moving into their own tenancy. Care Leavers will need to discuss how best to purchase essential items with their Personal Adviser | 18 to 25 |
| £2000 University Bursary. | See Education section. | 18 to 25 |
| Maintenance Allowance. Equivalent to Benefit rate. | This is for those young people living semi independently. You will also be supported to apply for other some other benefits if applicable. Your PA will be able to provide advice. | 16 to 17 |
| Birthday and festival (e.g. Xmas, Eid) allowances/ gifts . | The amounts are reviewed each year. Please see what we choose to offer finance section. | 16 to 21 |
| 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. | 16 to 21 |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|---|------------------------|
| <p>Communication Allowance. £15 per month. Reviewed annually. For all Care Leavers and 'Eligible' young people who are Living semi independently.</p> | <p>Your 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</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |
| <p>Basic income principle for those engaged in in EET.</p> | <p>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. We will look at each case individually so it's important that you discuss this with your PA.</p> | <p>18 to 21</p> |
| <p>Council Tax exemption for all Care leavers</p> | <p>Regardless of where you live as a Care Leaver with us you will be exempt from council tax payments until you reach 25 years old. Your PA will discuss this with you if you live outside of the city in the first instance or if there are any problems.</p> | <p>18 to 25</p> |
| <p>Provide additional financial support if you need it in an emergency</p> | <p>This will need to involve a discussion between yourself and your personal adviser in the first instance</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |
| <p>We will provide a weekly allowance for you equal to a benefit payment if you are living semi independently</p> | <p>This provides you with a weekly income. You would be expected to manage this money effectively and budget, purchasing food and paying bills etc.. but will be supported to do this by your PA.</p> | <p>16 to 17</p> |

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| <p>We will support you to make a benefit claim as an when you need to, normally when you reach 18 years of age.</p> | <p>While your claim is being processed we will provide you with an equivalent amount of financial support in cash. But remember that you are expected to attend all appointments. If you do not then you may be sanctioned and we will then provide you with vouchers instead of cash.</p> <p>If You continue to be sanctioned then we would support you to access food banks so it's very important you attend appointments and keep in contact with your PA.</p> <p>It is expected that where appropriate you would take up all the benefits you are entitled to and you will be supported to do this</p> | <p>18 to 21</p> |
| <p>Education incentives</p> | <p>For successfully passing educational/ training course we have agreed the following incentives.</p> <p>University. Successful completion of an academic year £500 at the end of Years 1& 2. £1000 at the end of the course if successfully completed.</p> | <p>16 to 21 (25 if at University)</p> |
| <p>Birthday and festival (Christmas, Eid) allowance</p> | <p>Reviewed annually the rates are currently</p> <p>Birthdays £30. Ages 16, 17 , 19, 20 £50. Ages 18, 21</p> <p>Festival allowance £30.</p> <p>This money can be in the form of cash, a direct payment into your bank account or a gift card</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |
| <p>Home starter Pack.</p> | <p>£50.</p> | <p>18 to 21 or 25 if you haven't</p> |

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| See accommodation section | This will be a one off payment | accessed this before. |
| Support with contact | Arrangements should be made with your PA and agreed within your Pathway plan. The finances available will be assessed on an individual basis. | 16 to 21 |
| Support to participate in activities, hobbies and pastimes | 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. This needs to be discussed with your PA and recorded in your Pathway plan | 16 to 21 |
| Support for driving lessons | This needs to be agreed with your PA and included in your Pathway plan. We will pay for your theory test and we will contribute 50 %. Ordinarily you would be expected to take about 20 lessons so you will need to be able to pay for half of these yourself | 16 to 21 |

What we want to offer.

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RELATIONSHIPS

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
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| We will actively support you to maintain and develop healthy and positive relationships with important and significant people in your life wherever appropriate | This might include providing some financial support to enable contact with significant people to take place, like former foster carers for example | 16 to 25 |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Support with contact | Arrangements should be made with your PA and agreed within your Pathway plan. The finances available will be assessed on an individual basis. | 16 to 21 |

What we want to offer.

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IDENTITY/PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|---|-----------------|
| We will ensure that you have you own passport , we will ensure that you have a national insurance number, copies of birth certificates if required. | It's 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 | 16 to 21 |
| If you are an Unaccompanied asylum seeker we will support you as your claim is being processed. This will include financial support until your decision has been made | You would be expected to keep your PA informed of your asylum claim progress | 16 to 21 |

What we choose to offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Support to open a bank account | 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. | 16 to 25 |
| Provision of a Communication allowance so that young people can maintain a mobile contact number and e mail address | 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 telephone number and e mail address if you have one. | 16 to 21 |

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| <p>We will provide you with information about activities, events or volunteering opportunities available in your local area that you can get involved in.</p> <p>To help with this we have Local Area Coordinators in Derby City who can help you to feel a part of the community where you live.</p> | <p>Links to agencies and services are available within this document and your PA will also discuss these with you.</p> <p>You may be introduced to a Local Area Coordinator. This is voluntary , but they may be able to provide additional advice and support</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>We will support and encourage you to vote and take your full part in society</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>We will support you to learn to drive. (see finance section)</p> | <p>We know that learning to drive can really add to your independence so we will 'contribute' to the cost of the theory tests and a number of driving lessons. It is expected that this is discussed in your Pathway plan with your PA.</p> | <p>16 to 21</p> |

What we want to offer.

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YOUR VOICE/ BEING HEARD

What we must offer.

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|---|--|------------------------|
| <p>Care leaver's rights.</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> | <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>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>You have the right to a children's 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> <p><i>(contact details.....)</i></p> | | <p>16 to 25</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> <p><i>(see.....) for further details</i></p> | <p>Your PA will provide with help and support with regards to your rights to ask about the information held about you</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>You have the right to complain and the relevant contact details can be found at the back of this document</p> | <p>We would want you to have already raised your concerns with your Social Worker, PA or their managers initially.</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |

What we choose to offer

| What we offer | What you need to know and your responsibilities | Age Range |
|--|--|------------------------|
| <p>Care Leavers forum. A place to come together with other Care Leavers and discuss issues that affect you and contribute to improving the service you receive.</p> <p>Care Leavers could be given training to help the service when we recruit new PA's.</p> | <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>16 to 25</p> |

What we want to offer

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|--|--|------------------------|
| <p>We want to be able to consult with you using as many different types of communication tools as possible. Use of social media for example. This is particularly helpful if you don't currently live locally.</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, This might be cinema trips, 5 a side football etc..</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>We want to offer support to Care Leavers to run the forum for themselves so that they can take real ownership of the process and can see directly how they can impact on the service they receive.</p> | <p>You would be provided with training and support in order to run the forum, giving you additional skills and knowledge</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |
| <p>Access to mentors for Care Leavers</p> | <p>This would be someone with experience who could meet with you regularly to offer friendship , support and guidance and would be voluntary</p> | <p>16 to 25</p> |

Who can help?

Key contacts for care leavers.

A list of services and agencies with contact details who can also provide support for care leavers in Derby City. Have we got a list in the leaflet that we provide to care leavers or elsewhere that has good signposting info for care leavers Antony?

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