

**Guidance document on the disposal of belongings**

The Leaving Care Service is generally not permitted to store belongings for Care Leavers. However in some rare cases there may be no alternative but for the Leaving Care Service to support the storage of a limited amount of items assessed on a case by case basis (where the Care Leaver has absolutely no other alternative or for a very short period whilst they might be in-between accommodation moves for example) and only if there is enough storage space to accommodate these items.

**Deciding what to do with furniture and personal belongings**

When you have furniture or personal belongings that you can't take with you, you could:

* give them to friends and family or ask them to keep items safe for you
* give them to charities
* ask the local council to collect them
* sell them

Some charities will collect furniture and other possessions from your house for free.

The waste and recycling department in most local councils collect unwanted, bulky items from households. They might charge for this service.

Where a young person absconds and the service do not know where they are, any belongings left behind will be inventoried and taken and stored in secure storage for a period of 3 months after which they will be disposed of if no contact is received from the young person. Every attempt will be made to contact the young person and to re-unite them with their belongings before this happens.

**Request for items to be stored**

I make this request for my belongings to be stored by the Leaving Care Service as I have considered all of the options above not to be appropriate in my circumstances:

**List of belongings** (all should be clearly labelled with your name and contact details):

**How long do you require storage for?** (No longer than six months permitted)

I agree that I will arrange collection of my belongings by the agreed date. If I do not collect my belongings (within six months) and my PA cannot make contact with me to support my removal/collection of them (within six months), then I agree that the Leaving Care Service may dispose of my belongings.

**Signed**…………………………..

**Agreement by PA** …………………………