



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

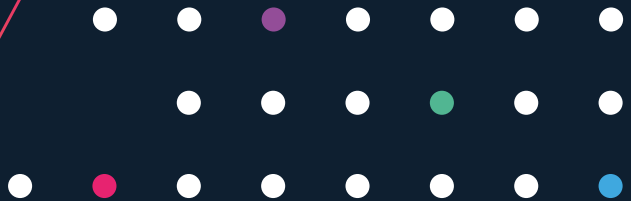
Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Telford & Wrekin Council's

LOCAL OFFER TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

who are
leaving care



April 2022



CONTENTS

PAGE

1	We want to talk to you about our Local Offer	3
2	Who is the Local Offer for?	5
3	How we can support you	6
4	The type of help you can expect to receive	8
5	Personal Adviser (PA) for Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant young people	9
6	Leavers Lounge	10
7	The Care Leaver Covenant	12
8	Your Rights	13
9	Accommodation	14
10	Support to engage in Education, Training and Employment	17
11	Health and Wellbeing	19
12	Money Matters	21
13	Relationships	22
14	Participation in Society	23
15	Other areas of support	25
16	Our commitment to you in Telford and Wrekin	27
17	Key contacts	30

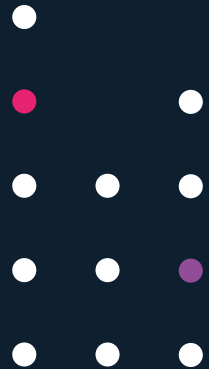
1 WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT OUR LOCAL OFFER

We want to let you know what help and support is available to you.

Adulthood can be a difficult time, where you will face change and have to make decisions about your future. We are here to support you.

As your Corporate Parents we have a duty of care for you and as any reasonable parent, we want to equip you with the skills you need to navigate your adult life.

We have spoken to a number of you about this booklet and you have worked with us to make sure this is right for you!



What the Children and Social Work Act 2017 says about the Care Leaver Offer:

A local authority in England must publish information about:

- a)** services which the local authority offers for care leavers as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989;
- b)** other services which the local authority offers that may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for adulthood and independent living.

This includes services which may assist care leavers in, or in preparing for adulthood and independent living include services relating to:

- a)** health and wellbeing;
- b)** relationships;
- c)** education and training;
- d)** employment;
- e)** accommodation;
- f)** participation in society.

Where it considers appropriate, a local authority in England must publish information about services for care leavers offered by others which the local authority has power to offer as a result of its functions under the Children Act 1989.

Information required to be published by a local authority under this section is to be known as its “local offer for care leavers”.



2 WHO IS THE LOCAL OFFER FOR?

To be able to get the support set out in the Local Offer, you must have been;

- In care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16th Birthday); or
- In care for 13 weeks after your 16th birthday.

If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, then ask your Personal Adviser (PA). Your Personal Adviser will talk with you about the information in the local offer.

The local offer is available online www.telford.gov.uk/leavingcare

You can also ask your Personal Adviser for a printed copy.



3 HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU

Depending on your circumstances and the time you spent in care, the law describes four different groups of young people who are care experienced:

- Eligible.
- Relevant.
- Former Relevant.
- Qualifying.

You are an eligible young person if:

- You are aged 16 or 17; and
- You are currently in care;

And

- You have been in care for a period of 13 weeks (or episodes which add up to 13 weeks) since your 14th birthday and at least one day whilst you were 16 or 17 years old.





You are a relevant young person if:

- You are no longer in care, but you have been eligible and;
- You are 16 or 17 years old.

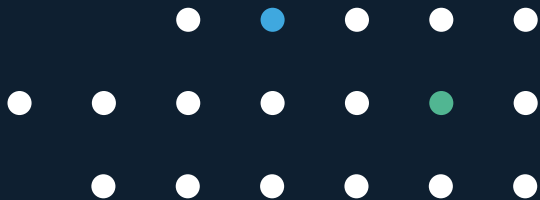
You are a former relevant young person if:

- You are aged 18-25;
- Immediately before you reached 18 you were an eligible or relevant young person.

You are a qualifying young person if:

- You are aged 16-21 (or up to 25 if in education) and were in care for a short time on or after your 16th birthday.

Coram Voice has a useful link to help you work out if you are a care leaver
<https://coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/am-i-care-leaver>



4 THE TYPE OF HELP YOU CAN EXPECT TO RECEIVE

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying
Regularly reviewed Pathway Plan based on what we agree you need.	✓	✓	✓	We can talk to you about your support needs and could draw up a Pathway Plan.
Personal Adviser.	✓	✓	✓	Depends on the support you need.
Take reasonable steps to keep in touch at least every eight weeks.	✓	✓	✓	Depends on the support you need.
Find and maintain suitable accommodation.	✓	✓	✓	We can provide advice, guidance and signposting.
Help to meet your education, training or employment needs.	✓	✓	✓	We can provide advice and guidance.

5 PERSONAL ADVISER (PA)

for Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant young people

Your PA will work with you, your Social Worker, Foster Carer or Keyworker and other people who are important to you to support you to develop your life skills and become more independent.

Your PA will aim to meet with you at least every eight weeks up to age 21. You will be able to ask for support from your PA up to the age of 25, it makes no difference if you are in education, employment or training. This is to make sure you have the same support like other young people living with their parents.

A Pathway Plan is a written document that looks at what skills you have and identify what skills you need to develop for adulthood. Your Pathway Plan helps you to set goals and identify what needs to be done, who will do the tasks and by when.

Every young person's Pathway Plan is different and your Pathway Plan will vary depending on the support you need. We will review your plan every six months, from 16-18 by your Social Worker and from 18 to 21 by your PA and possibly up to 25.

We will aim to make sure you have the same PA while the team work with you, but sometimes this may change. We also have Duty PAs that you can call on [01952 385817](tel:01952385817) if your PA is not available.

If you are not happy with your support, it is an important life skill to try and resolve any issues. You can speak to the Leaving Care Team Manager see useful contact details.

6 THE LEAVERS LOUNGE

Leavers Lounge
Meeting Point House
Southwater Square
Telford
TF3 4HS

Hi my name is Jess, I am a Care Experienced young person and employed by our corporate parents as a Participation Apprentice. I have been part of the care council and was a looked after child until I was 18.

I have already taken my steps through care. I'm now here to help you on your journey, understand your options and ensure our opinions and experiences shape the support we receive.

Telford's Local Offer is a guide produced to give you, as a care experienced young person, an idea of what support and services you can expect from Telford & Wrekin Council. It is designed to cut the confusion and give you a clearer understanding of exactly what help you should be getting and what else can assist you on your transition to independence. It's also a list of pledges and offers that help improve your life and hopefully make your move into adulthood less scary and more fulfilling. It provides advice around things like keeping you safe, finding suitable accommodation, helping you in to work, education or training. The aim is to help you grow, learn, aspire and achieve and to make sure that your home is a happy place to live.

I would like to invite you personally to The Leavers Lounge, at Meeting Point House. It is home to our Participation Team. It's a friendly, informal place to come and receive support, participate in lots of different activities and meet other care experienced young people like myself. Come join our Leavers Come First Forum, see your PA, use our sensory room to chill out with a cuppa. There's a warm welcome awaiting you!

I was part of The Voice growing up, this is the young person's forum, open to Children In Care up to the age of 16. It listened to my own voice and that of the other members, and helped us feel listened to and supported.

I would like to personally invite you to the Leavers Come First Forum;
After moving on from the Voice, I'm now part of the Leavers Come First Forum, which is like the Voice but for care experienced young people over age 16. We talk about our shared experiences, socialise and help improve the council's services, as well as participating in some great activities. We want your support to ensure the voice of care experienced young people is heard and is leading the way in shaping services that support us.

Please arrange to visit through your PA. We look forward to meeting you!



7 CARE LEAVER COVENANT

Telford & Wrekin Council offer support and expect all young adults leaving care to have the same opportunities with education, employment and training as children growing up in their birth families homes. In fact, Telford & Wrekin Council have made this very promise a specific priority across all council services.

Have you heard about the care leaver covenant? www.mycovenant.org.uk

The covenant is a pledge made by public, private and voluntary organisations to support all young adults leaving care to be successful.

What does this mean I hear you say – well, in a nutshell, it details many exciting opportunities for young adults leaving care to apply for example, for employment and work placements and internships with big businesses, government departments, museums, theatres, or Premier League football clubs, as well as training workshops or life-skills coaching.

In addition to the private and voluntary sector offers, the package of support for young adults leaving care includes an opportunity for:

- 12 month internships from every government department in Whitehall, including 100 12 month internships from January 2019;
- Support from universities, such as bursaries and accommodation, with Cambridge, Leeds, and Manchester universities committing to supporting Care experienced young people – data shows that only 6 per cent of Care experienced young people aged 19 to 21 go on to higher education; and
- Resources and tools from Barclays Life Skills to help Care experienced young people to manage their money better, as they often lack the safety net of financial support from their families.
- Ring fenced apprenticeships within the council.

Watch this space for developments on this and how Telford & Wrekin Council are developing a similar 'offer' in terms of local opportunities.

It could not be easier to access, either through the free app, care leaver covenant on the app store, <https://mycovenant.org.uk> or through your PA.

8 YOUR RIGHTS

Helping you to understand your history

We will help you understand your rights and advocate on your behalf, helping you access information about you and providing support if you need to make a complaint.

Children's Services have to keep written case records of your care history. These records must be kept for 75 years. You can request your records any time after you become 18 years old. You do not have to read through the information on your own. It can be upsetting or confusing to do this alone and we want to help you understand what is in your file and why.

Your PA can support you or you can bring a friend. We would strongly suggest that you do not do this on your own. You need to request to see your records in writing. Children's Services must then respond to you in writing giving the timescale. It must happen within 40 days.

You may find that some of the information is not available for you to read. This is because some of the information in your records may identify other people known as third parties. Additionally, if there is information that may seriously harm your physical or mental health it may not be given to you.

Independent support

You have a right to support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you.

Independent advocates can inform you about your rights and help you to be heard in meetings. They are separate from Children's Services and are available to Care experienced young people up to the age of 25.

You can contact an Independent Advocate either through your PA or by yourself by calling [01952 385112/385102](tel:01952385112/385102).

9 ACCOMMODATION

We will encourage you to stay safely in care until you are 18, but if you are aged 16-17 and choose to no longer live in the accommodation provided, the council will make sure that you have a safe and suitable place to live in, this could be with a Supported Lodgings Provider or in Supported Housing.

By working together on your future plans we will provide financial support to live within semi independent accommodation, until you can apply for Universal Credit and other relevant benefits when you are 18.

In preparation of you turning 18 your Social Worker with your PA and other services will work with you to explore your accommodation options. When over the age of 18 your PA and our partners will help you find suitable housing.

How we do this;

- A 'Staying Put' arrangement for if you want to stay living with your Foster Carers, and they agree, up to age 21, or until the agreed programme of education or training being undertaken on 21st birthday is completed, ask your PA for a Staying Put leaflet.
- Your residential provider may offer a 'Stay Close' arrangement, which could include move on action and practical and emotional support from the residential provider. We will help you explore if this is an option.
- Care Leavers are a priority needs group for social housing, we will always work closely with you to try to ensure you will move to social housing in a planned way
- Supported Lodgings or Shared Lives accommodation, where you have your own room in a family home and they will support you, until you are ready to move on.
- Shared accommodation – this might be with friends, peers, or other young people.
- Help to find a tenancy when you are ready and providing advice on how to maintain it including paying your bills and being a responsible neighbour.

- Offer practical moving in help which includes funding the removal cost of your first independent home and advice how to look after your home i.e. decorating, cleaning and reporting repairs.
- Your landlord may provide financial assistance to help you decorate your new home if this is not available from your landlord the Leaving Care Team can provide this.
- Offering independent living skills workshops on practical skills such as how to cook and maintain your own home.
- Support with sourcing vacation time accommodation for care experienced young people who are in higher education.
- Supporting access to your Setting Up Home grant of up to £2559.00 in total for essential items to furnish and set up your first property as you need it up to age 25 this includes content insurance for first year independent living, TV Licence, Home Starter Pack, cooker fitting and removals.
- Council Tax exemption for care experienced young people up to the age of 25.
- A reduction on your water bills with Severn Trent, who can offer up to 70% off for care experienced young people.
- Assist in helping you secure a property, for example with your deposit costs directly or through the housing service.
- Support you with accessing the Tesco Mobile offer of free SIM card with three months data, text and calls.
- In some circumstances, the council will act as a guarantor for you if you need a privately rented property and social housing isn't available.
- Provide Winter Weather payment of £10 per week from 1st October to 31st March in first year of living independent.
- If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, your UC Job Coach will help you with accessing the TalkTalk Broadband Offer via the DWP.

Housing Services

- Telford & Wrekin Council will not find any care leavers who are working with us to resolve their housing situation intentionally homeless.
- Telford & Wrekin Council will provide a named housing officer to each young person who will work alongside you and your personal advisor to provide advice, support and a personalised housing plan outlining all options for accommodation and support. The Personal Housing Plan will be a document for you to take away which sets out what you need to do and what housing services and other agencies will do to help you to reach your housing goal.
- Telford & Wrekin Council will ensure any care leaver that is homeless or faced with homelessness is classed as a priority for any suitable nominations to Registered Providers for social housing.
- Telford & Wrekin Council will provide financial support (where applicable) for paying a deposit on their new home.
- Where a care leaver is at risk of becoming homeless, housing or tenancy sustainment support will be provided to prevent homelessness, or where this is not possible we will provide suitable emergency accommodation. Where possible this will be within a 24/7 supported accommodation specifically for young people with services who will work intensively with you.



10 SUPPORT TO ENGAGE IN EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

We provide opportunities to the young people we care for and have cared for, to help you achieve your aspirations. We work with the council's careers service and our partners to find suitable opportunities that meet your needs.

How we do this:

- Careers information and advice.
- Support to access the Further Education Bursary (16-19 available through your education provider).
- CV and interview coaching from our Partners, the Virtual School or through the Care Leavers Covenant, who can support you in writing a top quality application and show you how best to answer interview questions to secure you a position.
- Support you to refine your work interests via work experience and shadowing opportunities through the virtual school, partners, or Care Leaver Covenant
- Telford & Wrekin Council operate a guaranteed interview scheme for all care experienced young people applying for employment and apprenticeship posts.
- Telford & Wrekin Council offer ring fenced Apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced young people on the Apprenticeship pay rate.
- Young people leaving care who choose to start an apprenticeship will receive a £1000 bursary to help with the transition into the workplace (The £1000 bursary is paid via your training provider, the payment is triggered once the learner has been on programme for 12 weeks).
- Support to access a free Arriva Bus Pass through DWP or the council to travel around the borough, for instance to and from interviews, work experience, jobs until first wage, college until bursary in place, and university visits.
- We will help you to inform the Job Centre of any changes in your circumstances if you wish.
- We will provide you guidance to help you maximise financial support linked to education, training or employment.

- If you have any Special Educational Needs we will make sure you receive any additional help or support you require and access specialist support such as the SEND offer until 25.
- We will keep you up to date with forthcoming local job fairs and support you to attend these.
- Support will be provided to understand your rights and entitlements when employed.
- If you attend University Telford and Wrekin provide a Higher Education Grant of £2000 which will be split in to equal instalments (annually) throughout the duration of the course up to the age of 25.
- If you are planning to attend University we can support you by;
 - helping you consider your options,
 - help you to sign up for open days, and provide travel support to attend if you need
 - complete UCAS applications,
 - complete student finance forms,
 - help you search for and support you to apply for scholarships and additional bursaries you may be entitled to,
 - source suitable accommodation to meet your individual needs.
- If you choose to enter full time higher education, we will provide you with a higher education accommodation allowance that is equivalent of the local housing allowance rate where you choose to study up to 21 or 25 if needed. This also funds your accommodation during vacation times.
- We hold events to celebrate your achievements. This may be an annual event evening or in a personal way, for example Hotshots award nomination, taking you out for a meal.
- We will help with access to transport costs when travelling to training, school, college, apprenticeships or job interviews, through your Young Person's Learner Agreement.
- We will provide help obtaining equipment, essential clothing and books to support education, training or employment.
- The Marches Growth Hub offer 1:1 advice to care experienced young people with a focus on individual career routes, learning and development and employment opportunities.
- The Marches Growth Hub will also advise you how to become self-employed through their 'becoming an Entrepreneur' session.
- We will be able to support you with work and interview clothing costs.
- We will encourage you to apply for our annual Leader and Cabinet member Young Person's Grant scheme which will support you with travel passes or other barriers to you accessing education, employment or training.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We will encourage you to be healthy, your PA will help you achieve this with the support of our Health and Wellbeing Partners.

How we do this:

- Offer easy access to specialist services such as sexual health.
- Help to register with health services including doctors, dentist and an optician. We can also support you in attending appointments if you need, including transport costs after an assessment of need.
- Offer free prescriptions up to the age of 25
- Give you information on getting help to pay for prescriptions using the NHS Low Income Scheme, if you qualify.
- Give you information about counselling services that are available local to you and offer support to attend.
- Provide you with access to council leisure centres, which have gyms, fitness classes, yoga and swimming pools – as we know that physical activity is beneficial to having good mental health. You can also bring a friend for free!
- If you are a young parent, we will support you to do the best for your child. We will help you arrange childcare, if this is what you want. We will support you to attend important appointments about your child.
- Give you information about health drop-in sessions.
- Support you to stop smoking with the help of Stop Smoking Telford
- Give you information about local sexual health centres and how you can access their services and free confidential advice.
- Help you to manage your emotional wellbeing – this may include a referral or signposting to other support agencies.
- Support from a Healthy Life Style adviser for health improvement advice (healthy eating, being more active, drinking less and quitting smoking) and the opportunity to train as a Health Champion to volunteer in a health and community setting.

- Provide a Health Passport when you turn 18 – a Health Passport is a summary of your health history, including things like when you have had certain immunisations, medication, and so on. You and our looked after nurse will work together to complete your Health Passport. They will discuss your health history and will be able to explore the services that may be available to you and you can ask any questions you may have regarding your health and wellbeing.
- Support to access adult social care beyond your 18th birthday if this is needed.
- We offer dedicated sessions at the Calm Café for care experienced young people to support your mental wellbeing.



LEISURE

Your PA and Telford & Wrekin Leisure Services want to support access to leisure facilities and activities.

How we do this:

- Provide access to leisure services and activities via the councils concessionary Telford Loyalty Card Scheme (TLC).
- Free Aspiration health and fitness memberships* to the age of 25 and concessionary membership rates to the person accompanying you.
- Free public swimming at our baths.
- Visit our Bike Hub in Telford Town Park for advice on cycling locally
- Assist in signposting you towards suitable sporting clubs or groups.

* To redeem Telford & Wrekin Leisure Services offer, we will provide you with a letter to take into any leisure centre and ask for your Care Leaver Membership.

11 MONEY MATTERS

We will try to help you financially, in a similar way to how parents would support their own children.

How we do this:

- Support you with budgeting through our partners such as Lloyds who offer workshops on financial skills for independence.
- Direct you to the Money Advice Service if you need help about managing your expenses and any debt you may have
- Sign post you to support services such as Citizens Advice.
- Help you to open a bank account.
- Prior to leaving care we will ensure that you have valid identity documents: a current passport, a provisional or full driving licence and copy of your birth certificate. These will help you access benefits if you need them, and open a bank account of your own. We will also ensure you have your National Insurance number,
- Support you to access your Setting Up Home Grant up to £2559 in total for essential items to furnish and set up your first property as you need it up to age 25 this includes content insurance for first year independent living, TV Licence, Home Starter Pack, cooker fitting and removals.
- We will pay for your TV Licence for the first 12 months in accommodation that requires this.
- Support and Information to access your savings and JISA if you have them. We can also show you how to set up a savings account.
- Support, Advice and Guidance on applying for Criminal Injury Compensation Authority Awards if relevant with the option to support you to set up a funded Telford and Wrekin Leaving Care Trust Fund to be held up to age 21/25.
- Support and Information to access Telford and Wrekin Leaving Care Introduction to Driving package
- Support you to keep in contact with family and friends through train or bus tickets.
- Exceptional financial support in emergencies as a young person who has left care.
- Providing Birthday and Festival gifts/allowances – as set out in our finance policy and your PA can share the young persons guide to this
- All Telford and Wrekin Care Experienced Young People, up to the age of 25, can apply for up to 100% council tax exemption.
- As a care leaver, you can access bursary payments from your college or training provider, your Personal Adviser will be able to provide you with a supporting letter detailing your eligibility to this funding.

13 RELATIONSHIPS

As well as support from a PA, we may be able to offer you additional practical and emotional support, such as:

- Where appropriate, continuing to support contact with the 'Independent Visitor' you had while you were in care;
- Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like birth family and wider family and friends, former foster carers or social workers.
- We will support you with life story and with supporting you with identity.
- We can support you using our Volunteer Leaving Care Mentors, who can support you with all manner of things, from moving home and decorating, to advocacy during mediation should you want to regain or maintain contact with friends, previous carers, or family.
- We can provide advice on how to access services and training to learn about positive and healthy relationships
- Visiting places of worship – for those aged 16-21yrs, we could help with the cost of public transport to a specific place of worship on special occasions (for example during festive periods).



14 PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

We want you to have all the chances in life that other young adults have and we will encourage you to develop your interests and get involved in positive activities. People can participate in their communities or in society in different ways and some people want to participate more than others.

We will do our best to find opportunities for you to participate in something that interests you or develop your interests, which you can then pursue independently. We will do this in the following ways:

- By providing information on Leavers Lounge and community participation groups and events clubs you may wish to join
- Encouraging you to take part in Leavers Come First, Monthly Care Experienced Young People's Forum and National Care Leavers Week. This will allow you to directly influence service developments for you and other young people who are care-experienced.
- You will have the opportunity to feed into our Corporate Parenting Panel through our Young Persons Panel to ensure that the voice of care experienced young people is heard.
- You can act as a Peer Mentor, supporting other care experienced young people
- If you help us with consultation, interviews, or other engagement activities you will be paid in the form of vouchers at a rate of £5 p/hr
- We will help you take part in events and activities such as the Summer Arts Project (up to the age 19) and the Hot Shots Awards, and attend the celebration events for these
- Informing you about relevant awards, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests
- Encouraging and helping you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in elections.
- Encouraging you to tell us how we are doing and any areas you think we can get better at through surveys written by care experienced young people.
- Informing and possibly helping you with the cost of leisure activities, and ensuring you make use of our free leisure provision at our borough centres.
- Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in.

- Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care experienced young person.
- Virgin Media have provided a grant to help purchase smart phone, laptops, tablets and data packages to keep you connected and in touch with people and key services

Care leavers and support workers can sign up to Connects. We will keep you up to date with relevant work, education and recreational opportunities, as well as information about the support that care leavers may be able to access. In addition to this, care leavers will be automatically entered into our give-aways!
<https://mycovenant.org.uk/for-care-leavers/connects/>



15 OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT



If you are going to become a Parent

If you are a parent or if you are expecting a baby, we will support you to do the best for them.

- Your GP and midwife can talk to you about the health services available to you
- Your personal adviser can give you information about financial support and schemes in place to support you
- We will help you arrange childcare if this is what you want
- If you are a first time Mum, we can make a referral to the family nurse partnership for extra support.
- We can introduce you to the care leaver champion in your local Children's Centre. The role of a champion is to help welcome you and ensure that you feel comfortable. They can meet you with your personal adviser and come and visit you at home.
- We can make a referral for specialist parenting support to prepare you for having a baby and for advice and support once your baby arrives.
- We will provide you with a hamper of baby goodies to celebrate the arrival of your new baby.
- You will receive £100 festival allowance age 18-21

If you are UASC (an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child):

Former unaccompanied children who qualify as care experienced young people and who have been granted leave to remain in the United Kingdom, or who have an outstanding asylum or other human rights claim or appeal, are entitled to the same level of care and support from the local authority as any other care leaver. We will make sure you have a pathway plan in place that is suited to you, your needs, and your wishes.

Following an assessment of need, Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children aged 16 & 17 years can be provided with a £5.00 per week phone card/contact allowance where they have significant family members overseas.

If you have lost contact with your family from your country of origin, we will support you by linking you with agencies who help to trace families (for example British Red Cross).

If you are in custody or have involvement from probation:

- The Prison, Probation and Local Authority will work together to provide consistent and appropriate support.

If you have been in custody, you are entitled to the same level of PA support as all our other young people up to 21/ 25.

Care experienced young people in custody will receive:

- You can request support from your Personal Adviser up to age 25, you can do this where you did not want further support at 21
- Where possible you can keep the same Personal Adviser up to age 25
- Family members can access the Assisted Prison Visits scheme via DWP and where this is not available the leaving care team can complete a needs assessment for family member travel assistance
- If aged 16 & 17 and the institution does not provide an allowance scheme, we will provide £10 per week pocket money and £5 per week clothing allowance
- Provide the applicable Birthday and Festival allowance up to age 21
- Care experienced young people who have been in custody have access to the £2559 setting up home grant. Where young people are being discharged from hospital or being released from custody immediately prior to, or immediately after their 25th birthday, the final pathway plan you and your PA work on should set out when and how the Setting Up Home Grant will be accessed and used. If you don't have a discharge or release date by your 25th birthday, the service and the provision of the grant will cease, as the use of the Setting Up Home Grant should be completed by 25½.
- Support to access to the prisons resettlement service to claim universal credit 28 days prior to release.
- If available, support to access the Rees Foundation – support to care experienced young people in custody or have probation involvement
- Access prison discharge grant and travel warrant
- Upon release we can meet you at the gates

16 OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU IN TELFORD AND WREKIN

Getting ready for adulthood:

- We will help you with the things that change when you stop being a child who is 'looked after' and when you become a young adult leaving care.
- We will help you remain with your foster family for as long as possible. We will only start thinking about independent living with you when you are ready.
- We will help you maintain relationships with your carers, family, friends and social networks so that you have help and support during and after you leave our care.
- We will help you to understand what you need to be able to successfully live on your own and to be happy.
- We will also show you that we understand that leaving our care is a big step and that you need our patience and understanding, even when you make mistakes.


Practical Support:

- We will make it our priority to help you to find and keep a welcoming home where you feel safe.
- We will help you learn how to take care of yourself, stay healthy and safe, manage your money, take care of your home, achieve your aspirations, and have good relationships, able to raise families of your own if that is what you would like to do.
- We will understand that just because you become 18, this does not mean you will suddenly know all there is to know about being an adult.
- We will support you when you make mistakes and when we feel worried about you.
- We will make sure especially during the tough times, that we stand ready to help you.
- We will make sure that we see you at least every eight weeks ((you can see us regularly by joining events or attending the leavers lounge) and more often when you first leave our care. We respect your choice to see us less if that is what you would like.

- We will help you to understand how to deal with conflicts and challenges without getting angry and frustrated at others or making things worse. We will help you through our own example, being patient and understanding., We will support you have a plan B to fall back upon if things don't go according to plan.
- We understand that as an adult you may make choices that are not good for you and may even mean that you are unsafe. We know that you are free to make such a choice, but we will always act to help you to protect yourselves and others around you. There may be times that we need to make contact with other services or people who can help you. If we need to do this, we will make sure that you know and are clear about what will happen next.
- We will help you to find special support, like therapy or counselling, when the time is right for you and if you tell us that this would help you.
- We will make sure that you feel part of our Telford and Wrekin "Corporate family" and like other families, we understand that you need to have a sense that you belong and are valued.
- We will help other people in the council understand this when you may need their support, for example with housing or other services.

Our Relationship:

- We will always help you dream and aspire to be what you want to be.
- We will help you to believe that you will continue to grow and to succeed.
- Your pathway plan will be something that inspires you to achieve great things in your life, whatever that means for you.
- We will always listen to you, even when we don't agree with one another.
- We will hear you out and help you to speak your mind in a way that helps you be heard by others who need to listen.
- We will include you in all of the important decisions that need to be made about your life and your future.
- We will respect the times when you need some personal space or may not be ready to see or speak with us. We will always leave the door open so that you know you can seek us out when you are ready to receive our help or advice. You will receive help and support from us up until the age of 25.
- We will make sure that your current Social Worker or Personal Adviser does not leave you without saying goodbye and introducing you to the new adult who will be supporting you. All our Personal Advisers will understand that getting to know you and to earn your trust will take time.
- We will help you identify the triggers that may lead you to become angry, lash out, hurt yourself or turn to drugs or alcohol to cope.

- 
- We will help you plan for these situations and identify who you can turn to for help when you need it. If it is helpful, we will help you to make a safety plan so that you have some control at times when you feel vulnerable and worried.
 - We will not make commitments to you unless we know we can honour them. We know that our honesty will be important if you are to trust and work with us. That may mean that sometimes we have to say things to you even when it may not be what you want or like to hear.
 - We will help you to understand your history and how it is you came to be in our care. We recognise that having your life story book, pictures and mementoes are all important to your recalling important people and events in your life. We will support you if you find this upsetting and if you want to see your case files, we will make sure that your Personal Adviser is available to help you read through papers and to ask questions.
 - We will make sure that you understand your rights and your responsibilities. This will include knowing who else can help you to express your views if you want to make a complaint because you feel you have been treated unfairly. If we are not able to keep these commitments to you, we understand that this will mean you may need to complain.
 - We will always offer you a hug, a smile, or a shoulder to cry on if that will help. It's ok for you to say no though!

Your commitments to us:

So that we can have the best relationship together through these commitments, we ask that you try your very best to:

- Treat us with respect, even when you don't agree with suggestions we are making.
- Keep in touch with us as much as you can or feel comfortable with.
- Share your successes with us so we can celebrate together.
- Listen to and think about our advice and guidance, even if you don't always follow it.
- Let us know if you feel we are treating you unfairly or if we have made a mistake. We would like a chance to make things right.
- Accept our support, and let us know when you don't want or need our help.
- Understand that we have to make decisions about your safety when the law says we must or when you are in danger.
- Apologise and take responsibility for your actions when you make mistakes.
- Keep working hard on your goals, dreams and ambitions to the best of your ability.
- Be open and honest with us as much as possible.
- Tell us what your views, wishes and feelings are on anything we do to help.
- Let us know if you are worried, in trouble or making decisions that are not good for you

17 USEFUL CONTACTS

Key Contact Number	Description	Contact
Leaving Care Team	General support for young people leaving care	01952 385817 or email TWCreleavers@telford.gov.uk
Emergency Duty Team (out of hours)	Emergency social work service for urgent situations out of normal office hours and which cannot be left until the next normal working day	01952 676500
Jo Britton	Director of Children's Services	01952 385008
Customer Complaints, Compliments and Feedback	For all feedback, complaints and compliments	01952 382006 or email customer.relationship@telford.gov.uk or online https://webforms.telford.gov.uk/form/148
Rights and Representations	Independent safeguarding, quality and advocacy	Mike Bould 01952 385112 Amanda Farrington 01952 385102
Citizens Advice Bureau	General advice	0300 330 1165
Accommodation		
Housing Solution Team	Temporary/emergency housing	01952 381925
Maninplace	Temporary accommodation	01952 248248
KIP	Temporary Accommodation	01952 256007
Shelter – Birmingham	General housing advice	0808 800 4444 or online www.shelter.org.uk
Education, Training and Employment		
Future Focus	16-19 careers advice	01952 388988
Job Box	19+ training/employment advice	01952 382888
E.A.S.T	Employment support for people with disabilities	01952 382888
Juniper Training	Training provider	01952 299016
Nova Training	Training provider	01952 243380
County Training	Training provider	0345 678 9023
Enable	Employment support for people with disabilities	01743 276900
Landau	Training provider	01952 245015
Total People	Training provider	01952 681030
Unite Foundation	University accommodation scholarship	0117 302 7073 or email info@unitefoundation.org.uk or online thisisusatuni.org

Key Contact Number	Description	Contact
Health and Wellbeing		
Doctor/Doctor/Optician	Find a service near you visit www.nhs.uk and search your postcode	
NHS England	General health advice	111
Police – non emergency	General advice	101
Samaritans	Support for wellbeing and people having suicidal thoughts	116 123
ChildLine	Crisis and Wellbeing support	0800 1111
Telford Wellbeing Service	Mental health and wellbeing support	01952 457415
Healthy Life Style Service	Support regarding health, smoking, physical activity	01952 382582
Telford Sexual Health Services	General advice around sexual health matters	0808 178 0955
Recharge	Addiction and wellbeing support	01952 660000
Leisure		
Telford & Wrekin Leisure Services		01952 382770
Finance		
Jobcentre Plus	Benefit advice	0800 169 0190
Citizens Advice Bureau	General advice around housing, debt and benefits	0300 330 1165 www.citizensadvice.org.uk
The Money Advice Service	General money advice	0800 138 7777
Fair Share Credit Union	Basic bank account and loans	01952 200200
Step Change	Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday 8am to 4pm	0800 138 1111 https://www.stepchange.org
National Debt Line	9am-8pm Monday to Friday; website with live chat	0808 808 4000 https://tools.nationaldebtline.org/yourbudget
Prince's Trust	Money Management Debt Line, website with live chat	0800 842 842 www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/tools-resources
Money Helper	Website with live chat	0800 0113797 www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/budgeting
The Money Charity		https://themoneycharity.org.uk/workshops-webinars/young-people/
Turn 2 US		www.turn2us.org.uk

Key Contact Number	Description	Contact
Benefits		
Department for Work and Pensions www.gov.uk		0800 731 0469 (free)
- Existing benefit claims only		0800 169 0310 (free)
Other support services		
Adult Social Care		01952 385385 www.telford.gov.uk
Buttle Trust		020 7828 7311 www.buttleuk.org
National Youth Advocacy Service		0808 808 1001 www.nyas.net
The Care Leavers Foundation		01678 540598 thecareleaversfoundation.org
Bee U		0300 124 0093 beeu.org.uk
Become		0800 023 2033 www.becomecharity.org.uk
West Mercia Youth Offending Service		01952 385985 or email telford.team.wmyos@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
YSS		01905 730780 www.yss.org
Rees Foundation	Help and advice to care experienced young people	0330 094 5645 or email contactus@reesfoundation.org or online www.reesfoundation.org
We can also help put you in touch with organisations that can give you advice and support:		
Catch 22	Deliver holistic support to care leavers and run the National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum and Young People's Benchmarking Forum	Catch-22.org.uk
Solicitor		www.lawsociety.org.uk/find-a-solicitor
Care Leavers Association		www.careleavers.com 0161 826 0214
Refugee Council		www.refugeecouncil.org.uk 020 7346 6700
New Horizon Youth Centre		www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk 020 7388 5580
Coram	National advocacy service for care leavers, providing free advocacy. They also have a legal centre for children and migrants – Voice.	www.voiceyp.org 0808 800 5792 or email help@coramvoice.org.uk
IMO	Information and stories from other care experienced young people.	www.imohub.org.uk
Young Lives Foundation		www.ylf.org.uk 0808 164009

NOTES



NOTES



NOTES



Telford & Wrekin Council's

LOCAL OFFER TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

who are
leaving care

