

OUR OFFER TO HARINGEY'S CARE LEAVERS

Find out:

What you're entitled to
Who will support you



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WHAT IS A LOCAL OFFER AND WHO IS IT FOR?

WHAT IS A LOCAL OFFER?

At Haringey Council, we have a special responsibility to look after our care leavers. We always try to provide you with the best possible support and care.

We have a legal duty under The Children and Social Work Act 2017 to publish our Local Offer to you as care leavers.

This document is our Local Offer for care leavers. It explains the support and services that are available to you if you are a Haringey Council care leaver aged between 16 and 25 years old.

WHO IS THE LOCAL OFFER FOR?

You are eligible for our support if you've been 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

We offer advice, guidance and support to young people who:

- are leaving care from the age of 16, up to your 25th birthday. You can get support from a Personal Advisor at any point up until 25, if that is what you want



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Haringey Council is a 'corporate parent' to looked after children and care leavers.

'Corporate Parent' is quite a strange phrase. In plain English, it means the council should act like a good parent to its children in care and care leavers. We wish only the best for you. We want to ensure you have the best start as you transition into adulthood.

In everything we do, we are supporting you to be healthy, happy, safe and working towards your goals. Your Personal Advisor will support you in this journey.

There may be times when we disagree over tough decisions that we believe are in your best interests. When this happens, we promise to listen to your opinions, but we will always put your safety first. We will work hard to come up with solutions together to overcome tricky issues.



"As a council, we believe that every young person should be afforded the best start to their adult life. That's why I am delighted to endorse Haringey's Local Offer for care leavers, which sets out our commitment to provide continued support and guidance to young adults leaving care."

Cllr Amin, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families

"Becoming an adult and learning to live independently is a big life challenge for all young people. We will do our very best to be at your side all the way through your journey.

The Local Offer describes the support and advice we will provide you with, but remember if you need just a friendly chat, we'll be here for that too."

Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

YOUR PERSONAL ADVISOR AND PATHWAY PLAN

PERSONAL ADVISOR (PA)

You will have an allocated worker called a Personal Advisor, who will:

- meet you for a chat at a place where you feel comfortable
- visit your home to make sure it is suitable and safe for you
- keep an eye on your progress or difficulties you might have
- help you with decisions about your future
- listen to your wishes and feelings
- support your relationships with other professionals
- help you to achieve your goals, making sure you have what you need to succeed in the future
- keep talking with you even when we disagree. We will always explain our reasons for taking a decision
- link you to an Independent Advocate. You have the right to be heard and taken seriously. Your Advocate can speak for you if you have concerns

We know the relationship between you and your PA is really important. Wherever possible we will try to ensure you keep the same personal advisor. When this is not possible, we will explain why.



PATHWAY PLAN

Everyone from 16-21 years old has a Pathway Plan which we will review and update until you turn 25.

The Pathway Plan is your plan towards full independence and adulthood. It will cover your:

- education, employment or training
- health and wellbeing
- finances
- housing
- important relationships
- immigration status if you are an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC)
- decisions and actions identified in your best interest
- your wishes, feelings and goals

You may find creating your Pathway Plan a bit confusing at first, but remember - it's your Plan - you are in control of it! You can get creative with your Plan. Ask your PA to bring along a 'vision board' to help with this.

You can ask other people to help you with your Plan. This might be other professionals or people close to you.

Together, you and your PA will review your Pathway Plan every six months to make sure your goals are still up-to-date and on track. You can bring your review forward if you wish.

If there is anything you do not like or do not understand, please ask your social worker or Personal Advisor.

HOUSING AND LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

WHAT ARE YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS?

Getting set up in your new home is one of the most important aspects of becoming an independent adult.

Your Personal Advisor will help you to think about your options, which include:

- 'Staying put' - Continuing to live with your carer after you turn 18
- Supported accommodation - via housing pathways, or semi-independent shared accommodation with key work support
- Your own flat – when your PA has assessed you as ready and you have completed independent living workshops



SUPPORT TO PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Learning to live independently for the first time is a big challenge. Suddenly, you are responsible for paying rent, gas, electric, water, travel and food costs. That's why we have put in place workshops to provide you with the skills you need to thrive. These include:

- Skills for Life accredited training programme - Learning to manage money, health, social and relationship skills, personal safety and employment
- Moneyhouse - A 5-day intensive independent living skills programme. You have to attend before you can be approved for your permanent home
- Tailored workshops that include DIY (do-it-yourself), healthy minds, employability and Moneyhouse refreshers

The Haringey Skills for Life app - information for local young people on housing, money and other matters that you can use to help progress with independent living skills. Includes information just for care leavers!

Your Personal Advisor will also support you to apply for the right benefits so that you are able to pay rent.

I AM READY FOR MY OWN FLAT, HOW DO I GET IT?

Once you have attended the workshops and you have been assessed as ready for independent living, you will be able to bid for properties.

Your Personal Advisor will be able to support you to do this. When a viewing becomes available, please let your Personal Advisor know so they can come with you.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SETTING UP YOUR NEW HOME

You are entitled to:

- Setting up Home Allowance (up to £2000 based on assessment of need) to help furnish your flat
- Practical support to move your belongings
- Help with your benefits claim and ensuring it is transferred to your new home
- A decorating allowance if you accept a Homes for Haringey property
- Personal Advisor support on moving in day. They will be there to help out with practical things like your gas, electricity and water.
- Apply for a TV licence
- Exemption from Council Tax (until age 25) if you live within the borough
- Extra housing support from a Homes for Haringey tenancy manager or six months Floating Support (if you are in a housing association flat)

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

We want you to feel good in your whole self. If you ever do have any worries about your health, we will be here to help you access care and treatment.

Your physical and mental wellbeing affect every aspect of your life. That's why we have a range of support available to keep you feeling at your best.

GENERAL

- Support to register with a GP and support with talking to your GP
- Provide you with your 'Care Leavers Summary' at your last statutory health review. This is a letter that details your health history before you turned 18
- Support to access eye (opticians) and dental care

MENTAL HEALTH

- Support from your PA to access counselling or mental health services
- Access to a network of voluntary and community groups able to provide specialist support according to your needs
- www.Kooth.com – Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people. You can access friendly counsellors, self-help and community support daily until 10pm. Use the log-in code: N227SG

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- One You Haringey – free support to keep fit and healthy. Including help to stop smoking, exercise more and manage weight
- Free access to Haringey Fusion Leisure Centres (up to age 21), which includes:
 - Gym
 - Swimming
 - Exercise classes



SEXUAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Outside The Box – personal development workshops focused on safe, positive and healthy sex and relationships
- Free condom access onsite at Young Adults Service
- Healthy Living Pharmacies – sexual health testing, free condoms and support to stop smoking at one of 20 pharmacies across the borough. Find your nearest [here](#)
- Advice and information around healthy relationships from your Personal Advisor
- You can find the latest information about sexual health services in Haringey at www.haringey.gov.uk/sexualhealth

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- [Insight Haringey](#) – professional and confidential local support for young people on reducing or stopping drug and alcohol use. The service works to improve overall wellbeing, health and support networks
- [Talk to Frank](#) – online information and advice about drugs and alcohol



EDUCATION, WORK AND APPRENTICESHIPS

We are committed to helping you to achieve your ambitions. Whether you are studying for qualifications, training on the job or starting off in work, your Personal Advisor will be there to help.

If you have an Education, Health and Social Care Plan (EHC Plan) we will track this and attend any EHC Plan review meetings.

EDUCATION

- Your Personal Advisor will help you to choose and apply to courses and a place of learning that is right for you
- Help you to access the 16-19 bursary fund worth up to £1,200
- Support with costs related to your education needs, depending on need. This could be up to £250 a year for equipment, books and other essentials
- Support with grant applications for additional financial or equipment support
- Support with public transport costs. On the least expensive public transport route
- Support to acquire a laptop for those in education to achieve qualifications
- Haringey Adult Learning Service – free online courses leading to qualifications, including English and Maths, for those 19 and over

APPRENTICESHIPS

- Haringey Council operates a guaranteed interview scheme for all care leavers applying for apprenticeship posts within the council, subject to the applicant meeting the minimum criteria
- Haringey Council will also fund ring-fenced apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers
- We also have access to exciting apprenticeships with Homes for Haringey and the UK Civil Service
- We will support your public transport costs to training. On the least expensive public transport route

WORK AND VOLUNTEERING

- CV writing and interview techniques and preparation support
- Access to interview clothing
- Termly careers advice onsite
- Access to onsite Department of Welfare and Pensions (DWP) work coach sessions
- Access to volunteering opportunities
- Weekly employment support drop-in
- Support your public transport costs to job interviews. On the least expensive public transport route

UNIVERSITY

- Haringey Council provides a Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 over the 3-4 years of a degree course to all our care leavers who go to university
- Help with rent payments in the holidays of up to £100 per week for a total of 20 weeks
- Support from your Personal Advisor to apply for charitable grants and bursaries
- **Propel** – the website where you can check details of funding, support and applications for care leavers at the university you choose

ASPIRATIONS PANEL AND NEWSLETTER

The 'Aspirations Panel' is a chance for you to hear about the opportunities available to you within the council and with our partners

Our partners include: Haringey Works, Haringey Community Gold, Drive Forward Foundation, Tottenham Hotspur FC and UK Unsigned

Our newsletter provides up-to-date information on education, employment and training opportunities. It also contains helpful information about staying healthy and activities in the community



MONEY AND FINANCES

We want you to be confident in managing your money, maximising your income and making good financial decisions.

Lots of things change when you turn 18, and we know it isn't easy to think about rent, bills, food, travel and social expenses all at the same time.

WE WILL WORK TOGETHER SO THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO COPE WITH NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.



Birthday money on your 16th, 17th and 18th birthdays



If you are living in semi-independent accommodation, you will get subsistence payments of £57.90 per week. Then four weeks after your 18th birthday you will transition to benefits



We will pay for and support you to get the following important identification documents: passport; National Insurance Card; birth certificate



Clothing allowance of £20 per month per month (age 16 and 17) for those not living with foster carers. £20 one-off for 18-25 year olds



We will help you to set up a bank account



Support for clothing for job interviews



If you have a Junior ISA or any savings - we will help you access these



Support with travel costs to attend education or training



Money management workshops through the Moneyhouse and 1-2-1 budget coaching if you need it



One month before you turn 18, our in-house Department for Work and Pensions officer will assist you in making a benefits claim if you need to make one. Group workshops are also available



Free access to Haringey leisure centres up to the age of 21 years old



When you get your own place to live, you will get a £2,000 'Setting Up Home' grant to help with the costs of furnishing your home

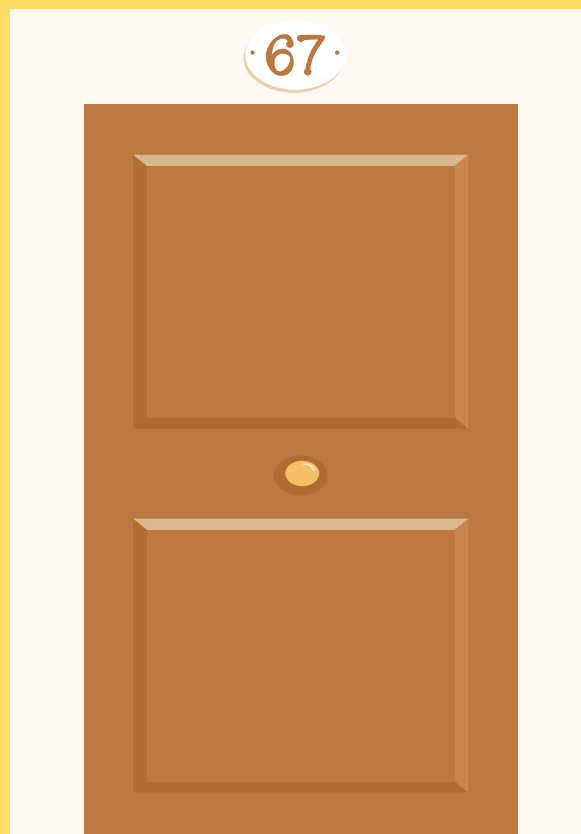


You will be exempt from paying Council Tax until you are 25 if you live in Haringey



In cases of emergency, you can get:

- access to food parcels
- discretionary financial support and support to access other sources of crisis payments



POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are an important part of our day-to-day lives: the people we work with, friends at college, partners we love, carers and support workers who look out for us at home.

Our community also plays a big part in helping us feel connected to other people. Each of us has our own idea about what community means to us. For you, it might be a faith group, sports club or music studio.

We will help you to build lasting, positive relationships with people important to you and encourage you to contribute to your community.

We will connect you with groups, clubs and schemes that will help you make the most of your talents and interests. Including community and voluntary groups through our partners at [Selby Centre](#) and [Bridge Renewal Trust](#).

We will let you know about youth services and projects you can be involved in, including [Bruce Grove Youth Space](#).

Haringey has an incredible arts, music and creative scene. We have close ties with arts organisations in the borough that you can make the most of, including Alexandra Palace. Ask your PA about the opportunities that are available.

Jackson's Lane Arts Centre – participation and volunteering opportunities with Jackson's Lane creative programmes.

Haringey Shed – music studios, theatre and personal development opportunities.

Care Leavers Covenant – exciting opportunities that are only available to care leavers. You can download the app from the app store.

Mentoring – we will connect you with mentoring opportunities



ASPIRE Council – our youth-led group for young people in care and leaving care in Haringey. As a member you will be able to meet-up regularly, plan events and make the Council aware of important issues

Mind of My Own (MOMO) app – an easy way of telling your thoughts and feelings to your PA and other professionals when you need to

People with disabilities – if you are disabled you may need support from adult services. If your social worker feels you need an assessment to be eligible for adult services, they will explain this to you. You will still be able to get support from us as a care leaver. We'll also connect you with the voluntary and community groups that are right for you.

LGBT+ - finding your way in the world as an out person can be a difficult experience. Your PA will be happy to talk through worries and concerns if you wish. **Wise Thoughts** offer drop-in group sessions and one-to-one support chats. **Stonewall Housing** support LGBT+ young people into safe, secure accommodation.

English as a second language – you will receive an assessment of your needs that looks at every aspect of your life, we will provide you with an interpreter and we will link you to local cultural and faith groups, if this is what you want.

Care Leavers living outside Haringey – If you are living away from Haringey and want support to discover groups and spaces that are local to you, your PA will help you to do this.



PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

There are important documents we all need to help us make our way through life. We will make sure you have these.

We will pay for and support you to get the following important identification documents: passport; National Insurance Card; birth certificate.

We will help you to set up a bank account.

Voting – your PA will help you to enrol on the Electoral Register so that you can vote and have your say in elections

Access to your files – your PA can help you to do this if you wish



SUPPORT IF YOU ARE IN CUSTODY

Being in custody can be a very difficult time. We are committed to supporting you get back on track and achieve your goals.

We will:

- Visit you every six weeks
- Use 'Email a Prisoner' to keep in regular touch with you. We will fund your replies
- Support you to reduce the likelihood of reoffending
- Help you plan for life after custody, including education, work and housing opportunities
- Encourage you to work in prison. This will provide money to fund things that you need. We Pay £5-£10 weekly to those aged 16 and 17, who are not able to work in prison. This is to pay for basic items and phone contact with family and carers

SUPPORT IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PARENT

Being a new parent can be a very exciting and nerve-wracking experience at the same time.

You will have full access to NHS services, like any new parent. This includes: a GP, a midwife and a health visitor.

We will also do everything we can to make you feel comfortable, happy and confident in your parenting. To do this we will:

- Support you to access children's centres
- Help you build a network of support
- Access to 'Watch Me Play!' for 16- and 17-year olds – a parenting class supporting child development through play with parents
- Keep you informed about the range of services available through Early Help. This includes groups and classes to learn more about parenting. As well as the chance to meet other young mothers and fathers.
- Help you to access 15 hours of free childcare when your child reaches two and 30 hours when they turn three

Find your local children's centre [here](#)



UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

We know that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children may need support with their immigration status to access education, work, housing and benefits.

We will be alongside you throughout your journey.

In addition to all the support included elsewhere in this guide, we will provide specific support for your needs:

- UASC weekly peer hub – an opportunity to make friends and meet others in a similar situation. Guest speakers will attend to help you to create a vision for your future
- Support to understand the immigration process
- Ensure you have access to legal immigration advice and help you to work with your solicitor
- Pathway Plan – planning for a successful application to remain in the UK. We will also help you make plans for what happens if your application for leave to remain in the UK is denied
- A financial plan to enable you to make an application for settled status
- Support with access to emotional and mental health support, if required

If your application to remain in the UK is denied, your Personal Advisor will support you to seek advice on the merit of an appeal or a fresh claim.

In the event this is not an option, we will arrange a Human Rights Assessment to take place. This will consider all aspects of your life in the UK and any barriers to you returning to your home country. We will also assist you with a voluntary return application if this is your wish.

For further information and support as a young person seeking asylum visit:

- [Coram](#)
- [British Red Cross](#)
- [Migrant Help UK](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

LISTENING WORKS

Phone, text and web chat support for care leavers, every evening from 6pm -12. Call on 0808 802 0222 or follow the link for the web chat.

BECOME

The charity for children in care and young care leavers. Call their care leaver advice line 0800 023 2033 between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

DRIVE FORWARD FOUNDATION

Support for care leavers in London that includes mentoring, career opportunities, and employment training.

REES FOUNDATION

Support for care leavers that includes grants, arts projects, careers coaching and driving.

SPARK FOUNDATION

Grants for children in care and care leavers up to £600 for skills, hobbies and equipment.

CARE LEAVERS FOUNDATION

Small grant making organisation targeted at care leavers without alternative sources of funding.

BARNARDO'S ADVOCACY SERVICE

An advocate is someone who can help you understand your rights, express your views and be listened to and attend meetings with you. Barnardo's advocacy service is for children in care, care leavers and children in need of support and advice. Email: advocacy2@barnardos.org.uk

