



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003277
Date 19 February 2019

Leaving Care Provisions

Request:

1. What is the annual budget for Looked After Children Leaving care after the age of 18?
 [The net budget excluding recharges for Leaving Care Services for 2018/2019 is £2.5 million.](#)
 [We do not split the budget for leaving care between those under the age of eighteen and those over the age of eighteen.](#)
2. What provisions and types of support are in place for Looked after children leaving care after the age of 18?
 [See attached.](#)

**CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON
LOCAL OFFER**

Reach

FOR CARE LEAVERS AGED 16-25



**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL**

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Welcome

Welcome to the Local Offer for Care Leavers in Wolverhampton

Here you will find information about the support that is available to young people who have been in the care of the city and are now aged 16-25.

From the age of 16 you will be appointed a **Young Person Advisor (YPA)** who will be supporting you until you turn 25.

Here we outline what you are entitled to by law and the additional support that we and our partner organisations have been able to make available to you.

Recent changes in law – Children and Social Work Act 2017

The provision for care leavers has been extended to include young people aged 22-25 who are not in education. If you are a care leaver you can use this document to find out what support, you are able to access. This Local Offer has been created with input from care leavers and a variety of professionals who support care leavers in Wolverhampton.

- Statutory support

-  Additional support



Welcome

What you can expect from your Corporate Parents?

Being a **corporate parent** means the council and its partners, do everything it can for the children and young people in or leaving the council's care to give them all the opportunities that other children and young people get. We are ambitious for the children in our care and care leavers, we want to encourage you to dream big.



The city of Wolverhampton's **PROMISE** to care leavers is:

*To respect and honour
your identity*

To listen to you

To always believe in you

To keep you informed

To support and guide you

To find you a safe home

To be your champion

To be realistic and honest

What does the Wolverhampton Transitions Team do?

Following changes introduced through the Children & Social Work Act 2017, you will be able to ask for support from your YPA up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

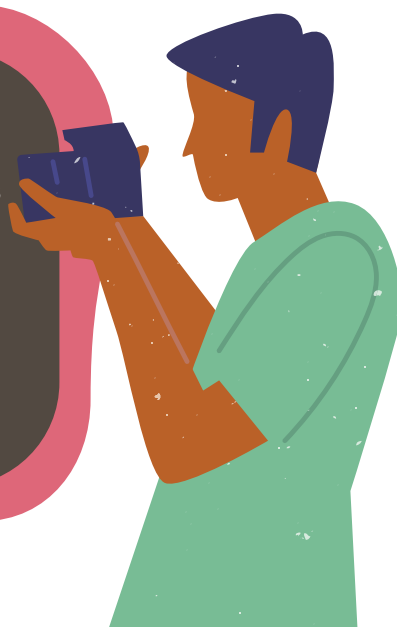
Your YPA is there to help you to prepare to live independently and to offer advice and support after you leave care. Your YPA should talk to you about what support you need and record this information in your pathway plan.

The amount of support that you receive from your YPA will depend on what you want and your circumstances.

Your leaving care team will consider with you what extra support you may need.

The City of Wolverhampton Council alone cannot meet the needs of care leavers and has worked with partners to implement this offer to care leavers.

Your **pathway plan** is written with you, and the important people in your life. It sets out your **needs, views** and **future goals**, and identifies exactly what support you will receive. Your YPA will review your pathway plan with you regularly so that it is kept up-to-date.



Welcome

Who will support you?

Once you turn 18, in most circumstances your YPA will become your primary worker and main point of contact. Your YPA will continue working with you up until the age of 25 if requested. A YPA will be allocated to you just prior to your 16th birthday. Your YPA will provide you with advice, information and guidance to support you to make informed choices for yourself. They are also the first point of contact for accessing any of the services listed here.

**YOU MAY STILL HAVE A
SOCIAL WORKER
UP TO 25.**

This could be because you are vulnerable and need additional support or because you have a disability.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

We want you to have the right support to have a happy and healthy life. Remember your YPA can help you access any of the services here, to help you achieve this:

- You will receive a **Children and Young People in Care Health Passport** and a

leaving care health summary. Access to information, advice and guidance and support for specific health needs will be done by the Children and Young People in Care's nurse.

- Your YPA can access information and advice from the **Children in Care Health Nurse** around your health needs.

- You can get support from adult services where this is required
www.wolverhamptonhealthy.minds.nhs.uk

- You can attend a **quarterly sexual health workshop**.

- You can get help to make good and safe sexual health from **Embrace**
www.embrace.wolverhampton.nhs.uk



which includes free access to the **Contraceptive 'C' Card** scheme and 'home testing' sexual health screening kit. Available at The Way Youth Zone.


- You can have counselling support through support from the **Children's Society** up until 25.

- You can receive online counselling from **Kooth** up to the age of 19 at kooth.com

- You can get support to improve your mental health from **Healthy Minds**.
www.wolverhamptonhealthy.minds.nhs.uk/

Health & Wellbeing

- If you are a **young parent**, you can attend a group that runs at The Way Youth Zone, which will support, guide and encourage you to learn good parenting skills
www.thewayyouthzone.org
- You can receive support with substance misuse, you can get this from **Wolverhampton Recovery Near You**.
- If you live in a **Children in Care's Transition flat**, as part of your pathway plan you will be offered the opportunity to achieve an **Asdan accreditation in Living Independently** to help you develop your skills as you move into adulthood.

 You can find out about **essential health services** via the Children in Care webpage:
wolverhamptonlac.co.uk



Activities

👍 You can have **free membership to all WV Active gyms** within the city of Wolverhampton and you can take a guest with you. You will also be able to get:

- free one to one swimming lessons
- free life guard training



👍 You can have a **free haircut** on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Wow Hair Salon, Cannock Road, Wolverhampton – just drop in no appointment necessary.

👍 You can attend the care leavers' allotment, **Plot to Plate scheme** which encourages you to have a healthy diet and lifestyle and gives you chance to grow and cook your own produce.

👍 You can receive **free membership to The Way Youth Zone**, if you are 19 or under. This will enable you to have access to all services offered at The Way Youth Zone.






👍 A **drop in for care leavers** up to age 19 is held at The Way Youth Zone every Friday from 12-4pm offering you opportunities to seek support and advice.

👍 You can attend the **Indi Group**, an independence programme where you can meet other care leavers and staff. This is held at The Way Youth Zone every Friday from 4.30-7.30pm.

www.thewayyouthzone.org

RELATIONSHIPS

**We want you to have good, positive and secure relationships.
To help you with this:**

-  You can drop in at Priory Green, Whitburn Close, Pendeford, Wolverhampton WV9 5NJ for information, advice and guidance from a **duty worker** between Monday to Friday, 9am – 4.30pm.
- You will receive a **YPA** up until the age of 25.
- ★ You will be able to get help and support in **maintaining or regaining contact with your family**, if safe for you to do so. This would form part of your pathway plan.
- You can receive support from **a mentor at The Way Youth Zone:**
thewayyouthzone.org/mentoring
- You can receive support from a mentor **The Combined Authority Mayor's Mentors:**
wmca.org.uk/mayorsmentors
-  You can get peer to peer support at the **Indi Group**.
-  You can receive support from a **mentor for children in care and care leavers**.
-  You will have access to the **Grandmentors Scheme** supported by **Volunteering Matters**.
- You can receive support from a mentor at **Head Start:**
headstartonline.co.uk/ambassadorsapplication
-  You can have support from the **Education, Employment and Training Coordinator**.

Your YPA can help with accessing much of the support above.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Personal Education Plans (Peps)

We want to support you to have high aspirations for yourself and enable you to reach your full potential. To achieve this:

- You can receive a post 16 Personal Education Plan (PEP) as a care leaver to help support you with your employment, education or training. Just ask your YPA.




Higher Education

- 👍 You can get information, support and guidance in applying for a place in Higher Education, you can receive support when you are there, and advice when you are ready to leave.
- 👍 If you attend university, you will be entitled to a **bursary** to support you financially.
- 👍 We will offer you **financial assistance** whilst at university, which includes support with travel and academic books.
- 👍 You can get **support on post-graduation career planning**.





Education, Employment & Training

Career Advice


-  You can attend a weekly drop-in session at The Way Youth Zone every Friday afternoon and individual appointments are also available for career advice and support.
-  You can get support from **The Education, Employment and Training Coordinator** offering information advice and guidance which includes help with career planning and support with accessing funding.
- You can get support from **Connexions**, who provide careers advice and support to young people aged 13-19, and up to age 25 if you have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).
-  If you're not in education, employment or in training you can get additional support to help you. This can include support from **Impact**, who will help you to access support to get into education, training and employment.
-  We can provide you with help and support in **accessing work experience**.
-  The Children and Young People's Service, offer three work opportunities per year to care leavers.
-  When you are ready for work you can get support from a work coach from **Wolves at Work**.
- You can find out about opportunities on getting into work through the website **WorkBox:**
wolvesworkbox.com

Education, Employment & Training

Preparing For Interviews

-  You can access support with interview techniques through the **EET coordinator** and you can participate in a mock interview that will be bespoke to the position you are applying for.
-  You can get support to ensure you have appropriate **clothing for interviews**.
-  You can access free **dry-cleaning services** through Timpsons to prepare for interviews.
-  You can have a **free haircut** on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Wow Hair Salon, Cannock Road, Wolverhampton just turn up, no appointment necessary.

Apprenticeships

- **WorkBox** advertises multiple apprenticeship opportunities available to you up to the age of 20. As a care leaver you will be guaranteed an interview for any apprenticeship you apply for with City of Wolverhampton Council: wolvesworkbox.com
-  **Wolverhampton Homes** offer five apprenticeships opportunities per year to care leavers.
 - You will receive a **£1,000 bursary** when undertaking an apprenticeship.

Education, Employment & Training

Transport

- You can access a **16-18 photocard** which entitles all 16-18-year olds to buy child rate tickets for travel on the bus, train and tram. The 16-18 photocard is available full-time education, apprentices, trainees and those in employment.
- You can access a 50% discount on transport off most Network West Midlands travel passes and National Express Passes for up to three months when you start a new job networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes



👍 You can get financial support with travel, clothes and equipment when starting work.

ACCOMMODATION

We want you to feel safe and secure where you live to help you achieve this the following support is available and can be accessed by speaking to your YPA:

- You will have the opportunity **to stay put in with your foster carer** until you are 21.
- You can access the **Children in Care Training Flat** to help you trial living independently.
- You can access a transitions flat when you are 16-18-year old if this is right for you. You will receive between 10 – 30 hours support per week from a Housing Support Worker.
- You can have access to range of **supported accommodation**: hostels, foyers, supported lodgings and social housing. This support will be part of your pathway plan.
- You can get support from your local **community safety team** at the neighbourhood police who can give you information on support available in your local area.



Accommodation

Financial Support

- You will receive up to **£2,000 Setting up Home Grant**.
- 👍 If you are a care leaver who lives in Wolverhampton you are **fully exempt from Council Tax** up to the age of 25.




Wolverhampton Homes

- 👍 We will work in partnership with Wolverhampton Homes to support you in **securing a tenancy when you turn 18**.
- 👍 You will be offered **priority Band 1** allocations with Wolverhampton Homes.
- 👍 If you are a Wolverhampton Homes care leaver tenant, you will receive **rent subsidy** on account, to help protect your rent payments.
- 👍 If you are a Wolverhampton Homes care leaver tenant, you can get support in receiving **essential setting up home items**.
- 👍 We will work with Wolverhampton Homes to ensure that you will not be made intentionally homeless when you are living in a Wolverhampton Homes property
- 👍 If you are leaving custody you will have a visit from the Senior Housing Support Worker to ensure you have a suitable accommodation on release.
- 👍 You can access the **crash pad** in an absolute emergency.


PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

As part of your membership in the **Wolverhampton** community, your YPA will be able to advise you about the following opportunities:

Awards

-  You will have the opportunity to be nominated for an **I Award**, this is an annual award ceremony that celebrates the achievements of children and young people in care and care leavers.
-  You will have the opportunity to be nominated for **local and national awards**.
-  You will have the opportunity to be nominated for **Care Leaver of the Month**.

Advice & Guidance


-  You will have the opportunity to access advice and guidance on **challenging any discrimination** you may face as a care leaver.
- You will have access to advice and guidance to secure **British Citizenship** if you are required to apply.

Additional Support



- Visit the **Swap Shop** for household items through Facebook.
- Come and view '**The Vintage Collection**' of clothing bank at Priory Green, Whitburn Close.
- You could be entitled to an **English National Concessionary Pass** which gives you those who are registered disabled, free travel by bus anywhere in England during 'off-peak' from Monday to Friday networkwestmidlands.com/tickets-and-passes

Participation in Society

Have Your Say

-  You can access **MOMO (Mind of my own)** app that helps young people say what they want, when they want
wolverhamptonlac.co.uk
-  You will be asked to take part in or **annual care leaver survey** to ensure you can feedback your thoughts on the services provided to you.
 - You will be asked to take part in an **exit interviews** will be offered when you no longer require the services of the Transitions Team.
-  You can get support to help you to **enrol on the electoral register** to enable you to vote.
-  You will have the opportunity to participate in supporting the election processes provided by the council.
-  You will have the opportunity to join a monthly **Care Leavers Forum, 'Care Leavers Independent Collective'** supporting young people to have their say about the services they receive or require. To join email
Corporate.Parenting@Wolverhampton.gov.uk
-  You will have the opportunity to sit on the **Corporate Parenting Board** representing care leavers
-  You will have the opportunity to be trained in **Total Respect** (training for professionals by care experienced young people) and facilitate this training for professionals
Corporate.Parenting@Wolverhampton.gov.uk

Participation in Society

-  You will have the opportunity to contribute to the **selection process for internal and external job roles** Corporate.Parenting@Wolverhampton.gov.uk
-  You will have the opportunity to develop the **National Covenant for Care Leavers** as part of the Wolverhampton's role as a pilot local authority Corporate.Parenting@Wolverhampton.gov.uk

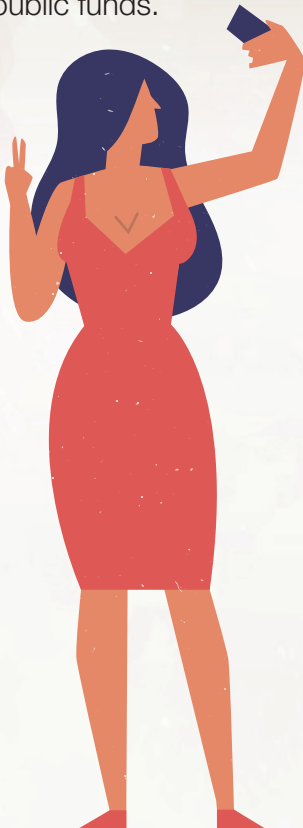
Community & Events

-  You can access information on opportunities to join groups and clubs at: wolverhamptonlac.co.uk
-  You will have the opportunity to **come together with other young people and staff to build relationships**, for example at our annual Easter half away day with children and young people in care and Transition staff, our annual Christmas Party, our annual Summer BBQ and our annual Christmas Meal.
 -  You will have the opportunity to attend **National Citizenship Service** (at no cost) for care leavers aged 16-17.
 -  You will have the opportunity to take part in the **National Take Over Challenge**.
 -  You will have the opportunity to take part in a full week's activities to celebrate **Care Leavers Week**.

FINANCE

We want to support you in making sound financial decisions that are right for you now and for the future, to help you with this your YPA will advise you on the following benefits:

- You will have access to a **Personal Allowance** when you are aged 16-17, not living in foster or residential care and are unable to access public funds. This will continue when you are 18 if you have no recourse to public funds.
- You are entitled to **£10 per week pocket money** if you are in custody or hospital establishment aged 16-17.
- You will receive **rent allowance** if you are aged 16-17 for the full cost of your rent or placement costs.
- When you are 18 you can get support and information on how to access your **Children's Trust Fund**, your **Junior ISA** and any **savings** you may have.



Housing, Travel & Education



- You can get support to access **Universal Credit** including **Housing Benefit**.
- You can get up to £2,000 Setting up Home Grant.
- You will be able to access an **education travel allowance**.
- You will be able to receive **support for education items** when required if you are in Further or Higher Education. This can be up to £120 per year for books, materials, equipment.

Celebrations

- You will receive a **birthday card** from the Director of Children's Services on your 18th and 21st birthdays.
- You will receive **£25 on your birthdays** between 18 and 21.
- You will receive **Religious Festival Allowance** when you are under the age of 18 if you are not living in foster or residential care – this is up to £50 per year. This payment is to be given during the festival period chosen by you such as Ramadan, Hanukkah or Christmas.



Finance

Managing your money

- You will be supported to open a **bank account**.
- You will receive support to access important documents before your 18th birthday such as your **passport, provisional driving license** and **birth certificate**.
- We will support you to ensure you are receiving your **benefit entitlement** and other support if there is delay in accessing this.
- You will have the opportunity to make a claim to the Department for Work and Pensions prior to your 18th birthday to ensure you receive **benefit entitlement** in a timely manner.
- You will be supported to have good **financial management skills** and helped to avoid debt.
- You will be offered opportunities to engage in courses on **budgeting skills** which could lead to an **ASDAN award**.
- You may be able to receive **Emergency Crisis Payments** in certain circumstances.





FOR MORE INFORMATION...

You can keep up to date with events and significant changes in our services by following:

facebook.com/wolverhamptontoday

youtube.com/wolverhamptontoday

www.wolverhamptonlac.co.uk

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