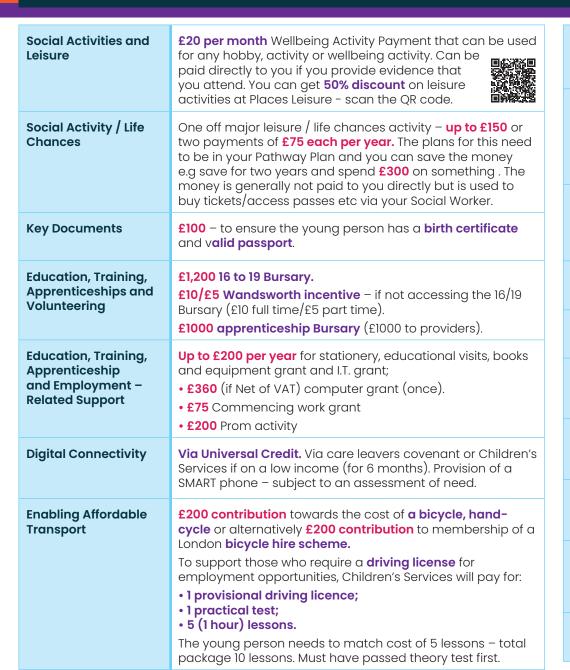
LEAVING CARE FINANCE POLICY – 2024–2025 ELIGIBLE AND RELEVANT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 AND 17



Accommodation and Placements	We will cover the costs of your accommodation until you turn 18. If you're moving to private sector, we will pay up to level of one-bed LHA rate: London Inner Southwest: £326.79 per week, shared room rate £157.64 London Outer Southwest: £276.16 per week, shared room rate £136.13	Sick or Disabled Young People Entitled to Welfare Benefits	Once Universal Credit is in payment to you, we don't pay any maintenance money to you.
		Young People Detained in YOI, STC, SCH, Hospital	You will get up to up to £10 per week pocket money and up to £3.85 per week clothing allowance. £20 per calendar month verified wellbeing activity payment.
Deposit and Rent in Advance Subsistence	 Young People who decide to choose private renting for their settled accommodation can access support with deposits and guarantees. Information on this can be found 'Social Care Queue Applications and the Wandsworth Care Leavers' Guarantor Scheme (CLGS) - February 2022'. Rent must always be within LHA rates. a) If you're responsible for all your own food and bills you get £71.70. b) If you don't have to pay for your utilities you get £61.70. c) If you are provided with utilities and food in your accommodation you get £51.70 	Young People Placed with Parents / Living with Parents	See Page 16 and Appendix D of the Finance Policy. Wherever possible and where it is a planned return home, your parents should fund all costs for you
		Qualifying Children and Young People Aged 16 and Older	Financial support can be available – we will assess your needs and help you access universal services as much as possible.
			See Page 16 and Appendix B
		Leaving Care Personal Allowance Reductions - Young People who are Earning	Disposable income over a given threshold = LCMA reduced by 50% or 100% - any reduction is added to the young person's Junior ISA savings or SUHA.
LCMA - Semi- Independent and Emergency Accommodation Adjustments	If you don't have to pay for your utilities you get £61.70. If you are provided with utilities and food in your accommodation you get £51.70.	Birthday Allowances 17th and 18th	 £286.70 a) £100 for a gift or gifts and b) £186.70 for a celebration provided to those living in semi- independent or independent accommodation. Foster carers will provide the same financial support as part of their package.
Clothing Allowance	We will provide you with £200 per year - £100 in April/May and £100 in September /October.		
Initial Clothing Allowance	We can support you with up to £200 – subject to an assessment of need.	Festival Allowance a) b)	 £286.70 a) £100 for a gift or gifts and b) £186.70 for a celebration provided to those living in semi-
Savings	We will add £10 per week to the Junior ISA that has been set up for you. This will be something you can access at 18 but we strongly suggest you save the money carefully and don't waste it.		independent or independent accommodation. Foster carers provide the same support from their own finances.
		Travel and Contact Costs (and time with	We will support you to obtain a 16+ Zip Oyster Photocard, travel costs to see family /significant people, assessment of need. Obtain local travel pass if outside of London. ETE travel costs should be set out in the PEP. UASC £5 phone card per week.
Lone Parents Entitled to Welfare Benefits	If you have a child, once Universal Credit and Child Benefit are being paid to you, we do not pay you any other maintenance allowances.	significant others, i.e., former foster carers)	

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Emotional Health, Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Explore access to CAMHS and universal services, accessing services via GP and local options such as Catch 22 and Kooth Online Counselling Service.	
Health Needs	Obtain HCl (SC) and related exemption certificate. Support may be provided subject to an assessment of need. Pre-payment prescription exemption Certificate will be provided to any young person who requires it via free prescriptions for care leavers scheme.	
Special Needs Costs	Support to assist young people to access services/support subject to an assessment of need. SUHG can be used to purchase equipment or items which enhance quality of life or independence	
Cultural Needs	Support to assist young people to access services/support subject to an assessment of need	
Religious Needs	Support to assist young people to access services/support subject to an assessment of need.	
Start Up Pack	All young people moving to semi-independent / independent accommodation – two suitcases, kitchen equipment etc.	
Consultation with Young People	£10 per hour plus expenses when undertaking a consultation exercise. Access to the Mind of My Own app to express their views.	
Direct Work Expenses	Refreshments for key-work session agreed in advance by the children looked after team manager or leaving care team manager, not to exceed £15 in total, up to £7.50 each.	
Managing Allowances and Payments (Emergency Payments)	Three £15 emergency payments in any six-month period (vouchers). Three £20 emergency food/utility parcels in any six-month period.	
Exceptional Needs Payment	Depending on an assessment of need – consideration of one-off exceptional payments.	