** Information and Advice when Accommodating Young People**

Information for young people on the benefits and expectations of coming into care.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Benefits** | **Expectations** |
| You will become a looked-after child. You will be given a social worker who will visit you at least within statutory timescales. | You will need to be available for your social worker to visit you in your placement. |
| Your accommodation is paid for by Children’s Services until you turn 18.  The accommodation provided will be assessed as meeting your needs | You will be expected to sleep in your accommodation every night and any agreement to sleep elsewhere will need to be approved by the Social Work team.  You will also be expected to adhere to the routines and boundaries within the placements.  If you are not appropriately using the accommodation provided, the local authority will end your placement. |
| You will have your health needs met.  Your first health assessment will need to take place within 20 workings days of you coming into care.  For children under 5, review health assessments take place every 6 months.  For children over 5, the review health assessment will take place once a year.  You will be given your health passport when you leave care. | You will need to agree to participate in the health assessments and make yourself available for the appointments. Your social worker could support you to attend these appointments. |
| Your education will be promoted.  You will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place no later than 28 days from the date you are accommodated.  A PEP review will take place regularly to review progress against your education so that you can fulfil your full potential. | As a looked after child, you will be expected to attend education and fully engage in the opportunities available to you as a looked after child to help you achieve to the best of your ability. |
| You will have an Independent Reviewing Officer who play an important role in making sure any decisions made are in your best interests. They will organise review meetings with you and all professionals involved in your care to check on your progress. | You will be encouraged to attend and participate in your review so that you are part of the decision making. |
| You will be entitled to get advocacy support to attend meetings or for any complaints and representation. | Your social worker can assist in signposting you to this service. |
| You will receive subsistence/pocket money or special allowances for birthdays and other occasions. The amount will be agreed at your placement planning meeting |  |
| The local authority will prioritise your safety and wellbeing and investigate any concerns in relation to this. | If you are not in the placement when you should be, you will be reported missing to the police.  Upon your return, the police may wish to interview you and the local authority will arrange a ‘return home interview’.  Your social worker will also visit you to talk about the importance of keeping safe.  If the risks to you are high, the placement and/or the local authority will consider ending the placement in favour of a placement more able to reduce the risks. Unfortunately, these placements are generally located out of the county. |
| If your placement breaks down, Children’s Services must find you a new placement. | Changing placements has a significant impact on your stability, emotional wellbeing and education so will be avoided where possible. |
| At the age of 16 onwards, you will have your long-term needs assessed via a Pathway Plan. This will set out the advice, assistance and support Children’s Services will provide you to transition into independence. This includes helping with education, career planning, employment, accommodation, financial needs and planning. | You will be expected to participate with your Pathway Plan. |
| Depending on when you entered care and how long you have been a looked after child will depend on the service you will be entitled to as a Care Leaver. If you are entitled, you will be allocated a Personal Assistant (PA) before your 18th birthday. You will continue to receive support until the age of 25, including support to pursue higher education and entitled to social housing.  Leaving care entitlements:  [https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/services-for-children-leaving-care/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fchildlawadvice.org.uk%2Finformation-pages%2Fservices-for-children-leaving-care%2F&data=04%7C01%7Calison.munt%40buckinghamshire.gov.uk%7C8df8e32b59a14d21ce1308d9f13cdbd5%7C7fb976b99e2848e180861ddabecf82a0%7C0%7C0%7C637806065953908869%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Mvtw3q%2FW3yhorCFIQEajiGYsIDIPzS6B9kLo6QDoojw%3D&reserved=0) | You will be expected to keep in touch with your personal advisor and allow them to visit you so they can help provide the support agreed on your Pathway Plan and be available for any other support you need. |