

Hounslow Local Offer to Care Leavers

“THIS IS OUR OFFER TO YOU, SO YOU KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHAT HELP AND GUIDANCE WE WILL SUPPORT YOU WITH THROUGHOUT YOUR JOURNEY FROM CARE TO ADULTHOOD”

HOUNSLOW CORPORATE PARENTING SERVICE

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1. What is the Local Offer to Care Leavers?

Local Authorities have a legal duty to support young people making the transition from care to adulthood. It is our responsibility to make sure you know what services are available to you, and what you can expect to receive when you are in care. This Local Offer for care leavers aims to clearly set out in one document what you are entitled to and what we expect from you. It will help you make the most out of services available to you so you can make the most of your independence.

We spoke with a group of experienced care leavers who told us their views and opinions on the layout and content of this Offer. To make this Offer clear and easy for you to understand we have used the following sub-headings:

1. YOUR MONEY AND DOCUMENTS
2. WHERE YOU LIVE
3. YOUR SAFETY
4. GETTING YOUR VOICE HEARD
5. YOUR HEALTH
6. YOUR EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

On the back page of the Local Offer there is a list of useful contact numbers that you should find helpful. Below is some important information you need to know about the Leaving Care Team (LCT), Personal Advisers, Pathway Planning and more. [The better informed you are, the better your journey will be.](#)

2. What does the Hounslow Leaving Care Team do?

We are your 'Corporate Parents' which means, it is our responsibility to be good parents to all young people in our care. Being a good parent means keeping you safe and providing you with the highest possible level of support to meet your individual needs. We can help you to access housing, education and training, work experience, health services and we are here to support you to make the most of leaving care. We will give you advice on obtaining a suitable placement, help with education, employment and training programmes. We will give you advice, encouragement and financial advice to help you make the most of your journey through the care system.

The LCT is based in the Civic Centre, Hounslow. It is part of the Corporate Parenting Service and works with young people who are aged 18+ (care leavers). Our team is made up of personal advisers (PA) who will support you with your journey to independent living. We have a legal duty to support you and provide you with assistance until you are 21 or 25 if you are in education.

3. What you can expect from your Corporate Parents?

- *To respect and honour your identity*
- *To listen to you*
- *To always believe in you*
- *To keep you informed*
- *To support and guide you*
- *To find you a safe home*
- *To be your champion*
- *To be realistic and honest*

4. What is the role of the Personal Adviser or PA?

Once you turn 18, you will no longer have a social worker and your PA will become your main worker and continue working with you at least until the age of 21 or up to the age of 25 if you are in education. A PA will be identified for you after you become 17, so you can build a relationship before they become your allocated worker.

Your PA will keep in contact and arrange meetings with you, they will visit you at home and also arrange to meet you in the community. As a young adult the decisions and choices you make are your own – after all, you will have to live with the consequences. Your PA will provide you with advice, information and guidance to help you make the best choices and decisions. The relationship between you and your PA is important, make the most of your PA, treat them with respect and keep in touch.

5. What is a Pathway Plan?

Every young person between the ages of 16-21 in care or a care leaver has a pathway plan and up to 25 if you are in education, your first pathway plan meeting will be run by your IRO. This will be based on and include your Care Plan and any Personal Education Plan (PEP) you have. The pathway plan has information on the best way to support you towards full independence and adulthood. It will cover your education, employment, health, finance, social needs, relationships and housing. The Pathway Plan is written in a way that should meet your individual needs, it will capture your hopes for the future and include your views and key messages. Your Pathway Plan will be regularly reviewed with you, at least every 6-months. These meetings will check that your goals and milestones are still right and are being met.

* This Offer for Care Leavers was written in August 2017 and will be reviewed each year.

6. SECTION 1 - YOUR MONEY

They say 'money makes the world go round!' This section gives you information on what financial help you can expect from Hounslow. The amount of money you will get depends on your age and what type of accommodation you're in. There is a lot of information for care leavers online and you will have PA.s, support workers and even key workers who you can ask for more information. Remember if you are not sure about anything...you need to ask a member of staff.

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>Living Allowance If you are unable to claim benefits you will be offered a weekly 'subsistence payment'. This payment will be equivalent of state benefits. You will be expected to use this for all of your living costs, apart from rent and household bills. Subsistence may also be paid as part of an education package and in the case of an emergency.</p> <p>How will I be paid? You are encouraged to set up a bank account, the best way to get paid is through BACS, which is a bank transfer. The money will be paid your account at the end of the week.</p>	<p>Remember: You will need to spend your Living Allowance on day-to-day essentials. You should budget this money and pay for your essentials first (food and bills). Clothes and credit can wait!</p>
<p>Savings If you have been in care for a while you will have a savings account that you can access when you turn 18.</p>	<p>Remember: Depending on how long you have been in care, your savings may be substantial. Use this 'chunk' of money to help you with your future and don't waste it.</p>
<p>Budgeting We will offer you an accredited 8-hour money management course called 'Money Works' and we will help you learn how to budget and live independently. Budgeting is a skill!! Help us teach you how to manage your money well.</p>	<p>Remember: If you don't know how to budget and spend your money wisely you will really struggle when you live on your own. (this is FACT).</p>

<p>You will be offered 'budgeting sessions' with your keyworker or support worker.</p>	<p>Not being able to budget properly may affect you in the long term.</p> <p>If you need more budgeting support, then speak to your PA</p>
<p>Welfare Benefits</p> <p>When you are old enough to apply for benefits, we will help you do this. If you have applied for benefits and are waiting to be paid we will offer you an allowance to help you live for a period of up to 6-weeks.</p> <p>This allowance will be in the form of cash payments and food vouchers.</p> <p>Benefit Options</p> <p>Universal Credit – this is a monthly payment to encourage you to get into paid work.</p> <p>Job Seekers Allowance – also to encourage you to take a paid job, as you 'sign on'.</p> <p>Income Support – if you are in college full time or education (Level 3 or below) you can claim income support, this is a right for care leavers until you're aged 21.</p> <p>ESA – this is for young people who have a health or other problem that stops them being available to work.</p>	<p>Remember: You must attend your appointments.</p> <p>It is a criminal offence to lie to the benefits office. You will need to show your PA proof that you have applied for benefits.</p> <p>If you don't attend appointments with the Job Centre you will be sanctioned and your benefits may be stopped.</p> <p>We will only be able to provide food vouchers the <u>first time</u> you are sanctioned, the second time we may refer you to a local food bank. You may not receive any subsistence money from Hounslow if you are sanctioned.</p> <p>Your PA will be able to advise and support you with applying for benefits.</p>
<p>Setting up home allowance (SUHA)</p> <p>We will offer you a setting up home allowance, up to the value of £1,400 to buy essential items.</p> <p>At times you may need essential items of furniture before you move onto independent living, the LCT Manager must agree costs and only essential items will be considered.</p>	<p>Remember: To choose items you really need from the essential items list.</p> <p>Only essential items for your home may be purchased.</p>

Miscellaneous Payments

We understand that everyone has their own unique circumstances. The LCT will consider payments for 'unexpected items' and payments will need to be agreed by the LCT Manager. An 'assessment of need' will be carried out.

Bursaries for Education

Bursaries or money for your education/employment or training will be provided.

See the education, employment and training section for information about financial benefits.

Subsistence/Food Vouchers

We will pay subsistence and food vouchers to care leavers for the following reasons:
- as part of an education package
- if you are unable to claim benefits
- if you are waiting for your benefits to start
- in an emergency

Remember: Speak to your PA if you think you are entitled to subsistence/food vouchers or you are facing an emergency.

We may ask for proof of your situation.

We understand that emergencies do happen.

Other Sources of Funding

Some organisations help care leavers by awarding grants (these do not need to be repaid). Some grants help with university, moving into independent accommodation, financial support to help you train etc.

Contact the Care Advice Line on: 0207 017 8901 / www.catch-22.org.uk

Remember: Speak to your PA and support worker about what other funds you may be entitled to. Try a 'Google Search' to see what other financial support is out there for care leavers.

You may apply to charities and organisations for additional grant funding if you meet their criteria.

7. SECTION 1b – YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

We all need important documents because without them we can't do simple things like book onto a course, claim benefits or open a bank account. We will make sure you have the important documents that you need in adulthood, such as a passport and birth certificate. We will keep copies of your important document safely on file and you will be responsible for keeping the original documents safe.

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>National Insurance (N.I) number At 15 years and 9 months we will apply for your national insurance number (N.I Number).</p>	<p>Remember: Remind your social worker if you do not receive this.</p>
<p>Passport We will support you with an application for a 10-year passport. Your passport is your main source of I.D.</p>	<p>Remember: Do not lose it or you will have to apply and pay for a new one which will cost you over £50. If you lose it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>you will not be allowed to leave the country for travel</i> - <i>you may be at risk of identity theft</i>
<p>Provisional Driving Licence We will pay 50% towards your Provisional Driving license and your theory and practical driving tests only (<i>if you need to learn to drive for education and training purposes</i>).</p> <p>If this is agreed by the LCT Manager then we will pay 50% towards a maximum of x 20 driving lessons.</p>	<p>Remember: You cannot not drive without a Provisional Licence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if you lose your licence you will have to pay for a new one - if you do not turn up to driving lessons we will stop paying 50%

<p>Birth Certificate If you do not have a birth certificate, we will apply for you to you get one.</p>	<p>Remember: If you lose your documents you will have to pay for new copies.</p> <p>- <i>Your birth certificate is an important document</i></p>
<p>Keeping Documents Safe We will keep copies of all of your documents safe for you. You will keep the original documents.</p>	<p>Remember: At certain times you will need original documents, copies of documents will not be accepted. For example a bank account.</p>
<p>British Citizenship If you are entitled to apply for British Citizenship before the age of 18 then we will support you to do this.</p>	<p>To tell us you want to apply.</p>
<p>Access to Your File If you apply, then we will provide you with access to your social services files from the age of 18 years.</p> <p>If you would like to see you file please make a request in writing and give this to your PA.</p>	<p>Remember: Think about the decision very carefully, files can be very difficult to read.</p> <p>- <i>it can take some time to get access to your file, so be patient</i></p>

8. SECTION 2 - HOUSING

There are different types of housing with support, and you will have a large say in where you want to live. Your social worker and PA will be visiting you, and where you live will be agreed in your Pathway Plan. If you are at university and need help with the cost of accommodation during vacation time, we will help you with this. Check out the education section of this Offer.

Staying on with foster carers is called 'Staying Put', you can stay with your foster carer until you are 21 if this is agreed. This will not affect you getting a permanent tenancy. We also have lots of different types of supported housing options available to you, depending on your level of need. Read this section to find out more!

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>Independent Housing A minimum of 6 months AFTER your 18th birthday your PA will go to panel for your <u>LIN number</u>, this will allow you to apply for independent housing.</p> <p>It is important knowing that you will need to be in education, training or employment before you will be considered. You will also need to show us that you can budget, cook and keep your home tidy. Once your PA feels you are ready, you will be presented to a panel to be considered for your own independent accommodation.</p> <p>If you are living out-of-borough we will inform you about your housing options.</p> <p>When you are in independent accommodation you are responsible for yourself and for paying your bills – you can have tenancy support but that is not a condition of having a place. We will support you to make an application so you can access registered social landlords (housing associations). You will get a tenancy of your own.</p> <p>Council tax is a payment for local services, and many people over 18 are liable to pay it. If you are on benefits this cost will be included.</p> <p>We will help you with a Setting Up Home Allowance. See the Finance section of this Offer.</p>	<p>Remember: - to keep on top of your bills - to abide by your tenancy agreement</p> <p>Work with your PA to help you with all of these things.</p> <p>If you do not keep to your tenancy agreement, you may be at risk of eviction and homelessness.</p> <p>Find out about your bills: water, gas and electricity can all be paid for monthly through your bank, this is a much better option than running up bills.</p> <p>Make sure you know how your rent is being paid. It is your responsibility whether you are working or on benefits to ensure that your rent is paid to avoid eviction.</p> <p>Keep all your documents; tenancy agreement, bills and letters in a safe place. Keep your ID documents safe and never give anyone your bank card or PIN.</p>
<p>Maintenance and D.I.Y We will arrange for a maintenance PERSON who can offer you advice and guidance about the property. THEY can help you with DIY, how to make your house look better and make it suitable for you.</p>	

<p>'Staying Put' Policy</p> <p>If you and your carer agree, you can keep living in your foster placement until you reach 21.</p> <p>You will be like a lodger with your carer, in that you will be renting a room from them. You will be expected to pay a contribution for your keep.</p>	<p>Remember: Staying Put will help you maintain a supportive relationship with your carers.</p> <p>If you decide to 'Stay Put' we will still help you apply for independent accommodation after you are 21.</p> <p>Do not be in a rush to get your own flat! Independent Living is hard, make sure you make the right choice for you.</p>
<p>Key work Sessions</p> <p>You will have a keyworker (for a specific amount of time) when you get your permanent home, to help you settle in.</p>	<p>Remember: Make sure you use the support from your keyworker, they are there to help and support you. - <i>Speak to your PA if you feel you are not getting the support you need.</i></p>
<p>Supported Accommodation/Semi-independent</p> <p>This is a supportive accommodation package for care leavers who are ready for independent accommodation but still need help to learn independence skills and need extra help and support.</p> <p>In Hounslow there is a range of housing with support, for example some accommodation might be in shared houses or single flats. The key thing is there will be staff on hand to support and guide you, they might be there for certain parts of the day or 24 hours.</p> <p>You will be expected to abide by the house rules.</p>	<p>Remember: Engage with your support worker, they will help you access local services and help you to connect with your local community.</p> <p>If you have any problems with settling in, your support worker will help you.</p> <p>If you do not use your accommodation, then you may be at risk of losing it.</p>
<p>University Accommodation (holiday periods)</p> <p>You will receive a student loan to cover the cost of your university rent.</p> <p>Whilst you are at university we can pay your holiday accommodation rent if there is a need. The amount paid will be agreed at the Head of Service.</p>	<p>Remember: If you do not use your accommodation then you may be risk of losing it.</p> <p>Ask to see the university allowance leaflet.</p>

<p>Moving Placement and School</p> <p>We will aim to keep you safe in one place, if you do move, we will try to make this planned and if you have to change school or college we will make sure you are well supported with this transition.</p> <p>Remember you will be fully involved in any housing decisions.</p>	<p>Remember: If you are unhappy in your placement speak to your social worker or PA. Go to your LAC Review and Pathway Planning meetings so you can talk about your placement and any plans to move you.</p>
<p>Ongoing Housing Support</p> <p>Your PA will assist and guide you with housing issues, if you live in supported housing you will have a floating support worker who will work with you to help you build your independence skills. Your PA may refer you to a floating support worker if you live in your own flat who will help with your personal life and the practical stuff like budgeting.</p>	<p>Remember: If you are allocated a worker and you do not go to meetings, then the support may stop.</p> <p>Try to engage with your workers and get the maximum benefit from them. They are there to support YOU!</p>

9. SECTION 3 – YOUR SAFETY

Your safety is our responsibility. We will do our very best to keep you safe and make sure you have a safe place to live. If you do get in trouble with the Police then we will support you, and make sure you have an adult you trust with you. If you go missing from care we will report you missing to the police and try to make sure there is an adult you know or trust to help you.

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>A safe place to live</p> <p>If your placement is unsafe, we will work with you to move you somewhere that is safe.</p>	<p>Remember: Make sure you tell us when you are worried about something.</p>

	Keep yourself and don't allow strangers into your house.
<p>Keeping Safe We will give you guidance and practical advice on how to keep yourself physically and emotionally safe.</p> <p>We may refer you to a counsellor or a mentor to help you keep safe.</p>	<p>Remember: You must work with us and other organisations to help you keep safe.</p> <p><i>- make sure you attend appointments</i></p>
<p>The Mix Whether you've been a victim of a crime, worried about safety or need to understand your rights. The Mix offers non-judgemental legal information and support for young people aged under 25 years that's clear and easy to understand. Contact 0808 808 4994</p> <p>Bullying UK This national organisation offers a confidential and free helpline service (free from most mobiles). Call 0808 800 2222</p>	
<p>Contact Us! You will have the number for your PA. You can also call Duty on: 0208 583 4580. The out-of-hours (24-hr) emergency number is: 0208 583 2222</p>	

10. SECTION 4 - GETTING YOUR VOICE HEARD

Having a voice and knowing your rights are important when you are a care leaver. We really want to hear your views and there are a lot of activities and group forums for you to get ACTIVE and get HEARD! We want to hear your experiences so you can help us to improve the care system. Your workers have a duty to listen to you and involve you in decisions, but not if you are disrespectful and abusive. We work on a mutual respect basis and we must keep our workers safe too. This section will tell you

more about what you can expect from your social worker and PA. With rights come responsibilities, we will be clear on what we expect from you.

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>PA Visits When you turn 18 you will get a Personal Adviser (PA) allocated to you. Your PA will keep in contact and arrange meetings with you, they will visit you at home but can also arrange to see you in the community. Your PA will give you advice, information and guidance to help you make the best decisions.</p>	<p>Remember: Be there when we visit, talk to your PA about any problems you have. Make the most out of your PA and stay in contact with them.</p> <p>To understand we sometimes have to talk to you about difficult things. If you don't speak up, decisions will be made without you. This may mean that things will happen that you do not want.</p>
<p>Changing your worker In exceptional circumstances, you can request to change social worker or PA. Ask to speak to the LCT Manager if you wish to change your worker.</p>	<p>Remember: To try and work through any problems with your social worker and PA.</p>
<p>How to contact your PA You will have your social worker or PA's mobile number and email address. Social workers and PA's work from 9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday and can offer you support during that time.</p> <p>From time to time workers leave, your PA or social worker will say goodbye to you at least 2 weeks before they leave, if this doesn't happen, we will explain why.</p>	<p>Remember: Contact your social worker/PA when you need them and agree who you can contact if you need help outside of that time.</p> <p>The out of hours emergency duty number is 0208 583 2222</p>

<p>Grandmentor Scheme Grandmentors work with care leavers aged 16-24 years, they will meet with you weekly to offer you friendship, support and guidance. Grandmentors are adults aged 50yrs+ so they have a lot of knowledge and life experience to share (much like Grandparents do) Contact: 07823 413 256 / Elizabeth.hassock@volunteeringmatters.org.uk</p>	<p>Remember: If you would <u>like</u> a Grandmentor then speak to your PA.</p> <p>If you <u>have</u> a Grandmentor, do meet with them and keep in contact with them, they are there to help you.</p>
<p>Participation Service You will have access to Hounslow’s participation service, for children in care and care leavers. Where you can get involved in making changes to the care system, training social workers/PA’s, going on trips and much more. They are based at <u>The Spot</u> which is a centre in Isleworth for young people in Hounslow. Contact: chloe.sullivan@hounslow.gov.uk / 0208 853 2317</p>	<p>Remember: Get in touch with the service, you will probably receive leaflets and letters from them.</p> <p>Getting involved in group activities, forums and training will help to boost your self-esteem, develop new skills and help you to build your CV.</p>
<p>How to Complain You have the right to complain to Hounslow if you can’t solve a problem with your social worker, or their manager. You can contact the complaints team on 020 8583 3333 / e-mail: complaintscrt@hounsow.gov.uk If you are really unhappy and feel that no-one is listening to you, then you can contact an Advocate – this is someone independent of the Council. Contact Coram advocacy service on: 020 7520 0300 or 0808 800 5792 / www.coramvoice.org.uk</p>	<p>Remember: Try to find a solution with your PA and the manager of the Leaving Care team before contacting the Complaint or Advocacy services.</p>
<p>Advice and help for Care Leavers There are lots of services for care leavers who need help, guidance and support. There are lots of national organisations campaigning for better services for care leavers and they run national consultation events, to hear your views. Contact Become Charity: Freephone 0800 023 2033 / advice@becomecharity.org.uk</p>	

Pledge for Children and Young People in care

Hounslow, as your corporate parents have made a Pledge to children and young people in care. The Hounslow Pledge contains 20 Pledge promises to you. You can find the Pledge 2017-2020 at www.younghounslow.info, speak to your PA or contact the Participation Service on: 020 8583 2317

11. SECTION 5 – YOUR HEALTH

Your health matters to us. Being healthy doesn't just mean eating fruit, exercising regularly and keeping your teeth clean. It also means feeling strong and well emotionally and being sexually healthy and safe. There are lots of services and support out there. Read this section to find out some of the services available to you.

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>Emotional problems If you need someone to talk to your PA, or support worker/keyworker will refer you to counselling. In Hounslow we have a dedicated Clinical Mental Health worker for care leavers.</p> <p>Childline offers 24-hours support: 0800 1111</p> <p>Hounslow Youth Counselling Service (HYCS) This is a free service for young people aged 11-25, you can contact them at: ask@hycscounselling.co.uk / 0208 568 1818</p>	<p>Remember: if you are struggling with anything, speak to someone about it – don't bottle it up!</p>
<p>Access to free leisure facilities If you want help to access free leisure care, speak with your PA and if it is agreed by management, certain costs will be covered.</p>	<p>Remember: We will try our best to give you access to leisure facilities but this will depend on the cost and will have to be agreed by the LCT Manager.</p>

Sexual Health

If you need help and support with sexual health issues you will be referred by your PA to the right local services for you. Your support worker or keyworker may also give you advice and guidance.

Free contraception, pregnancy tests and check-ups are available. Contact:
www.sexualhealthhounslow.org.uk / 0208 321 5718

Remember: Keep yourself safe, if you do not use a condom you will be at risk of becoming a young parent and catching STI's and infections.

- you can get free condoms, pregnancy tests and much more.

Dentist and Opticians

If you are receiving benefits then you will have access to free dental health care and opticians.

Opticians and Dentists are free if you are under 18 years, on benefits or in full time education.

Drug and Alcohol Support

iHear offers a range of services for drug and alcohol recovery. www.ihearpartnership.org
National Drugs Helpline: 0800 77 6600
Visions Hounslow: 020 8583 6441 / www.hounslow.gov.uk/alcoholanddrugmisuse

GP/Doctor

Your PA or support/keyworker will help you to sign up with a GP. A GP treats preventative care and health and will be able to refer you to other services.

Remember: If you move it will be your responsibility to inform your GP and sign up with a different local GP

Health Passports

When you become a care leaver you will be given a health passport by the LAC Nurse at your last statutory health check, this will have all your health information, like blood type, name of GP etc. This will be useful to use when you access health services and adult services.

12. SECTION 6 – YOUR EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

We will work hard to support you with your education, if you decide to go to university you will receive up to a 4-year financial support package. Further education is essential for you to gain academic qualifications you will need when looking for employment. However, college and university are not the only options. Apprenticeship and training schemes are very popular and can be a good way to learn practical work skills and earn! Volunteering is another excellent option to help you gain work ready skills and get that all important 'work experience' that employers want!

What we offer 2 U	Ur responsibilities and 'what you need 2 know'!
<p>Virtual College During years 13 and 14 we will offer support at your PEPs to ensure that you are achieving to the best of your ability and will liaise with colleges/schools to access additional support where necessary. The Virtual college phase leader Karena.brown@hounslow.gov.uk / 2028 583 3559 / 07931208957 can discuss with you any concerns you have. Virtual college have Engagement Mentors in place to assist you with your education and provide you with additional support.</p> <p>We are able to support with 1:1 Private Tuition for Maths and English GCSE retakes and will discuss with you/SW/PA to put this in place as needed. We will provide additional information to support your university applications and be on hand if you have concerns or worries to point you in the right direction and communicate with University Care Leaver Advisers at your chosen Uni. If you were to drop out of college/lose your apprenticeship/employment we will help you to get back on track and discuss your options/choices with you – we will then liaise with agencies to further support your plans and progress.</p> <p>Connexions run a drop in at Hounslow Library, they can give you advice on what to do next. Contact: 020 8583 5151 / www.facebook.com/connexionsHounslow</p>	<p>Remember: Education, training and finding employment is your responsibility. The LCT will support you, but you must be willing and give your best.</p>

Apprenticeships

If you get an apprenticeship or traineeship we will provide you with travel money and assist you until you receive your first pay packet.

We are able to support via agreement from managers those on low wages to ensure that you are better off on an apprenticeship than those at college. **There are thousands of apprenticeship opportunities available.**

Apprenticeships can also be another way of gaining Higher Education (degree) without accruing the University debt.

Remember: To use your money for those activities which support your apprenticeship/traineeship. Speak to your PA if you would like more information about Apprenticeships

You may still be eligible for Housing Benefit and rent top up from Social Care (talk to your PA to ensure you are getting all the financial help available to you)

You may need extra help with managing your money and benefits advice so speak to your PA. (Have you attended the Money Management course? If not ask your PA to sign you up).

Finding Work/Interview Allowance

We will provide you with a one-time offer of £50 interview clothing allowance.

We will also help to give you interview practice, applying for jobs and with creating your CV and personal statement.

Connexions and the Virtual College staff will support you to actively be engaged in Education, Employment & Training (EET).

The **Job Centre Plus** will support you to look and apply for work if you are not in education or employment and **Adult Learning** can support you.

We also have the **Skills and Employability** team located within the council who can support you. Contact: susan.pieterse@hounslow.gov.uk / 0208 583 6174

Remember: Interview clothing is WORK APPROPRIATE clothing and not new trainers!

Speak to your PA and or support worker about help with getting ready for an interview and with applying for jobs.

We are here to help.

Exam Rewards

Photograph and email your SW/PA every time you complete a qualification – we financially reward results from ESOL/GCSE to degree level

£100 Reward

If you complete your undergraduate degree, we will reward you with £100

Remember: WE will also be **VERY, VERY** proud of you!

University

If you decide to go to University, we will assist you with your housing during holiday periods and provide you with extra financial support. Long term funding for Higher Education will be agreed by Management.

- We will give you a Higher Education Bursary of over £2,000 which is currently made up of weekly subsistence, holiday rent and stationery/computer related equipment
- We will support you for a maximum of 4-years of university study
- You will be eligible to apply for a student loan
- We will support you to visit universities prior to acceptance
- We will assist you with the initial costs of moving to & from university

You may also be entitled to additional support from the university who often have additional funds and grants for care leavers.

University Support for Asylum Seeking Young People

You may study at university if you are an Asylum Seeking Young Person, however you may not be entitled to pay home fees and you may not be eligible for student finance, however some universities use their discretionary powers to allow Asylum Seeking YP to study as home students.

Discretionary Leave to Remain

You may be entitled to university support if;

- You live in England
- You have lived in England for 3-years
- You are under 18 or you have lived in England for 7-years

Indefinite Leave to Remain

You may be entitled to home fees and student finance. For further information contact The Migrant Children's Project on 0207 636 8505 / mcp@coramclc.org.uk
Catherine Treharne is the Hounslow Immigration Adviser, you can contact her on: 0208 583 4540 / Catherine.treharne@hounslow.gov.uk

Remember: If you thinking about applying for university, then speak to **Karena Brown**. You will have to apply for a student loan.

Ask to see the Financial Support for 18+ Higher Education Students

Remember: If you are interested in applying for university it will depend on your immigration status. Speak to your PA who will put you in contact with the Hounslow Immigration Adviser, Catherine Treharne.

<p>Further Education</p> <p>You will be supported if you are in further education, there are a number of funds available to you:</p> <p>16-19 Bursary</p> <p>Please apply for the £1,200 Bursary from your Student Services adviser at college during the FIRST week of your studies. <i>(backdated payments are not always possible – do not lose out!)</i></p> <p>Discretionary Learner Support Fund <i>(note discretionary means optional and colleges do not have to provide support and it is often limited to first come first served)</i>. If you are advised that support is not available immediately discuss with your PA</p> <p>If you are aged 19 or over and are finding it difficult to access further education or training at your college, the funds are strictly to help during financial hardship and may be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Travel costs</i> • <i>Financial hardships and emergencies</i> • <i>Essential course equipment, materials and field trips</i> • <i>Childcare costs</i> <p>Care to Learn</p> <p>For young parents aged 19 years and under, Government funding to support with nursery/childminder costs for young parents.</p>	<p>Remember: If you are not in employment, on a training programme or in education you will have to claim benefits.</p> <p>Your attendance and behaviour will be monitored</p> <p>Ask to see the Financial Support for 18+ Further Education Students</p> <p>Remember: If you are a young parent then speak to your PA about what extra support there is available for you.</p>
<p>Volunteering</p> <p>VOICE is a Youth Project that offers volunteering opportunities. Contact kuldip.sandhu@hounslow.gov.uk / 0208 583 2853 / 07976 757 904</p> <p>Vinspired is a national charity supporting young people with volunteer opportunities. Contact: vinspired.com / 020 7960 7000</p>	<p>Remember: Volunteer placements can be great fun, you can earn accreditation and receive a small allowance for travel and lunch.</p>
<p>Travel Costs</p> <p>If you are in full time education or training, living and learning in London, you are entitled to one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 16+ Student Oyster Card- this offers free travel on buses and trams across London 2. 18+ Student Oyster card – this offers 30% off the cost of adult travel fare 	<p>Remember – if you are under 19 and in f/t education apply for the 16+ Oyster card (not 18+) as you are eligible for FREE travel.</p>

<p>If you live outside of London you will receive financial support for travel once this is agreed by the Team Manager of the LCT.</p> <p>We will pay £10 administration cost for you to get an Oyster card or equivalent for the area you live in.</p> <p>We will pay the cost of an adult travel fare for up to 6-weeks or until you receive your Oyster travel pass</p>	
<p>Studying Away From Home</p> <p>Funding may be available for those who would like to access specialist courses outside of the local area. This would have to be agreed by the Team manager from the LCT. The 2 main types of funding are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residential bursaries from the college 2. The residential Support Scheme 	
<p>Additional Education Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will pay the registration and/or exam fees for your agreed course - We will support you with essential equipment and books as agreed on an individual basis - We will reward you with £10 per holiday week (not including Summer holidays) for attendance over 90% - We will pay an exam reward money when you have completed qualifications 	<p>Remember: Make all efforts to apply for funding you are entitled to and provide evidence of this.</p> <p>keep to the rules and regulations of your course, training provider so you do not put this programme at risk. TALK UP if you feel things are going wrong and you are struggling with the course – we can help to support you.</p> <p>Make sure your attendance is above 90% 😊</p> <p>Agree to sharing of info between your college, training provider and Hounslow</p>

13. Where to get further information?

As a Care Leaver there are a range of support services available to you, we have put together a list of useful contact details. IF there is anything you do not understand OR further information YOU NEED then please speak with your PA or keyworker.

HOUNSLOW LEAVING CARE TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION.....

Where to find the Leaving Care Team? - Civic Centre, Hounslow

When are we open? - Monday to Friday from 9am -5pm, Friday from 9am - 4.45pm

How to contact us? - Duty number 0208 583 4580 during office hours, 24-hour emergency number 020 8583 2222

- ✓ Hounslow use the following Advocacy Service / e-mail: www.coramvoice.org.uk / Phone: 020 7520 0300 or 0808 800 5792
- ✓ Participation Service (get your voice heard) / e-mail: chloe.sullivan@hounslow.gov.uk / Phone: 020 8583 2317
- ✓ Complaints Team / e-mail: complaintssct@hounslow.gov.uk / Phone: 020 8583 3333

999 Emergency	111 national non-emergency medical number
112 Emergency number. 112 will work on any mobile phone anywhere in the world.	101 non-emergency number for the police

14. Pledge Promises to Young People in Care 2017-2020 (ask to see the Pledge 2017-2020)