

HELPING YOU INTO WORK

THE LEAVING CARE / JOB CENTRE PLUS PROTOCOL



WHAT IS IT

AN AGREEMENT WITH JOB CENTRE PLUS, TO:

Help you access Universal Credit



WHAT IS IT



AN AGREEMENT WITH JOB CENTRE PLUS, TO:

Make sure people understand care leavers' needs



jobcentreplus



WHAT IS IT

AN AGREEMENT WITH JOB CENTRE PLUS, TO:

Help you into work and training



WHAT IS IT



**AN AGREEMENT WITH JOB CENTRE PLUS, TO:
Make sure Leaving Care and the Job
Centre work together and support you**



jobcentreplus

WHAT IS IT



**AN AGREEMENT WITH JOB CENTRE PLUS, TO:
Make sure you are not penalised
unfairly**



UNIVERSAL CREDIT



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

- National Insurance Number
- Identity documents, including photographic
- A bank account and ISA
- An email address
- A pathway plan which includes education, employment and training aspirations
- A letter confirming your legal status
- Sometimes: letter confirming education/tenancy

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



TIMING

- PA can help create a claim online within 28 day window before 18th birthday
- Care leaver status will be noted
- Claim is activated after you turn 18
- All the arrangements will be included in pathway planning

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



MEETING AT JOB CENTRE PLUS

- Everyone claiming UC has to have an initial meeting at the JCP
- Your PA should come with you
- You will talk about what you need to do, and what support you might need
- You may talk about how best to get in touch with you, though the online UC journal is the best way

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



PAYMENTS & ADVANCES

- UC is usually paid monthly, always into a bank account
- 5 week wait before first payment due to assessment period
- Advance payments are possible but should be a last resort – they need to be repaid
- For care leavers, there will be an Advance Payment Arrangement, to pay your landlord directly for 3 months

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



AVOIDING DEBT

- If you are going to struggle during the 5 week assessment period, the Leaving Care Team can help
- Any support will be included in your pathway plan
- Payment schedule can be adjusted if there is a risk to you from exploitation, eg if someone is taking your money

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



HMRC HELP TO SAVE

- Most people on UC can access Help to Save
- Save up £50 per month
- HMRC will give you bonuses after 2 years and 4 years

UNIVERSAL CREDIT



NOTES

- You usually can't get UC till you are 18, but some 16 and 17 year olds can – lone parents and those who are sick/disabled
- If you are getting the Severe Disability Premium you will instead be directed to applying for New Style Employment Allowance
- For young people from overseas seeking asylum, their immigration status will need to be understood when making a claim and making future plans

WHAT WE WILL DO



NCC AND THE JOB CENTRE WILL:

- Work together to help you get into work and training and meet your Universal Credit responsibilities
- Make sure sanctions only happen with sign off from senior reps from Job Centre Plus and the council

WHAT WE WILL DO



THE JOB CENTRE WILL:

- Treat care leavers as vulnerable, so your UC commitments can be eased if needed
- Contact your PA or duty if you miss an appointment
- Offer training to the Leaving Care Team around how benefits work, so your PA is in the know

WHAT WE WILL DO



THE LEAVING CARE TEAM WILL:

- Follow the right JCP support procedures, so you get the right help
- Consider sharing anonymous data with the JCP so they can anticipate the needs in each area
- Offer training to the JCP about care leavers and the issues that might be affecting them, so the JCP understands you better