

**18+ CARE LEAVERS SERVICE**

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

**ARRANGEMENTS**

**(ALLOWANCES PAYABLE)**

**APRIL 2024**

1. Young People Aged 16-17

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| Type of Entitlement | Criteria | Amount | Notes | Approval From |
| Allowance when living in independent provision (EET) | Care leaver - Eligible Child or Relevant Child.  Young person is in employment, education or training. | For year commencing April 2024, up to £71.70 per week where there is no other income or top up as appropriate to a maximum of £30 per week (in line with 16-19 bursary, where none payable). | Amount in accordance with income; potential for top-up and other assistance with employment, education or training expenses. | Team Manager |
| Allowance when living in independent provision (NEET) | Care leaver - Eligible Child or Relevant Child.  Not in employment, education or training | For year commencing April 2024, £71.70 per week in line with DWP rates (can be paid in smaller sums or in kind) | To be encouraged to attend employment, education or training. | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - Travel costs | Eligible Child or Relevant Child living independently | Up to £200 per term maximum (young person should apply for any free school travel first) |  | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - Clothing | Eligible Child or Relevant Child living independently | £200 per year maximum | Reasonable costs | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - educational needs such as books |  | Reasonable costs | Students at college can apply for the 16-19 Bursary and should do in the first instance | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - emergency assistance | Eligible Child or Relevant Child living independently | For example, in case of loss of money or possessions, emergency need. |  | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - Travel for contact with family | Eligible Child or Relevant Child living independently |  | To be discussed and where appropriate agreed in the Pathway Plan.  Cheapest route & ticket | Team Manager |
| "Section 24 grant" - Accommodation costs | Eligible Child or Relevant Child living independently | Suitable and affordable and appropriately sourced via Placements | All applications to Children's Placements | Team Manager to approve plan, Head of Service 18+ makes budgetary decision. |
| "Independent Living Grant" or setting up home allowance for equipment and furniture in independent living | Eligible Child or Relevant Child | New £3000 maximum in year starting Feb 2023. This is not retrospective so the previous amount of £2000 is still in use for young people who turned 18 before the end of January 2023. |  | Team Manager 18+ |

1. Young People Aged 16 – 21

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| Type of Entitlement | Criteria | Amount | Notes | Approval From |
| Emergency / crisis / contingency situations | Amounts are entirely discretionary.  16 & 17 year olds are to be supported up to a level of the weekly allowance and measures put in place to prevent crises.  Young people aged over 18 - needs are to be assessed and a decision made based on need & circumstances.  Young people subject to jobcentre sanctions are to be advised to claim Hardship / Welfare payments. | Should be discussed and agreed as appropriate in the Pathway Plan. | Amount in accordance with income; potential for top-up and other assistance with employment, education or training expenses. | Team manager after consultation with Department for Work and Pensions. |

1. Young People Aged 18 – 25

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| Type of Entitlement | Criteria | Amount | Notes | Approval From |
| Help with living costs;  HE Bursary;  Some accommodation costs | Aged 18 - 25 and in full time advanced education (Level 4 and above)  All to be discussed and agreed as appropriate in the Pathway Plan.  Bursary will only be paid when in attendance, and one per young person. | Care Leavers HE Bursary = £2000 total over the course duration for HE courses only. This is paid in 3 instalments, one at the end of Autumn Term/Term 1 each year.  Living costs in line with allowance rates, and to a maximum figure for weekly accommodation costs. | To claim all student grants applicable;  Eve Brook Scholarship Fund may be able to assist with study and equipment costs and towards postgraduate courses. | Team Manager |
| "Section 24" grants | As for 16 -17 | As for 16 -17 | In accordance with Pathway Plan | Team Manager |
| Welfare Benefits (Income Support from DWP, and local Housing Allowance) | Aged 18-21 when in full time "non- advanced" Education (Level 3 and below) | Benefits rates are set by Department for Work and Pensions | See Catch 22 leaflet and Staying Put Living Together agreement for full details | DWP, Housing Benefits Service |
| Staying Put arrangements | Former Relevant Child  Must have been planned from age 16. | Rate is reviewed each financial year and from April 2024 is £280.89 per week. | To enable staying on with foster carers to age 21. | Team Manager to approve plan, Head of Service 18+ makes budgetary decision. |