

City of Wolverhampton

Local Offer to Care


Leavers up to 25

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What is the Local Offer to Care Leavers?

The City of Wolverhampton Council

Welcome to the Local Offer for Care Leavers. 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. We have outlined what you are entitled to by law and additional support we have been able to secure as discretionary with the help of partner organisations this is labelled with . In April 2017 the Children and Social Work Act became law and 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.

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 Pledge 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 Leaving Care Team do?

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

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

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. We will review your pathway plan with you regularly so that it is kept up-to-date.

We will try to enable you to keep the same Young Person Adviser, though this will not always be possible. The amount of support that you receive from your Young Person Adviser 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 effectively with partners to implement this offer to care leavers

What is the role of a Young Person Adviser?








Once you turn 18, in most circumstances your Young Person Advisor (YPA) will become your primary worker and continue working with you up until the age of 25 if requested. A Young Person Advisor (YPA) will be allocated to you just prior to your 16th birthday. Your Young Person Advisor (YPA) will provide you with advice, information and guidance to support you to make informed choices for yourself.






What is the role of a social worker?

You may still have a social worker up to 25. This could be because you are vulnerable and need additional support in keeping you safe, you could have a disability, or you could have an illness which means you need this extra help.

Health & Wellbeing






We want you to have the right support to have a happy and healthy life to help you achieve this:

- You will receive a Looked after Children's 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 Looked After Children's nurse.
-  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. A drop in for care leavers up to age 19 is held every Friday from 12-4pm offering you opportunities to seek support and advice.
- Your YPA can access information and advice from the LAC Health Nurse around your health needs.
-  You can find out about essential health services via the LAC webpage www.wolverhamptonlac.co.uk
- You can get support from adult services where this is required.
-  You can attend a quarterly sexual health workshop.
- You can get help to make good and safe sexual health from Embrace which includes free access to the Contraceptive 'C' Card scheme and 'home testing' sexual health screening kit.
-  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 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- 7.30 pm.
-  If you live in a Looked After Children's Transition flat 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.
-  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.

-  You can have free membership to all WV Active gyms within Wolverhampton and you can take a guest with you. Here you will also be able to get free one to one swimming lessons, and free life guard training is also available.
-  You can have a free haircut on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at WoW hair salon Cannock road Salon Wolverhampton
-  You can have counselling support through support from the Children's Society and Barnardos.
-  You can receive online counselling from Kooth up to the age of 19.
-  You can get support to improve your mental health from Healthy Minds.
- You can receive support with substance misuse, you can get this from Wolverhampton Recover Near You.

RELATIONSHIPS






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









-  You can drop in at the Beldray building for information, advice and guidance from a duty worker Monday to Friday 9am 4.30pm.
- You will be able to get help and support in maintaining, or regaining, contact with your family if safe for you to do so.
- You will receive a young person's advisor (YPA) up until the age of 25.
-  You can have support from the education employment and training coordinator.
-  You will receive a birthday card from the Director of Children's Services on your 18 and 21 birthdays. You will receive £25 on your birthdays between 18 and 21.
-  You can receive support from a mentor for looked after children 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.
<http://www.headstartonline.co.uk/ambassadorsapplication/>
-  You can receive support from a mentor at The Way Youth Zone.
<https://www.thewayyouthzone.org/mentoring>
-  You can receive support from a mentor The Combined Authority Mayor's Mentors. <http://www.wmca.org.uk/mayorsmentors>
-  You can get peer to peer support at the Indi Group.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

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









- 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.
-  You can get support on post-graduation career planning.
-  We will offer you financial assistance whilst at university, which includes support with travel and academic books.
-  You can get support from The Education Employment and Training Coordinator offering information advice and guidance on accessing education training and employment which includes help with career planning and support with accessing funding.
-  You can attend a weekly drop in session the Youth Zone every Friday afternoon and individual appointments are also available for career advice and support.
-  You can get support to ensure you have appropriate clothing for interviews.
- You will have a post 16 Personal Education Plans (PEP) when you are still looked after and in education, employment and training.




-  You can receive a post 16 PEP as a care leaver to help support you with your employment, education or training just ask your YPA.
-  We can provide you with help and support in accessing work experience.
- 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 Employed 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.
-  When ready for work you can get support from a work coach from Wolves@Work.
-  You can find out about opportunities on getting into work through the website WorkBox <http://www.wolvesworkbox.com/> here you will find The City of Wolverhampton Council 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.
-  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.
-  Wolverhampton Homes offer 5 apprenticeships opportunities per year to care leavers.
-  The Children and Young People's Service, offer 3 work opportunities per year to care leavers.
- You will receive a £1000 bursary when undertaking an apprenticeship.
- You can get financial support with travel, clothes and equipment when starting work.
-  You can access free dry-cleaning services through Timpson's to prepare for interviews

-  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.
- 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.

ACCOMMODATION


We want you to feel safe and secure where you live to help you achieve this:












- You can have access to range of supported accommodation: hostels, foyers, supported lodgings and social housing.
-  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.
-  You can access the Looked After Children (LAC) Training flat to help you trial living independently.
-  You can access a LAC Transitions flat when you are 16-18-year old if this is right for you. You will receive support from a housing support worker to support you between 10 – 30 hours per week.
-  You can access the crash pad in an absolute emergency.
-  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.
-  We will work in partnership with Wolverhampton Homes to support you in securing a tenancy when you turn 18.
-  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.






-  If you are a care leaver who lives in Wolverhampton you are fully exempt from Council Tax up to the age of 25.
- You will receive up to £2000 Setting up Home Grant.
-  You will be offered priority Band 1 allocations with Wolverhampton Homes.
- You will have the opportunity to stay put in with your foster carer until you are 21.
-  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.

PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

We want you to feel part of your community and to help you with this:


-  You will have the opportunity to be nominated for an I Award, this is an annual award ceremony that celebrates the achievements of looked after children 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
-  You can have access to a webpage information on opportunities to join groups and clubs. www.wolverhamptonlac.co.uk.
- 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 before the age of 18 if you are required to apply.
-  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 looked after children and Transition staff, our annual Christmas Party, our annual Summer BBQ and our annual Christmas Meal.



-  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.
-  You can access to face book webpage / Twitter link / Instagram link / LAC website to ensure awareness of events and significant changes in service delivery.
-  You can access the Swap shop for household items through Facebook
-  You can access clothing through the clothing bank at Beldray
-  You can access MOMO app that helps young people say what they want, when they want.
-  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
-  You will have the opportunity to sit on the Corporate Parenting Board representing care leavers.

-  You will have the opportunity to attend the National Care Leaver Bench marking forum events.
-  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.
-  You will have the opportunity to contribute to the selection process for internal and external job roles.
-  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.
-  You will have the opportunity to attend National citizenship service at no cost for care leavers 16-17.
- 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.

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:

- 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 may be able to receive Emergency Crisis Payments.
- You will receive rent allowance if you are aged 16-17 for the full cost of your rent or placement costs.
- 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.
-  You will be supported to have good financial management skills and helped to avoid debt.

- 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.
-  You will be offered opportunities to engage in courses on budgeting skills which could lead to an ASDAN award.
- We will support you to ensure you are receiving your benefit entitlement and offer support if there is delay in accessing this.
- You will be able to access an education travel allowance.
- You can get support to access Universal Credit including Housing Benefit.
- You can get up to £2000 Setting up Home Grant.
- 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.
- You will receive support to access important documents before your 18th Birthday such as your passport, provisional driving license and birth certificate.
-  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 open a bank account.