



Leaving Care Local Offer

April 2019

Appendix 1- Local Offer

What are Care Leavers supported by the CoLC entitled to?

Please note that financial support over and above the following must be agreed with the budget-holding Service Manager in advance.

Social worker (SW) Support	Comments
<p>Offer of SW support to all care leavers towards whom the local authority had duties under section 23C of the Children Act 1989, up to age 25 - irrespective of whether they are engaged in education or training. *subject to a human rights assessment where a young person has all rights exhausted.</p>	<p>This includes care leavers who return to the local authority at any point after the age of 21 up to age 25 and request SW support. When a care leaver is approaching 21 their social worker will discuss with them whether they want SW support to continue.</p> <p>The SW ensures that the young person is provided with the practical and emotional support they need to make a successful transition to adulthood, either directly or through helping the young person to build a positive social network around them.</p>
<p>Each care leaver will have a pathway plan which will be reviewed at minimum on a 6 monthly basis</p>	<p>For care leavers aged 21 or over, the duties in the Children Act 1989 introduced through the Children & Social Work Act – to assess care leavers’ needs, and develop and keep under review a pathway plan – apply only where the young person requests support. The pathway plan may be partially completed after the age of 21 to reflect only the area in which the young person requires ongoing support unless the person is experiencing numerous or complex difficulties.</p>
<p>Frequency of visits</p>	<p>This will vary dependant on need. The frequency of social work visits for a young person aged 16-17 who has moved into a foster placement or into independent or semi-independent accommodation is that they are visited within one week on first moving in and then every week, for the first four weeks and subsequently every four weeks (six with agreement of Team Manager). If more frequent visits are required or less frequent visits this can be</p>

	<p>agreed by the young person, social worker and team manager to no less than one visit every three months.</p> <p>For care leavers aged 18 and over, the frequency of visits should be determined based on the care leavers wishes and feelings, alongside their needs and offering visits every six to eight weeks in line with the Pledge. Methods and frequency of keeping in touch should have some flexibility.</p>
Keeping in touch	The CoLC will proactively keep in touch with all care leavers until they reach age 21 and, where contact has been lost, to take reasonable steps to re-establish contact until age 25.
Offering local authority support to every care leaver on an annual basis	The CoLC will make care leavers aware that they can continue to request SW support when the person turns 21; and on at least an annual basis thereafter to age 26.
Former UASC (Unaccompanied asylum seeking children)	If a former UASC care leaver has not been recognised as a refugee or been granted any other valid form of leave to remain and becomes “appeal rights exhausted” (ARE) the Home Office ceases to provide leaving care funding to the local authority within three months. The CoLC will provide support to age 25, including accommodation and subsistence.

Accommodation	Payment	Comments
Accommodation	Dependent on need and recourse to public funding: Options are foster care (under 18/staying put), semi-independent accommodation,	Young people must apply for universal credit including the housing component if eligible with the support of City of London. Young people will be assisted to apply for CoLC housing tenancy if eligible. If young people request private rented accommodation this will be explored as part of

	private rented or CoLC housing tenancy	their pathway plan.
Setting up home grant (furnishings, equipment) for independent accommodation	Up to £3,000 (depending on condition of the property)	The young person does not get this in a lump sum. It can be agreed with the social worker how this will be allocated. It must be spent on the accommodation.
TV	Up to £250	This comes from the setting up home grant but can be allocated in semi-independent accommodation.
Winter Heating Allowance For first winter of independent living only.	£10 per month from October-March	This will be paid directly to the young person who will need to budget.
Clothing	Young people get an allowance through their foster carer if in care. Care leavers may get one £150 payment per year depending on means.	Needs assessed as part of the pathway plan.
Removal expenses	Up to full	One-off payment of removal expenses and associated expenses. Contribution towards removal expenses for subsequent or additional removals may be made with the agreement of the budget-holding service manager.
TV Licence	First year paid in full	Young people will then be encouraged to pay in instalments towards following years licence unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Education	Payment	Comments
Part or full-time further / higher education course	Only in exceptional	Care leavers are expected to claim from

fees	circumstances	loans and grants to cover their tuition fees, accommodation and maintenance. If they are unable to claim grants and loans young people will be advised to contact Buttle UK Advice to be sought from the Virtual School Head.
University Payment	£2000 per year of course (paid in instalments termly)	The higher education grant will continue to be paid for four weeks after the completion of higher education course in order to assist the young people to make a transition.
Registration, examination and other miscellaneous fees (if required to meet curriculum)	Up to full	
Activities (e.g. school trips) and equipment required to meet curriculum (e.g. specified specialist clothing and essential textbooks/stationery) and computer	Per academic year the following will be needs assessed: Stationery Grant Educational trips grant Books and equipment Up to £300 computer grant – One off between age 16 and 21/25	Activities required to meet curriculum (e.g. outings) are to be paid directly to the education provision. Computer grant to be paid directly to shop.
Education-related travel (public transport to and from education provision)	All students up to the age of 19 are entitled to travel free. We will cover education travel costs for students over 18.	Must apply for subsidised travel card if appropriate.
Graduation	Up to £100 for robes,	

	tickets and photographs	
Employment	Payment	Comments
Specified clothing / uniform required	Needs assessed	
Specified equipment required	Needs assessed	This is usually a one-off payment; although consideration should be given for the purchase of consumables.
Travel costs (for interviews and first month in employment)	Up to full	Young person should plan for costs of travel from their salary or wages after the first month in employment.
Leisure and Wellbeing	Payment	Comments
Leisure, religious and cultural activities	Social Care will assist young people to access services aimed at meeting their leisure, cultural and religious needs where appropriate.	Leisure, religious and cultural activities should be identified in the pathway plan.
Eye and dental treatment, including glasses	Social Care will assist young people to access services to meet their needs. They will be assisted to complete HC1 form if applicable which enables young people to get free or reduced cost dental, optician and prescription services.	In exceptional circumstances dependent on an assessment of need Social Care may provide funds to secure health services.
Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Social Care will assist young people to access counselling and/or therapeutic services via universal health services.	
Baby grant	One off £200 just prior/subsequent to birth of baby	Assistance to apply for maternity grant if eligible. Items for baby to be agreed between social

	If a young person is not eligible for the maternity grant we will also match the maternity grant (currently £500) and give the additional £200	worker and young person.
Driving	No support provided apart from exceptional circumstances i.e. when required for identification, employment or training.	
Personal Allowances	Payment	Comments
Celebration allowances (birthday and festivals)	£50 to be paid yearly around the young person's birthday	
Laptop	<p>Up to £300 for children in care so young people leaving care should have received one.</p> <p>If a young person has not received a laptop they will be given one as a care leaver.</p> <p>Maintenance/replacement costs will be considered on an exceptional basis.</p>	
Essential travel to maintain contact with family or significant others	At the discretion of team manager	
Wedding Gift	£100	One-off payment
Emergency Payment	At the discretion of team manager	Payment made when young person requests emergency payment due to budgeting difficulties for food or essentials i.e.

		energy payments. The social worker will pay for these directly if possible.
Birth Certificate	Payment for one birth certificate	
Passport	Payment for one passport in full	This will include check and send.
Citizenship	Up to £400 towards costs	This is a discretionary payment.