

# What are you entitled to?

## A guide for Care Leavers



# Introduction

You are entitled to services described in this booklet if you have been supported by Warwickshire County Council and now live in or outside of Warwickshire.



**There are four different groups for leaving care status. These are:**

**“Eligible Child”** someone who is 16-17 and still in care.

**“Relevant Child”** someone who is 16-17 and used to be in care.

**“Former Relevant Child”** someone aged between 18 and up to 25 who used to be an ‘Eligible Child’ or ‘Relevant Child’.

**“Qualifying Care Leaver”** someone aged between 16 and up to 25 who was in care for less than 13 weeks after their 14th Birthday.

**For more information on these groups and to assess what group you belong to then please go to:**

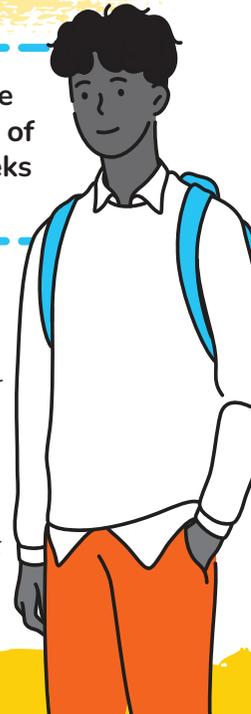
<https://coramvoice.org.uk/myrights/my-rights-when-i-am-leaving-care/am-i-a-care-leaver/>

**To qualify for the support in this booklet you must have been in 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.**

This booklet tells you about the practical and financial support available to you as a Care Leaver. We recognise that moving from care to living independently is a big change for all young people. We want to make sure that you feel supported through this process.

At the back of this booklet, we have some “Useful Contacts” for you to look through and a Jargon Buster to explain the meaning of certain words used in the booklet

*Services within this booklet are subject to Immigration Status*



# Support from Personal Advisers (PA)

When you entered care, you will have had a social worker allocated to you. When you turn 18, you will be allocated a PA who will become your new allocated worker. You will receive support and meet regularly with your PA, dependent on your needs.

The role of a PA is to offer you guidance and support on independent living skills, education and employment, finance, housing, relationships and health and wellbeing. You can ask your PA for support or further information on any of the things stated in this booklet.

You will have an allocated PA up to the age of 21. You can speak to your PA about support up to the age of 25. If you do not have or qualify for a PA after 21 you can access the Duty Team at any time for support.



**Your PA or social worker** is responsible for making sure your pathway plan is written with you and is kept up to date and on track. This will help you set your future goals and how we'll work together to achieve these.

**Your PA** will support you in getting your birth certificate, national insurance number, provisional driving license and passport, if you do not already have these.

**Your PA** will help you open a bank account if you do not already have one.

**Your PA** will discuss and plan with you how to manage your junior ISA and savings account.

**Your PA** will support you to access your files should you wish to see them or try and answer any questions you may have if you don't want to access them.

**Your PA** will support you to get involved with activities to build self-esteem and confidence.

There are many more roles a PA helps to assist with including guidance, support and giving you relevant information, as stated in the rest of the booklet. They are happy to help and support you where they can.

You may also be supported at different times by the Virtual School, youth workers, college staff, careers advisors, foster carers, housing key workers, and the Voice, Influence and Change Team.

If you are in a crisis out of working hours, remember you can contact the emergency duty team and let them know you are a care leaver.



# Accommodation and housing

There is a separate Accommodation Guide that provides more details on your accommodation options. Please ask your PA or social worker for a copy.

**Supported Accommodation** can be an option from the age of 16 if you do not feel ready to live independently.

**Supported Lodgings** is funded for young people from 16 to 18 years. If this option is extended to 21, you will make contribution to the cost. The lodgings can be provided by a person that you know or one provided by the Leaving Care service. Both options have to be checked out by your PA or social worker.

**Shared accommodation** can be an option from the age of 16.

**'Staying Put' accommodation** allows you to stay in your foster placement up to the age of 21.

Your PA and the housing team will help you through any housing situation, this is dependent on what housing is available at the time.



If you are a young person seeking asylum, your worker will discuss your accommodation options with you.

After exploring all the accommodation options above, if you are over 18 and decide that they may not be suitable for you, we can then support you to get your own tenancy either with the help of a Local Authority Housing Association or provide guidance on private tenancies.

If you choose a Local Authority Housing Association, then your PA will make sure that you get “priority banding” when you apply for a tenancy.

You can apply to be part of the Warwickshire House Project from 16-18 years. This project aims to develop your independence skills and then supports you to move into your own accommodation. Your PA can be contacted to find out more information on this.

A Parent and Child Unit can be an option depending on your situation and if you feel the need for more one-to-one support.

Warwickshire Leaving Care Team has a list - created by our young people – for essential items (home furnishing grant). Your PA will help purchase these items with you when you start up your new home. You can speak with your PA to see the list. You may also be able to apply for a setting up home box with essential items.

We will support you when you are moving to a new house. If you have not already been given a suitcase for your clothes, we will purchase a suitcase for you. This is also something your PA can assist you with.

### **You will be offered recognised Independence Training and Workshops.**

- You will be given help to understand how to avoid becoming “intentionally homeless’ if you are over 18.
- If you are aged 16-18 and need accommodation in an emergency, a ‘Crash Pad’ could be made available to you.
- We will reimburse your council tax payment for 3 years between the ages of 18-25 years. This is also the case for young people who live outside of Warwickshire County.
- We will provide a winter fuel payment of £100 payable in November each year to eligible care leavers between the ages of 18-25 who are living independently.
- The Leaving Care Team has three Homelessness & Housing workers who can provide you with housing advice, information, and support, one additional worker focuses solely on housing support for Young People seeking Asylum.
- Your internet may be paid for, for up to six months, if you meet the criteria for this – please discuss with your PA.
- We will pay for your TV licence and home insurance for the first year as part of your setting up home allowance.

# Education, Employment, and Training

## Children in care team 14-18 years old

- If you are 14-16 you will be supported by the school careers advisor where appropriate, additional support can be given if required.
- If you are 16-18 and not in education, employment or training, a careers advisor will be provided by Prospects. This is available for Warwickshire residents only.

## Careers Support and Guidance

### Leaving care and separated young people 18-25 years old

*(Warwickshire and non-Warwickshire residents)*

- A dedicated Careers Support and Guidance Advisor who works within the Leaving Care and Separated Children and Young People Team will support you to plan your next steps in education, employment, or training.
- A Careers Advisor will provide high quality careers and educational information, advice, and guidance to you.
- Build positive relationships with you that encourage, motivate, and raise your aspirations.
- Give you guidance on completing application forms, interview techniques, presentation skills and CV writing.
- Have local knowledge of employers, training providers, apprenticeship providers, colleges to provide accurate career progression information for you.
- Provide you with practical support to attend college, university, employment, and apprenticeship interviews.
- Set up a 'Drop In' for young people that are not in education, employment or training aged 16+ in both North and South Warwickshire bases.



## **Further Education- Colleges**

- Your PA will support you to apply for a £1200 education bursary when you start attending college.

## **Higher Education- University**

- You will receive a bursary of £1000 a year if you attend university for a total of up to 3 years up, to the age of 25. (The accommodation deposit is paid from this £1000)
- The Asylum and Leaving Care Team will contribute to your accommodation costs during holiday time when you are attending university.
- If you are staying in Supported Lodgings or Staying Put accommodation during university holidays, we will pay your transport costs to and from your university.
- Your travel costs will be paid when you attend University Open Days. You can ask your PA to attend with you.
- We will offer to help you to move to university.
- We will provide you with a gift when you complete your higher education (university) of up to £100.
- We will pay for the cost of renting a gown and hat for your university graduation and can attend to celebrate with you.

## **Work**

- Your travel cost will be paid to attend an interview, and if you are successful, you will receive financial support to cover travel to work for the first month until you get paid.
- You will get pre-apprenticeship support, including work experience in the relevant area.
- We will create opportunities for care experienced young people to take on apprenticeship roles within Warwickshire County Council.
- We guarantee care experienced young people an interview for apprenticeships within Warwickshire County Council.
- Warwickshire County Council will pay care experienced young people the national minimum wage for apprenticeships and arrange for a bursary to be paid provided the apprenticeship is on track for completion. They also receive some financial support in the first month of employment to help with travel or other work-related expenses.

# Other Support

- We will support you by funding up to 10 hours of driving lessons or CBT motorcycling training lessons between the ages of 17 to 21 years, with an approved instructor.
- Should you need to access Universal Credit and housing benefit, your personal adviser will support you in making a claim.
- You can make a request for financial support through your personal adviser to the EET/Tiffin fund for transport costs to attend interviews, education, buy work clothes, books, equipment, laptops cover the cost of industry accredited courses, some extracurricular activities, registration and exam costs.
- We can sometimes offer support towards paying childcare costs for young parents in education and employment. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Ask your PA for more details.
- If you are a separated child or young person, your PA will look for education for you.



# Health and Wellbeing

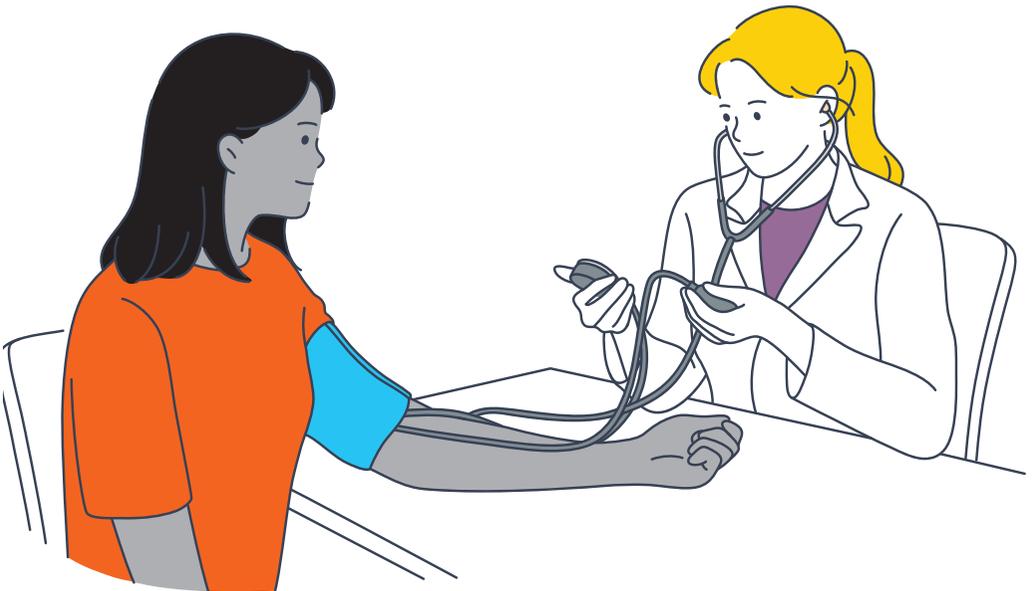


The emotional wellbeing of children and young people is just as important as their physical health. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the strength to cope with whatever life throws at them and grow into well rounded, healthy adults. Speak to your PA if you need more information.

- A nurse will invite you to an annual health check up until the age of 18 years. This can be carried out anywhere that suits you.
- You will be offered a final meeting before you turn 18 with a nurse to review your Health Passport. If you do not receive your Health Passport by the time you turn 18 you can request one from your PA.
- Your PA can support you to register with a local GP, dentist and optician. You can ask your PA to attend appointments with you if you wish.
- You can request a leisure or gym pass for an Everyone Active Gym from your PA up to the age of 25. This will be renewed monthly and needs to be requested for each year.
- If you live outside of Warwickshire or would prefer money to a different healthy activity, you can request a £25 contribution per month towards this up to the age of 21.
- Your PA can give you information on counselling services. For example. sexual health, mental health and more.

- Warwickshire will support young people with their mental health with useful information, guidance and signposting.
- Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is for parents aged 19 and under. Young mothers-to-be are partnered with a specially trained family nurse who visits them regularly, from early pregnancy until their child is aged between one and two.
- Financial support for additional medical appointments and transport to these appointments can be considered and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

**If you are in crisis, you can contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01926 414888.**



# Relationships and Socialising

- The Voice, Influence and Change team in partnership with the Leaving Care and Separated Children and Young People Team will invite you to annual celebration events e.g. Care Leavers week/month, Christmas Party, Refugee Celebration event etc.
- We organise a wide and varied calendar of events throughout the year, for example, day trips, residentials, socials, BBQs etc. Please ask your PA for more information.
- Your PA will encourage you to establish and maintain healthy relationships, such as with family, friends, and past carers.
- A referral to our Life Long Links programme can be made for you to try and reconnect with people who were important to you earlier in life. This could family members, teachers, foster carers or previous workers.
- The Leaving Care and Separated Children and Young People Team will provide you with a present of £50 for your birthday and £50 for Christmas up until the age of 21.
- The Leaving Care and Separated Children and Young People Team have a drop in in Warwick, Coventry and Rugby for you to take part in social activities, workshops, training etc.
- The Voice, Influence and Change team in partnership with the Leaving Care and Separated Children and Young People Team run Relationship and Sex Education workshops for our separated young people.
- We will celebrate important events in your life i.e. a letter to recognise your achievements, etc

- Expectant or new parents, who are living independently from a foster carer and are aged 16-25, can ask their PA to apply for a baby box full of essential items.
- We also provide a one-off payment of £200 to purchase other essential items you may need, such as a cot, car seat etc.
- Your travel costs to see your family will be paid up until 21, it will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis from 21+
- You can request a mentor to support you with additional specific help and support, for example, building your confidence, having someone to listen and talk to, learning a new skill etc. The mentor can be through Grandmentors or Peer to Peer mentors. Please ask your PA for more details.
- We can offer you training to become a mentor if this is something you are interested in.
- We will encourage and support you to take part in the National Citizenship Service activities.
- We will encourage and support young people to take part in volunteering activities.



# Voice, Influence and Change

- We support young people to take part in engagement opportunities across Children and Families. This includes the Care Leavers Forum and the Children in Care Council.  
Contact us at [VIC@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:VIC@warwickshire.gov.uk) for more information.
- The Forums are places where young people's voices can be heard enable them and to discuss topics in which they can have an input on the council decisions. Young people will be given opportunities to be involved in the design and development of council services.
- Members of the forums can take part in dedicated events and activities as appreciation for their involvement and time.
- If you feel you need support in getting your views across in meetings or with other services, you can ask for an advocate to speak on your behalf.
- We will create opportunities for young people to be able to speak with Warwickshire County Council councillors, for example, on the Corporate Parenting Board and the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- We will create opportunities for young people to speak with senior managers of the service.
- Our young people are involved in the recruitment selection if they wish to be, and incentive payments are offered for involvement.
- We will offer incentives to young people when they are invited to take part in consultation events outside of the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum.
- You will be given opportunities to participate in the Warwickshire Youth Council or the Warwickshire members of the youth parliament.
- You will have the opportunity to join IMPACT, a forum for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) if this is appropriate to you.

# Useful Contacts

## Money finance

Step Change	<a href="https://www.stepchange.org/">https://www.stepchange.org/</a> 07800 1381111
Citizens Advice	<a href="https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/">https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/</a> 0800 1448848
Money saving Expert	<a href="https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/">https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/</a>

## Separated Children and Young People

Refugee Council	<a href="https://www.unicef.org.uk/">https://www.unicef.org.uk/</a> 0300 3305580
Asylum Support Tribunal	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support-tribunal-decisions">https://www.gov.uk/asylum-support-tribunal-decisions</a>
Asylum Aid	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/appeal-first-tier-asylum-support-tribunal">https://www.gov.uk/appeal-first-tier-asylum-support-tribunal</a> 0800 6816509

## Housing Accommodation

Housing officer	Talk to your PA or duty for a contact email/number
National Homeless Advice service	<a href="https://www.crisis.org.uk/">https://www.crisis.org.uk/</a> 0121 348 7950
The Albert Kennedy Trust	<a href="https://www.akt.org.uk/">https://www.akt.org.uk/</a> 020 7831 6562
Shelter	<a href="https://england.shelter.org.uk/">https://england.shelter.org.uk/</a> 0808 8004444

North Warwickshire Borough Council	<a href="https://www.northwaricks.gov.uk/">https://www.northwaricks.gov.uk/</a> 01827 715341
Nuneaton and Bedworth Council	<a href="https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/">https://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/</a> 02476 376376
Stratford District Council	<a href="https://www.stratford.gov.uk/">https://www.stratford.gov.uk/</a> 01789 260007
Warwickshire District Council	<a href="https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/site/">https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/site/</a> 01926 456760

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Named nurse	Talk to your PA or duty for a contact email/number <a href="https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/">https://www.happyhealthylives.uk/</a>
RISE	<a href="https://www.riseuk.org.uk/">https://www.riseuk.org.uk/</a> 01273 622822
Bullying UK / Family lives	<a href="https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/bullying">https://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/bullying</a> 0808 800 2222
Kooth	<a href="https://www.kooth.com/">https://www.kooth.com/</a> 0203 984 9337
Respect Yourself	<a href="https://respectyourself.org.uk/">https://respectyourself.org.uk/</a> 0800 1111
Talk to Frank	<a href="https://www.talktofrank.com/">https://www.talktofrank.com/</a> 0300 123 6600
Samaritans	<a href="https://www.samaritans.org/">https://www.samaritans.org/</a> 116 123

Brook	<a href="https://www.brook.org.uk/">https://www.brook.org.uk/</a> 0808 808 4994
Coventry and Warwickshire MIND	<a href="https://cwmind.org.uk/merger/">https://cwmind.org.uk/merger/</a> 0300 123 3393
Mind	<a href="https://www.mind.org.uk/">https://www.mind.org.uk/</a> 0300 123 3393
Compass	<a href="https://www.compass-uk.org/">https://www.compass-uk.org/</a> 01772 280123
Think Active	<a href="https://thinkactive.org/">https://thinkactive.org/</a> 01926 754028

## **Pregnancy & Parenting**

Family Nurse Partnership (FNP)	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/family-nurse-partnership-programme">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/family-nurse-partnership-programme</a>  South Warwickshire or Rugby - 01926 400001 ext 231 / 07808 763319  OR North Warwickshire - 02476 491138, 01675 461966 or 07808763322.
Children's parenting	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-impact-of-parenting-on-childrens-outcomes">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-impact-of-parenting-on-childrens-outcomes</a>  01926 412412

## **Support**

Separated Young People and Leaving Care service	<a href="https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/resources/leaving-care-support-fact-sheet/">https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/resources/leaving-care-support-fact-sheet/</a>
Mentoring Coordinator	<a href="https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/professional-development/mentoring/training-hub/coordinators/">https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/professional-development/mentoring/training-hub/coordinators/</a>  020 3740 8280

Duty worker contact	Leavingcareduty@warwickshire.gov.uk 01296 414 888
Out of hours contact – Emergency Duty	01926 886922
Family information service	<a href="https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis">https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis</a> 0800 408 1558
Youth Offending Team	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team">https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team</a> 07866 146 177
Young People First	<a href="https://www.youngpeoplefirst.com/">https://www.youngpeoplefirst.com/</a> 0161 5050 956
Rees Foundation	<a href="https://www.reesfoundation.org/">https://www.reesfoundation.org/</a> 0330 094 5645

## Education

Career Advice	<a href="https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/">https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/</a> 0800 100 900
Warwickshire college	<a href="https://wcg.ac.uk/page/84/courses-and-training">https://wcg.ac.uk/page/84/courses-and-training</a> 0300 456 0047
NWHC	<a href="https://www.nwslc.ac.uk/campus/nuneaton-campus/">https://www.nwslc.ac.uk/campus/nuneaton-campus/</a> 0330 058 3000
LGBT group	<a href="https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/relationships-family/lgbt/lgbt-groups/">https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/health-wellbeing/relationships-family/lgbt/lgbt-groups/</a> 0800 055 6112.

Stratford college	<a href="https://www.stratford.ac.uk/">https://www.stratford.ac.uk/</a> 01789 266245
UCAS	<a href="https://www.coventry.ac.uk/">https://www.coventry.ac.uk/</a> 02477657688
Jobcentre Plus	<a href="https://www.jobcentreplusoffice">https://www.jobcentreplusoffice</a> 0845 604 3719 0845 6022327
Buttle Charity	<a href="https://buttleuk.org/">https://buttleuk.org/</a> 02078287311
Student finance	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance">https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance</a>
House Project	<a href="https://warwickshire.thehouseproject.org/">https://warwickshire.thehouseproject.org/</a> 024 76 754380

### **Taking Part**

Care Leavers Forum	<a href="https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/6">https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/6</a> VIC@warwickshire.gov.uk
Children in Care Council	<a href="https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/7">https://www.childfriendlywarwickshire.co.uk/outcomes/heard/7</a> VIC@warwickshire.gov.uk

### **Other information and contacts**

Princess Trust	<a href="https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/">https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/</a> 01432 352359
Child Law Advice	<a href="https://www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk/">https://www.stowefamilylaw.co.uk/</a> 03301599815

Childline	<a href="https://www.unicef.org.uk/">https://www.unicef.org.uk/</a> 0300 330 5580
Muslim Youth	<a href="https://myh.org.uk/">https://myh.org.uk/</a> 0808 808 2008
Care Leavers Foundation	<a href="https://www.careleavers.com/care-leavers-foundation/">https://www.careleavers.com/care-leavers-foundation/</a> 0161 826 0214
Become Charity	<a href="https://becomecharity.org.uk/">https://becomecharity.org.uk/</a> 0207 251 3117
Child Commissioner	<a href="https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/">https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/</a> 020 7783 8330.
Care Leavers Covenant	<a href="https://mycovenant.org.uk/">https://mycovenant.org.uk/</a> 0800 077 3557
Care Leavers Association	<a href="https://www.careleavers.com/">https://www.careleavers.com/</a> 0161 826 0214

If you wish to make any complaints, comments, or compliments then you can write to:

The Customer Relations Team, PO Box 9, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RD or phone: **01926 414102**

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/complaints](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/complaints)

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**Facebook.com/LCWarwickshire**  
**Facebook.com/Your.Voice.Heard.Louder**  
**Facebook.com/lc.warwickshire.25plus**