|  |
| --- |
| Your reference Our reference Date Click here to enter a date. |
| Click here to enter address text. |  | **Children and Family Services**Civic CentreFloor 2Glebe StreetStoke-on-TrentST4 1HH |

Dear

We are writing to you as a ‘Qualifying Care Leaver’, to explain what Stoke-on-Trent City Council may offer to you.

Section 24 of the Children Act 1989 defines the following groups of children as ‘Qualifying Children and Young People’ – Persons Qualifying for Advice and Assistance – Aged 16 to 21:

* Subject to a Special Guardianship Order, or if age 18 was subject to an SGO (and was looked after immediately prior to the making of the Order);
* Was looked after at any point after the age of 16 and is no longer looked after (minimum of 24 hours);
* Was looked after at any point after the age of 16 but has not completed 13 weeks of being looked after and is therefore not an ‘Eligible Care Leaver’;
* Has ceased to be looked after and has returned to, or remained living with a parent or person with parental responsibility and after completing 6 month’s at home becomes a ‘Qualifying Care Leaver’;
* Privately fostered (is or was privately fostered aged 16 or 17;
* Accommodated by or on behalf of a voluntary organisation;
* Accommodated in a private children’s home;
* Accommodated for a consecutive period of three months by any local health board/ special health authority or by a local authority in the exercise of an education function [residential special school];
* Accommodated for a consecutive period of three months in a care home or independent hospital or in any accommodation provided by or via NHS England, an Integrated Care Board, National Health Trust, NHS Foundation Trust;
* The three months of continuous provision can commence prior to the young person’s 16th birthday.

A qualifying care leaver will be entitled to the following:

* Children’s Services may take steps to keep in touch with you;
* Advice and assistance, based on an assessment of needs;
* If you are in full-time further or higher education and need accommodation during a vacation period as term time accommodation is not available, Children’s Services will assist you to fund accommodation for this period.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact our Care Leaver Service, the Next Steps Team on 01782 233575. One of the staff members on duty will assist with your query.

Kind regards

**Cheryl Barlow, Strategic Manager**

**Children’s Social Care**

**telephone 01782 233575**