

Your Rights and Entitlements

**A guide for young people
leaving care**





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Leaving care to live on your own is a big step but we can support you through the process.

If you have left care, or are about to leave care, there's a range of information, support and benefits you can access.

This might include help finding somewhere to live, advice on further education or getting into work and guidance about what financial support you are entitled to.

Further details are available here on our Care Leaver website and app

<https://www.redcarandclevelandcareleavers.co.uk/>

Alternatively scan the QR code below.



Target



Guidance and advice for young people leaving care in Redcar and Cleveland





Who is a Care Leaver

The amount of support you can get when you leave care depends on your age and circumstances. Understanding the terms that councils use to describe care leavers can be confusing. You may need to know what term applies to you to understand how much support you can get.

There are several types of care leavers:

- **Eligible** care leaver is a young person still in care aged 16 and 17 who has been in care for a total of 13 weeks from the age of 14.
- **Relevant** care leaver is someone aged 16 or 17 who has left care having been looked after for at least 13 weeks from the age of 14 (including some time aged 16 or 17). This includes young people who were in care immediately prior to being detained in a Youth Offending Institution, or hospital, from age 16.
- **Former relevant** care leaver aged 18-25 who has been an eligible and/or relevant care leaver.
- **Qualifying care leavers** are young people aged between 16 and up to 21 who;
 - ⇒ Left care on or after their 16th birthday and who were looked after for less than 13 weeks since their 14th birthday or;
 - ⇒ are on a special guardianship order or were on a special guardianship order when they reached the age of 18 and were looked after immediately before the making of that order.





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If you are unsure, Just Ask!

Health and Wellbeing:



- We can refer you for support from counselling and therapeutic services if you need it.
- From the age of 18 you can get your health passport.
- You can have support around doctors, dentists, and other health matters.
- You can receive a free gym membership - ask your worker to support you to apply.
- We can refer you to support from substance misuse services.
- *You will have access to kitchen facilities at Target – (later in 2024).*

Education, Employment and Training (EET):



- You can receive a bursary of up to £1,200 if you stay in full time education. This will be through your education provider.
- You can receive a bursary of up to £2,000 if you go to university or other higher education (conditions apply).
- You can receive an incentive allowance if you attend EET.
- You have access to a careers worker who is there to support you to look for education and training options. This includes support with CV writing, job seeking, completing application forms and preparing for interviews.
- There is a named worker at each Job Centre Plus to help you with employment opportunities.
- You may be able to receive help to purchase some clothes for job interviews.

Participation in society:



- You can join the care experienced forum to be involved with making positive changes for young people in care and leaving care.
- You can join in with regional and national young people's opportunities.
- You can have support with identification such as passport, driving licence and setting up a bank account.
- You can have support with paperwork, for example applying for housing, benefits and personal independent payments.
- You can ask to see your files on any information that is related to you, from the age of 18 years old. We can also support you to apply for your social care files and prepare and support you to read them.





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Relationships and Plans:



- You are entitled to a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25. If you 'Step back' from the leaving care service after you turn 21 years you can return to request support up to the age of 25 and beyond.
- At the age of 18 you and your Personal Advisor will work together to develop your life plan, which is called a Pathway Plan. This will explain the support you are entitled to, to help you get where you want to be in life. You and your worker will review the plan every six months, or earlier in some circumstances.

Housing:



- Your wishes and feelings about where you would like to live are listened to and written down in your Pathway Plan.
- If you live in foster care, you may be entitled to stay with your foster carer over the age of 18.
- Your Personal Advisor will try to visit your new home within seven days of you moving in.
- Care leavers living in Redcar & Cleveland are exempt from paying council tax. For Care leavers living outside of Redcar & Cleveland - help is available to pay your council tax.
- You may be entitled to a setting up home allowance to make sure your accommodation is safe and secure. Speak to your Personal Advisor to find out more.
- You have a worker to give you support regarding your housing options.
- You can take part in courses relating to housing and being a good tenant through our housing/ accommodation colleagues and via online/ apps such as Home truths <https://www.themix.org.uk/housing/your-place>





Further Information

- **Discretionary allowances** (ones we pay but we don't have to) – You will receive; a birthday allowance of £30 at 19 and 20 and £60 at 18 & 21; a Christmas/festival allowance of £50 until you are 21. A clothing allowance in an emergency. This is an allowance provided at the discretion of the service, it will not be available to everyone.
- **Driving lessons** – The Leaving Care team will pay for one theory test. Once you pass the theory test, they will pay for one set of 10 lessons for young people aged 17-25. We will also pay for one practical test once you have evidence that you're ready to sit this. People who misuse drugs and alcohol will not receive this. You must be in education training or employment for a minimum of 3 months to qualify for the theory test and driving lessons.
- **Passports/National Insurance Document** – Your social worker will help you to obtain a passport and NI number, they will complete the documentation before you leave care. For those granted Asylum/Leave to Remain in the UK, support will be provided towards obtaining a Travel Document.
- **Mobile phones** – In some circumstances a maximum of one phone will be purchased, with a £50 limit or you may be offered a recycled phone.
- **Emotional support** – You will receive on-going support from your Personal Advisor (PA) and you can get help to take you to some appointments. Your Personal Advisor will make regular visits to you in your home or you can visit our office. We have a drop in at Target, 16 Milbank Terrace (Monday – Thursday between 9.00 am - 5.00 pm & Friday 9.00am – 4.30 pm, there will always be a duty PA who can support you if your allocated PA is not available.
- **Health** – You will have access to help and advice about diet, smoking and substance use if needed.
- **Separated migrants** – Consideration will be given to any religious and cultural needs including increased funding if needed to provide care. Redcar and Cleveland Asylum Through Care Team will consider individual circumstances through individual Pathway Plans.
- **Exceptional circumstances** – You can be given help when needed regarding money in exceptional circumstances and emergencies. You will be given support to go towards necessities if a problem occurs and it is deemed an exceptional circumstance. If needed, a food parcel with basic supplies can be provided – this isn't provided on a regular basis, however there is support available to register with 'Community Shops' in the area that you live, these shops offer low cost items including fresh produce. Your PA can help you to find a community shop (Food bank) where you live. Our local Community Shops are [Eco-Shop - Food Bank — South Bank Community Land Trust \(southbankclt.org\)](https://southbankclt.org) [Redcar Community Grocery](#) | [Neighbourly](#) [Food Support - RCVDA](#)
- **Complaints** – If you wish to make a complaint about the service and support you receive from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, there is a complaint process where you can be provided with support and advice and guidance in relation to this. You can make a complaint online at <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/about-the-council/comments-and-complaints-procedure>

