

## Devon Children Services Quick Guide to Care Leavers

This quick guide is underpinned by the comprehensive [Leaving Care and Transition](#) chapter available in Devon Children and Families Procedures Manual. This guide complements and should be read alongside the procedure as well as associated legislation, namely [Care Leavers \(England\) Regulations 2010](#) and [The Children Act 1989 guidance and regulations Volume 3: planning transition to adulthood for care leavers](#).

There is further information available on Devon's local offer to Care Leavers on our [Stand Up and Speak](#) website

Young Person Status/Work Required	16-17 Eligible/Relevant	18-20 Former Relevant	21-25 Former Relevant Child	Qualifying
<b>Needs Led Assessment</b>	<a href="#">All relevant and former relevant children must have a Pathway Plan based on an up to date thorough assessment of their needs (dated within 6 months of the Pathway Plan).</a>		<a href="#">Required if the Former Relevant Child is pursuing further education and/or contacts the Local Authority for additional support</a>	<a href="#">Services for Qualifying Young People will be determined by an assessment of need carried out by the</a>
<b>Risk Assessments</b>	<p>Situations where a risk assessment would be required (this is not an inclusive list and the assessment can be completed in collaboration with relevant agencies). Consider if a <a href="#">Need to Know</a> is also required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing Episodes</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Poor mental health (self-harm/ suicidal ideation /diagnosed mental health condition)</li> <li>• Criminal &amp; Sexual Exploitation</li> </ul>			<a href="#">be determined by an assessment of need carried out by the</a>

<b>Pathway Plans</b>	Required by 16 years & 3 months – Devon’s Practice Standard is to have a Pathway Plan prepared for first review following a young person’s 15th birthday		<u>Required only if Former Relevant Child continues to pursue further education or Former Relevant Child contacts Local Authority for support. Where support is for single or specific issues, the Pathway Plan should be completed only in the relevant part that reflects the issues being dealt with.</u>	<u>Personal Advisor</u>
<b>Pathway Plan Reviews</b>	<u>6 monthly review of Pathway Plan chaired by Independent Reviewing Officer</u>  <u>Where Relevant young person moves to ‘unsuitable’ accommodation the Pathway Plan must be reviewed within 28 days and then at minimum every 3 months</u>  <u>A Pathway Plan review must take place at least one month prior to leaving custody</u>	The first review must take place within 6 months of the 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday thereafter <u>6 monthly review of Pathway Plan. The Review Meeting is chaired by Personal Advisor’s Team Manager or their nominee</u>  <u>Where Former Relevant young person moves to ‘unregulated’ accommodation the review must be within 28 days of the move and then every 3 months maximum</u>  <u>A Pathway Plan review must take place at least one month prior to leaving custody</u>	<u>6 monthly review of Pathway Plan (where it is in place). The review meeting is chaired by Personal Advisor’s Team Manager or their nominee</u>	
<u>Pathway Plans to be brought forward if there is a significant change of need and/or escalated risk to a young person – such as homeless, risk of custody, concerns of the young person’s parenting of their own child, when a young person asks for a review</u>				

<p><b>Visit Frequency</b></p>	<p><u>Minimum of 6 weekly</u></p> <p><u>If young person enters custody the first visit post entering is within 10 days</u> and 6 weekly thereafter.</p>	<p>Minimum 8 weekly must be seen in accommodation.</p> <p><u>If young person enters custody the first visit post entering is within 10 days</u> than 8 weekly thereafter.</p> <p><u>Within 1 week of moving to new accommodation and then again in 4 weeks. Thereafter 8 weekly minimum.</u></p>	<p>As and when required and/or as agreed within the Pathway Plan if available</p>	
<p><b>Keeping in Touch/Contact Frequency</b></p> <p><u>Contact is any Proactive duty to keep in touch Section 23C(2) of the Children Act 1989 Act)</u></p>	<p>This is any contact made with the 16-17-year-old in between statutory visits (see above)</p>	<p>Minimum one contact between the 8 weekly visits or at an increased frequency specified in the pathway plan</p> <p><u>Where contact is lost, the emphasis of the Pathway Plan Review will switch to record how attempts will be made to re-establish contact and these efforts will be reviewed within the established system.</u></p>	<p>At age 21, the <u>Local Authority makes Former Relevant Children aware they can continue to request support.</u></p> <p><u>A reminder letter of Devon's local offer and offer of continued support will be sent to all those aged between 21 and 25 not receiving an active service every 6 months.</u></p>	<p><u>'Reasonable steps to contact'</u> are required. Phone call to be made at 12-week intervals, where no contact is made, letter to be sent 6 monthly to notify of support offer.</p>