

## Some useful contact numbers:

Our Space/ The Hub:

Tel: 0151 666 3777 / [leavingcareduty@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:leavingcareduty@wirral.gov.uk)

Childline:

Tel: 0800 1111 / [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

Childrens Commissioner for England:

Tel: 020 7783 8330 / [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Childrens and Young People's Participation and Engagement Team:

Tel: 0151 678 1936 / Mobile: 07799 861 764

Childrens Complaints Officer:

Tel: 0151 666 5677 / [cypdcomplaints@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:cypdcomplaints@wirral.gov.uk)

Bullybusters:

Tel: 0800 169 6928 / [www.bullybusters.org.uk](http://www.bullybusters.org.uk)

Ofsted:

Tel: 0300 123 1231 / [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

Wirral Council Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT):

Tel: 0151 606 1008

Wirral Council Emergency Duty Team:

Tel: 0151 677 6557

Companeros Crisis Café:

Tel: 0151 488 8135 / [Enquiries.comp@spiderproject.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.comp@spiderproject.org.uk)

My Mind Crisis Support 24/7:

Tel: 0800 145 6485

Wirral foodbank:

Tel: 0151 638 7090

## Wirral Leaving Care Service and Entitlements



If you are a Care Leaver you can access different types of financial support, but this does depend on your Care Leaver Status is, your age, where you are living, your benefit entitlements and your individual circumstance. Your PA will help you to understand what types of financial support you may be entitled to and how much you are able to get.

If you are aged 16 or 17 (**ELIGIBLE** Care Leaver) and being looked after then you will need to discuss what money you get with your Foster Carer, Residential Workers, Social Worker, and PA.

If you are a Care Leaver aged 16 or 17 and no longer looked after (**RELEVANT**) we will pay you a weekly allowance equivalent to the national benefit rate, currently £67.41 as you won't be able to claim benefits until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. We will also provide you with £60 every three months towards clothing.

If you are a **RELEVANT** Care Leaver also you rent will be paid inline with current housing benefit rates up until your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**These amounts are correct from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023.**

### Birthdays

When you are 19 & 20 all Care Leavers will receive £50. When you are 18 & 21 we recognize these as special birthdays and you will receive £100.

### Christmas and other Religious Festivals

All Care Leavers receive £20 at Christmas or at another time relating to a significant religious festival depending on what religion you choose to identify yourself as.

Driving lessons	N/A	N/A	£475.00	Subject to engagement, being EET & risk assessment
UASC 18+ Right to Remain	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
UASC 18+ No Right to Remain	N/A	N/A	£67.41	Weekly
UASC ARE 18+	N/A	N/A	N/A	Human Rights Assessment
Apprenticeships, <a href="#">benefits</a> or low wages	£67.41	Weekly – Manager's discretion	£67.41	Weekly – Manager's discretion
Apprenticeships / low wages top up	-	Varies – Manager's discretion	-	Varies – Manager's discretion
Crisis payments / Financial support	-	Varies – Manager's discretion	-	Varies - Manager's discretion
Rent and Deposit	N/A	N/A	-	Senior Manager's discretion: once only
Moving costs	-	Varies	-	Normally from First Home Grant - additionally at Manager's discretion
Qualifying Care Leaver's Support		Manager's Discretion		Manager's discretion
Other Circumstances		Manager's Discretion		Manager's discretion – looked at on an individual basis

## Financial information

### Appendix 1 - Table of Allowances: 2023 - 2024

Allowance	16-17	Frequency	18+	Frequency
Subsistence	£67.41	Weekly (May be modified)	£67.41	Weekly
Birthday 16 Relevant Care Leaver	£50.00	Once on birthday	N/A	N/A
Birthday 17 Relevant Care Leaver	£50.00	Once on birthday	N/A	N/A
Birthday 18	N/A	N/A	£100.00	Once on birthday
Birthday 19-20	N/A	N/A	£50.00	Once on birthday
Birthday 21	N/A	N/A	£100.00	Once on birthday
Birthday 21-24	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Clothing Allowance if Relevant Care Leaver	£60.00	Three monthly	N/A	N/A
Wirral Council Tax	N/A	N/A	Nil	Exempt
Festival Allowance if Relevant Care Leaver	£50.00	Annually	£20.00	Annually
Festival Allowance if Former Relevant				
Passports (Check & Send)	£93.00	Once (+ £16.00 check & send)	£93.00	Once (+ £16.00 check & send)
Birth Certificates	£11.00	Once	£11.00	Once
Travel Documents	N/A		£75.00	UASC - Once
Maternity Grant	£150.00	Per Child	£150.00	Per Child
Young People in secure settings / prison	£20.00	Monthly	?	Team manager's discretion
Leisure activities Pathway Leisure Pass	-	Free to care leavers	-	Free to care leavers aged 18 - 24

Education, Training & Employment:				
Travel & Equipment cost NOT covered by other payments	-	Varies	-	Varies
Incentives (short-term) no other income & 100% attendance	£10.00	Weekly	£10.00	Weekly
Travel (short-term) if no other income	-	Varies	-	Varies
Lunches if no other income and not 'Staying Put'	£5.00	Per day	£5.00	Per day
Full-time Further Education 19+				
Subsistence	N/A		£67.41	Weekly
Accommodation costs	N/A		-	Varies - manager's discretion
University vacation	N/A	N/A	£67.41	Weekly
University Holiday Accommodation	N/A	N/A	-	Varies
University Holiday with former carers	N/A	N/A	£60.00	Weekly
Graduation	N/A	N/A	£100.00	Once on graduation
HE Bursary	N/A	N/A	£2000	Over entire HE Course
Laptop	N/A	N/A	£500	Once
First Home Grant Allowance	N/A	Leaving Care Manager's discretion	£3000	Via FHG procedure
18+ in foster placement (Staying Put)	N/A	N/A		Varies (scheme subject to review)

### Driving Lessons

Wirral Care Leavers can access the cost of one provisional driving licence, one theory test, one practical test and 15 driving lessons up to £475.00. To qualify for this incentive Care Leavers must be positively engaged with their work and in a settled pattern of employment.

Some behaviour, medical conditions, non-compliance with prescribed medication or alcohol or substance abuse will temporarily exclude Care Leavers from accessing driving lessons until the issue is resolved.

### First Home Grant

Wirral provides a First Home Grant of £3000 from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2023. This will assist you to purchase essential items necessary to set up your new home.

Your First Home Grant is held with the Leaving Care Team and your PA will be able to purchase items with you from the following list:

TV	Fridge Freezer	Bedside table
Kettle	Bedding	Curtain rails
Table & Chairs	Wardrobe	Laundry basket
TV Stand	Aerial	Bath mat
Pots & Pans	Chest of Drawers	Shower curtain
Cups	Quilt	Iron
Washing Machine	Dishes	Ironing board
Sofa Bed	Bath towels	Bin
Cooker	Pillows	
Curtains	Chopping boards	
Carpets	Microwave	
Kitchen Utensils		

### Individual Savings Accounts

If you are a Care Leaver; depending on your age; the Government may have set up an Individual Savings Account. Usually there will be £200-£300 in it depending on whether any additional deposits have been made since it was set up.

### Council Tax

If you are a Wirral Care Leaver and living in Wirral, you do not have to pay Wirral Council Tax if you are under 25.

### Custody

Individuals who are in custody will be paid £5 per week up until the age of 18.

### Maternity Grant

If you are a parent (female or male), you can claim a Maternity Grant of up to £150 from 3 months before the birth to 3 months after the birth. This money must be spent directly on things for the baby, agreed with your PA.

### Higher Education

Wirral Council offers a Higher Education Bursary. You will receive £2000 that will be spread over the duration of your course in an agreed way.

Up to £500 is available for a new laptop at the start of your degree course.

We will pay for your travel to and from university at the start and end of each term.

We will help you with the cost of accommodation during holidays, up to £0 per week.

We will pay a personal allowance during holiday periods if you have no other income inline with current national benefit rates.

### Graduation

When you graduate, we will be delighted to recognise your achievement with a graduation gift of £100.

### Financial assistance in a crisis

We do understand that times can be financially difficult, and you may need some further financial support. We can offer you:

- An onsite supermarket, Our Shop.
- Fuel support twice a year March and October from the Household Fund
- In exceptional circumstances your PA or Duty PA may request a small sum of financial assistance to be considered by the Leaving Care Service Team Manager.

Your PA will want to help you address any issues that have led to your financial hardship to avoid it happening again.

**For a full breakdown of financial support see Appendix 1.**