

Money talks

A guide for care leavers in Havering



To tell you about the help you can get
with managing your money

Managing your money

There is a lot of support available to care leavers to make your money go further...

Bills

Setting up and
managing a bank
account

Setting up insurance
for your possessions

Managing store
cards, credit cards
and loans

Budgeting

Knowing about
interest rates and
bank charges

Having fun

Managing your money

Some useful websites to help you manage your money:

www.doughuk.com: Information around budgeting, benefits and insurance aimed at young people.

www.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/Budget-planning: More about budgeting and planning on how to save money.

[www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/yourmoney/life work and study/young people and money](http://www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/yourmoney/life-work-and-study/young-people-and-money): All about making the most of your money and saving money in everyday life.

[www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/benefits e/benefits children and young people ew.htm](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/benefits_e/benefits_children_and_young_people_ew.htm): Information all about young people and benefits i.e. income support, housing benefit and job seekers allowance.

www.haveringcab.org.uk: Havering Citizens Advice Bureau. They can give you advice on how to budget, debt, benefits and housing and have a drop in service for face-to-face advice.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm>: This is a careers advice website and it helps you with a range of things but in the money area it helps you with savings, benefits and tax.

EMERGENCIES & BANK ACCOUNTS

Emergencies

Some times in life money is very tight and there are lots of reasons why this happens. If you're over 18, usually you'll be supported to claim a budgeting loan or crisis loan. If this doesn't work out you can ask the leaving care team to help out in an emergency – staff will want to know:

- your circumstances
- what might happen if you do not get this loan
- what other possible ways are there for you to manage this



Bank accounts!

It's a good idea to open a bank account. This is so you can have money put in there from the leaving care team, your employer or your college and to be able to get money out when you need to. Also a good place to keep it safe. **MoneyMadeClear is a good website to give you advice on basic bank accounts.**

Setting up home

Setting up home grant

The Council will support you setting up your new home. This normally happens when you are 18. There is up to £2,000 available to help you. To save money and budget you should consider some organisations like www.lighthousefurniture.org where you can get good second hand furniture. Some of the things you might need are listed below.



Bedroom

- Bed/Curtains
- Rug/ Television
- Lamp/ wardrobe/chest of drawers



Kitchen

- Cooker/ microwave
- kettle/cutlery + crockery + pots + pans
- Toaster/fridge/freezer



Living room

- Television/sofa
- Table/ rug
- TV stand/ curtains



Education + training



University Money

The Council wants to support any young person thinking of going to university. They will provide you with a bursary of £2,000 a year while you are studying. For some people it will be best to pay the bursary in instalments over the year. This includes, if needed an advance to pay for your rent upfront. You will also get another grant while you are at university but this doesn't affect the amount of money you will get from the council.

University holidays

The support that the council will give here varies from person to person - we look at your own situation and decide the right level of support. It may be that you can go back to your foster carer or supported lodgings. But if not, the council will pay for your accommodation during your uni holidays.

Full time education grant

If you stay in full time education after school you will usually get a grant of £1,200 a year. To receive this you should speak to you college or school, for advice speak to student support services or go to your tutor, or go to www.direct.gov.uk/16-19bursary.



Making Work Pay!

The council knows that starting work and coming off benefits can be really difficult. So, for young people aged 18-21, we will 'help make work pay' by helping you out with your rent. How much depends on your circumstances, but here's an example:

The table below shows how much you would receive in housing benefit and how much you would have to pay without the support of leaving care if your rent was £80 per week. The 'council helps you by paying' section shows how much the leaving care team will contribute depending on how much you are earning. As you can see the rent for this example is £80 so if you are earning more then the support will be less. But the whole point of the support is showing that work really does pay.

Table 1: Rent is £80 per week

The example applies to young people in the following circumstances:

- young person has less than £6000 savings;
- young person lives alone with no other adults or dependent;
- young person has no disabilities;
- young person is aged between 16-21;
- young person works 16hrs or more per week;
- young person lives in social housing or private sector lease through LB Havering

If you do not meet all of these requirements there will be some offer and support but will be different from this table. As this table is just an example for young people to understand how they would get help financially.

Your weekly wage (after tax)	Housing Benefit will pay...	You would pay.....	But the council helps you out by paying....	So the rent you actually pay is....	And your income after the rent is paid is....
£80	£67.81	£12.19	£12.19	£0	£80
£100	£54.81	£25.19	£25.19	£0	£100
£120	£41.81	£38.19	£30.19	£8	£112
£140	£28.81	£51.19	£35.19	£16	£124
£160	£15.81	£64.19	£38.19	£26	£134
£180	£2.81	£77.19	£37.19	£40	£140
£200	£0	£80	£32	£48	£152
£220	£0	£80	£16	£64	£156
£240	£0	£80	£8	£72	£168
£260	£0	£80	£0	£80	£180

You can apply for a Community Care Grant (CCG) if you're moving to a new home because you're leaving care and you're getting, or about to get, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance or Jobseeker's Allowance. You might also be able to get it if you need help with the cost of visiting someone who is ill, or to attend a relative's funeral, or if you've been released from custody on licence. The amount you might get depends on your situation and how much the Department for work and Pensions (DWP) is convinced of your need. Your leaving care worker can help you apply.

DWP might ask you to provide receipts to show you have bought the items that your grant was for, so it's best to make sure you keep them.

A Community Care Grant (CCG) is money paid to people with poor health or family problems. They can be paid to help with certain individual needs, like household things and certain travel costs. They do not have to be paid back but they are only given depending on individual circumstances.



Community Care Grant

This table is aimed at 16-17 year olds that are leaving care, it shows all the allowances that you are entitled to from birthdays to clothing

Most 16&17 year olds leaving care	
Personal allowances	
Young people in foster placements (to cover clothing, toiletries and leisure).	£30 per week from your foster carer.
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types (to cover food, bills, clothing, toiletries, leisure and any other expenditure as necessary).	£57per week plus £15 per week for young people who have to pay utility bills.
Birthday allowances	
16 th & 17 th birthdays	£52
18 th birthday	£65
Festivities allowance	
Most 16&17 year olds	£52 per year
Holiday allowances	
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types	Maximum of £312 per year at the discretion of the social worker.
Young people in foster placements	Foster carers allowance includes a holiday
Clothing allowances	
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types	£100 per year maximum at the discretion of the social worker
Young people in foster placements	Foster carers allowance includes a clothing element
Passports and other identity documents	
Most 16&17 year olds in leaving care	Cost of a passport and a birth certificate
College Enrolment Fees	
Most 16&17 year olds in leaving care	Paid in full

Financial assistance with books / equipment for education, training or employment	
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types	£150 per year maximum at the discretion of the social worker
Young people in foster placements	Foster carers allowance includes education
'Making work pay' allowances	
Young people who have less than £6000 savings, work more than 16hrs per week and are liable for rent.	See page 6
Social activities, cultural activities and hobbies	
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types	Maximum of £100 per year at the discretion of the social worker
Young people in foster placements	Foster carers allowance includes leisure activities
Transport costs	
Young people in foster placements	Foster carers allowance includes a travel element. Travel is free on buses with an Oyster photo card for full time students.
Young people in supported lodgings, semi-independent and all other accommodation types	Travel is free on buses with an Oyster photo card for full time students. Oyster Photo card will be paid for by your college Transport costs for those not in full time education are considered on an individual basis.
Young people in employment	Dependent on distance and usually based on public transport costs. Ask your social worker.
Therapy and counselling	Provided by CAMHS or considered on an individual basis as part of the Pathway Plan

Most Young people aged 18	
Setting up home allowance	£2000
Personal allowance – only applicable for young people entitled to and not yet in receipt of welfare benefits. Must be repaid once benefit payments are authorised.	Current benefit rate applicable to young person’s circumstances.
College Enrolment Fees	Paid in full
Financial assistance with books / equipment	Up to £100 per year talk to your social worker
Financial assistance with fares to education, training or employment provider	Dependent on distance and usually based on public transport costs
Local authority bursary for university students (payments over the statutory minimum of £2000 for the entire course are subject to 80% attendance). This is in addition to all other financial entitlements.	£2000 per year
Birthday grant	£25 - 19 th & 20 th birthdays £30 - 21 st birthday
Festivities allowance	£25 per year
‘Making work pay’ allowance: young people who have less than £6000 savings, work more than 16hrs per week and are liable for rent.	See page 6
Young people aged 16+ who were previously in care qualifying young people under the children (leaving care) team act 2000)	
Some financial support might be available depending on social workers assessment.	

For help, advice or any questions, please contact:

Leaving Care Team

Phone number: 01708434343

London Borough of Havering

7th Floor,

Mercury House,

Mercury Gardens,

Romford,

RM1 3SL

If you are unhappy with this service, please talk to the
Children's Rights Advocacy service (ask for Pam):

c/o Clockhouse School

Clockhouse Lane

Collier Row

Romford RM5 3QR

Telephone: 01708 724127 / 07525392464

