

LEAVING CARE FINANCE POLICY – 2024-2025

ELIGIBLE AND RELEVANT YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 AND 17




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| 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 |
| Deposit and Rent in Advance | 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. |
| Subsistence | 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 |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |

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| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| Christmas and Festival Allowance | £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 provide the same support from their own finances. |
| Travel and Contact Costs (and time with significant others, i.e., former foster carers) | 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. |

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| Social Activities and Leisure | £20 per month Wellbeing Activity Payment that can be used for any hobby, activity or wellbeing activity. Can be paid directly to you if you provide evidence that you attend. You can get 50% discount on leisure activities at Places Leisure – scan the QR code.  |
| Social Activity / Life Chances | One off major leisure / life chances activity – up to £150 or two payments of £75 each per year . The plans for this need to be in your Pathway Plan and you can save the money e.g save for two years and spend £300 on something. The money is generally not paid to you directly but is used to buy tickets/access passes etc via your Social Worker. |
| Key Documents | £100 – to ensure the young person has a birth certificate and valid passport . |
| Education, Training, Apprenticeships and Volunteering | £1,200 16 to 19 Bursary . £10/£5 Wandsworth incentive – if not accessing the 16/19 Bursary (£10 full time/£5 part time). £1000 apprenticeship Bursary (£1000 to providers). |
| Education, Training, Apprenticeship and Employment – Related Support | Up to £200 per year for stationery, educational visits, books and equipment grant and I.T. grant; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £360 (if Net of VAT) computer grant (once). • £75 Commencing work grant • £200 Prom activity |
| Digital Connectivity | Via Universal Credit . Via care leavers covenant or Children's Services if on a low income (for 6 months). Provision of a SMART phone – subject to an assessment of need. |
| Enabling Affordable Transport | £200 contribution towards the cost of a bicycle, hand-cycle or alternatively £200 contribution to membership of a London bicycle hire scheme . To support those who require a driving license for employment opportunities, Children's Services will pay for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 provisional driving licence; • 1 practical test; • 5 (1 hour) lessons. The young person needs to match cost of 5 lessons – total package 10 lessons. Must have passed theory test first. |

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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 HC1 (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. |