

Tower Hamlets, we care: Local offer for Care Leavers Summary

Support we give you:

- A Personal Adviser to keep in touch with who can provide you with advice and support any time up to your **25th** birthday.
- A pathway plan - looks at the things that are important to you as you move towards independence, such as being ready to leave care, where you live, managing your money, staying healthy, employment, citizenship, education and training and your future.
- Help with benefits that you are eligible for. Ask your personal Adviser to help you with this.
- We will provide you with sessions to help you manage and budget your finances through 'MyBnk'. If you attend the full programme, you can also get a Personal Money Management accreditation.
- Help with a range of different accommodation types suited to your needs, your Personal Adviser will help you plan this once you have turned 17 years old and will present your plan to the Housing department 6 months before you turn 18.



Money matters:

- In addition to your daily living costs if you are living semi independently, you can request a food voucher as part of the payment to make sure you always have enough food
- If you are aged 16 or 17 and looked after by the Local Authority, you will be eligible for a clothing allowance.
- While you're in care we will save £10 a week for you, which you can access when you turn 18. This is to make sure you have some savings.
- If you are solely liable to pay council tax and aged 18-25 we will pay this for you.
- When you leave care to live on your own (independently) we will give you £3000 to help you set up home and buy the essentials you need.
- If you are pregnant and are aged 16 or 17 You are entitled to a maternity grant of £150, eleven weeks before your baby is born.
- You may also be entitled to a grant of £500 from the Department of Work and Pensions to buy essentials when your baby is born. Your Personal Adviser will help you explore this.
- If you are in custody, we will provide you with £10 a month financial help until your 21st birthday. Any benefit payments will be stopped, but your claim will stay active and in place ready for your release.

Important documents:

- If you need help, we will cover the cost of 1 passport and a birth certificate (up until you turn 21)
- We may also pay for a provisional driving licence.
- If you are an unaccompanied young person and there are immigration issues to be resolved, your personal Adviser will assist you to receive the appropriate legal support to help you.



Education, Training and Employment

- If you're 16-19 and in education, training or college you may be eligible for a bursary – ask your Personal Adviser about this.
- If you keep your attendance above 90% for the school year, you could get a £150 support grant each financial year. This cash is for things like equipment you need for your studies or training. Just show your personal Adviser why you need it.
- If you have passed exams, GCSE's up to graduation we will reward you with some cash for each exam you pass (check out the full local offer for details).
- You could also be entitled to £33 per week incentive payment if you are in education or training. You need to meet attendance requirements and not be getting a college bursary.
- If you are in education or training, you could get financial assistance with travel costs during your term time to get to/from the address where you live to your place of education or training.
- If you are moving from education to employment, we will help with travel costs to/from your home/place of employment until you receive your first salary payment.
- If you are starting university, we will give you an education bursary of £2000 to cover the duration of your course - we will pay this in instalments. We will also top this up to help with living costs, we will work out how much this will be with you.
- If you are at university, we will give you up to £150 to help you buy books and materials.
- If you go to university and decide at the end of the first year you decide to change course, we can provide an additional year's top-up support for you to change to another course.

Your health:

- Health assessments are available annually with the registered Looked after child nurse until your 18th birthday. After that, your personal Adviser will help you register with a GP and Dentist
- You may be eligible for free eye tests and vouchers towards glasses/contact lenses.
- We provide help with covering the costs of prescriptions for medication you need.

Celebrations:

- If you stay in touch with us between 18-21 we will send you a birthday gift of £30 in vouchers every year
- Once a year we will send you £30 to celebrate one significant religious or cultural event as long as you stay in touch with us up until your 21st birthday

For more information about what is available to you visit [Local offer for Care Leavers in Tower Hamlets](#)

To discuss accessing the local offer, please speak with your Personal Adviser, or contact Benjamin.Yeboah@towerhamlets.gov.uk