

# Shropshire Council Care Leavers' Local Offer 2024



*Mural created by Shropshire Care Leavers*

**For professionals supporting care leavers:**

This booklet can be translated into other languages or accessible format.

Personal Advisors and Social Workers have access to the council's contracted translation and interpreting service.

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*Shropshire Care Leavers' Celebration Festival*

## Shropshire Leaving Care Local Offer

This Local Offer has been produced to give you, as a care leaver, an idea of what services and support Shropshire Council provides. It has been written with the aim of describing exactly what you can expect from us.

**Our elected council members (your ‘Corporate Parents’) have made a pledge to you:**

1. **Keeping you Safe:** we will support you to keep yourself safe and ensure that you are living in an environment where you feel valued, are supported and protected from harm wherever possible.
2. **Where You Live:** we will endeavour to ensure that you are offered a stable home where you are happy, feel safe and are supported to become part of the community.
3. **Your Friends and Family:** we will make sure that you are able to keep in touch with those who are important to you, while creating opportunities and experiences where you can have fun, meet new people and gain skills.
4. **Your Health, Wellbeing and Lifestyle:** we will make sure you are supported to live a happy and healthy life. If you ever feel that you need to talk to someone about how you feel, we will make sure you know what support is available and help you to access it.
5. **Your Voice:** we will support you to express your views, wishes and feelings and involve you in decisions that affect your life. We want to know what we can do better and will give you opportunities to help shape the support we offer.
6. **Your Education, Work and Learning:** we will support you with your education and learning, to ensure that you have opportunities to fulfil your potential. We will help you to gain the skills, qualifications and experience you need to start a career you are passionate about.
7. **Your Future:** we will support and prepare you for independence and ensure that you are equipped with the skills and confidence to live independently as part of the community. We will continue to support you into adulthood to ensure that you are happy, healthy and safe.



***We intend to be the best parent we can be to every care leaver we support.***

***As corporate parents, all our thinking, planning, actions, and decisions are based on “Would this be good enough for my child?”***

## How We Can Help:

Depending on your circumstances and the time you spent in care, the law describes four different groups of care leaver:

- Eligible child
- Relevant child
- Former Relevant care leaver
- Qualifying care leaver

You are an **Eligible** child if:

- You are aged sixteen or seventeen years; and
- You are currently in care; and
- You have been in care for a period of thirteen weeks (or episodes which add up to thirteen weeks) since your fourteenth birthday and at least one day whilst you were sixteen or seventeen years old

You are a **Relevant** child if:

- You are no longer in care but you have been Eligible and;
- You are sixteen or seventeen years old

You are a **Former Relevant** care leaver if:

- You are aged eighteen years or above and;
- Immediately before you reached eighteen, you were an Eligible or Relevant care leaver

You are a **Qualifying** care leaver if:

- You are aged at least sixteen years but are under twenty-five and;
- You were looked after by the council prior to the making of a Special Guardianship Order, or;
- If at any time after you reached the age of sixteen years you were looked after for a period of less than thirteen weeks and have not returned home.
- At age sixteen or seventeen years you were an Eligible child but were living with a parent for more than six months before you reached eighteen (unless you were there under a Care Order).

A young person's status as a care leaver can change if you leave care and return home to live with someone who has parental responsibility for you, such as one of your parents, or remain with a connected carer who becomes your Special Guardian, after the age of sixteen, but before you turn eighteen.

For example:

- If you are looked after with a connected carer and have "Eligible" status as a sixteen or seventeen year old, but a Special Guardianship Order is made before you turn eighteen, you will revert to having "Qualifying" status when the Special Guardianship Order is granted.
- A sixteen or seventeen year old who has lived for a continuous period of six months with a parent or someone with parental responsibility (such as your Special Guardian) will no longer have "Eligible" or "Relevant" status. However, if this arrangement breaks down before you turn eighteen and you cease to live with your parent or someone with parental responsibility for you, then you would become a "Relevant" young person.

You are entitled to have a Pathway Plan made after your sixteenth birthday whilst you have "Eligible" or "Relevant" status as a looked after young person. This can be referred back to if you need help after you have returned to live with your parent or remain with your Special Guardian.

**Whatever your care leaver status, you are entitled to request advice and support up to the age of your twenty-fifth birthday.**

Depending on the group of care leavers you are in, you have certain entitlements

*Please refer to the table on page 8 and details on pages 19-25*



## Preparing for Your Future



### Your Identity

From the age of 14+ and by the time you are 18 you will be supported by your social worker and personal advisor to have:

- A bank account
- An adult passport (or ID/ARC card if an asylum-seeking young person)
- A provisional driving licence
- A copy of your birth certificate
- Your National Insurance number
- A history of your previous addresses

### Needs Assessment and Pathway Planning

Shropshire Council has a responsibility to prepare you to prepare you for your future as an adult at a pace suitable to you. As a young person moving towards becoming an adult, you should expect to receive the same level of care and support as any other young person would receive from a reasonable parent.

Your social worker will undertake a Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan with you within three months of your sixteenth birthday or within two months of you being looked after, if this is after your sixteenth birthday.

Your social worker should consider what advice, assistance and support is appropriate to meet your needs, with:

- Emotional and physical health
- Education, employment and training
- Accommodation
- Budgeting and bills
- Family and other relationships and the need to maintain these
- Culture and identity
- Practical skills

You will be fully involved in discussion and plans for your future. Your Pathway Plan will be reviewed:

- At six monthly intervals (if you are still in care, this will take place alongside your review)
- At your request, or that of your social worker or personal advisor
- If there are any significant changes in your circumstances, including a change of accommodation
- We must review the Plan until you are twenty-one years old (and possibly up to your twenty-fifth birthday, dependent on your wishes and your Needs Assessment)

## Preparing for Your Future and Your Personal Advisor

You will have a personal advisor as well as a social worker when you reach the age of seventeen and a half years. Your personal advisor will help you to develop skills and put in place the things in your life that will enable you to live independently in your community and in your own accommodation when you are ready.

Although we will be supporting you to think about your future throughout your life, focussed support around independence will begin when you are around 15-16 years of age, from your social worker and the people looking after you, to prepare you for adulthood. You will be encouraged to develop skills in such things as cooking, budgeting, cleaning and looking after yourself, as part of your Pathway Plan at the age of sixteen years. Independence programme aged 16/17

**At the age of seventeen and a half years**, your personal advisor will provide you with support and advice on a range of things, including:

- Developing your independence skills (being able to look after yourself).
- Access to training, education and employment opportunities.
- Finding and managing suitable accommodation at a time that is right for you.
- Helping you to manage your money, so that you have enough to pay your bills and buy things for yourself. We will make sure that you know what money you are entitled to, such as benefits, bursaries and entitlements from Shropshire Council.
- Keeping in contact with family and friends and building your support network.
- Help to find specialist support when you need it, including counselling and advice on issues such as drugs, alcohol and your sexual health.

**In addition, for unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people, aged 16-17 years**, we will also:

- Support you to progress your Leave to Remain status
- Support you to access legal advice
- Support you with your substantive interview
- Ensure that you have an interpreter and that your documents are translated into your first language, when this is required
- Ensure that you have your ARC
- Ensure that you are financially supported until you are able to access public funds

**In addition, for care leavers with additional needs:**

- You may be entitled to extra support through the SEND Local Offer, especially if you have an Education, Health & Care Plan: [The SEND local offer | Shropshire Council](#)
- You may be entitled to extra support from the Preparing for Adulthood Team or Adult Services at the age of eighteen years.

**The Type of Help You Can Expect to Receive:**

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying	Age 21 Years to 25 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Regularly reviewed Pathway Plan, based on what we agree you need.	✓	✓	✓	Together, we will decide how much advice and support is required. If necessary, a plan will be drawn up with you. This may be in the same format as a Pathway Plan. Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Together, we will decide how much advice and support is required. If necessary, a plan will be drawn up with you. This may be in the same format as a Pathway Plan. Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Personal Advisor	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Take reasonable steps to keep in touch, at least every eight weeks.	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Find and maintain suitable accommodation.	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Help to meet your education, training or employment needs.	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Help to meet your health needs.	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.
Help to manage your finances.	✓	✓	✓	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.	Dependent on your Needs Assessment.

**Commented [JB1]:** Support provided by Virtual School for young people in eligible and by care leavers' team for those in other categories.



## Keeping in Touch

Until you are eighteen, you will have an allocated social worker. From the age of eighteen years, your personal advisor will keep in touch with you at a minimum of every eight weeks. At intervals we need to see you in your home, to make sure that your accommodation is suitable. Accommodation will only be regarded as suitable if it is safe, secure and affordable.

We will also keep in touch with you through:

- Emails
- Telephone conversations
- Text messages
- WhatsApp calls and messages
- Meeting you in the community or office appointments

There will be circumstances when visiting at your home is not right for you. We will discuss this with you to find the right balance. Any changes to the way we work with you or the way or frequency that we keep in touch with you, will be clearly recorded in your Pathway Plan and in your file.



## Where You Live

### 16-17 Years and Accommodation

Many young people remain with their carers at this age and will be supported towards becoming an adult without moving anywhere.

We have **supported lodgings providers** and you can move to this accommodation from the age of sixteen years onwards if this suits your needs. For young people who are not living with a family and are not living in residential accommodation, there is also the option of **supported living shared accommodation**.

### 18+ and Accommodation

Once you have reached the age of eighteen years, you will no longer be in care but will continue to be supported by the Leaving Care Team. There will be options available to you, depending on how ready you are to live independently. This can be discussed with your social worker and Personal Advisor.

In some cases, especially where you have been living in foster care, it may be possible for you to remain after your eighteenth birthday in a **Staying Put Arrangement**. This also includes being able to go back to this arrangement during holidays if you are attending university.

This will be explained and discussed with you and your foster carer as part of your preparation for independence. This will be done well in advance of your eighteenth birthday to give you time to think about what is best for you.

In the early stages of leaving care, you might need extra help, so we can provide support and visit you on a regular basis or find **supported accommodation** where staff are based on the safe site or floating support is offered. We also have a **supported lodgings scheme**, which will help you to prepare for living independently.

Where you live will depend on what support you need. It may be possible for you to live **independently in a flat or house or in accommodation with other young people**.

Through our Housing department you will be supported by your Personal Adviser to apply and bid on an **affordable tenancy** in the social housing or the private sector at the time which we agree is right for you. We will help you to make it ready with a Setting Up Home Allowance and can contribute to your costs by paying your Council Tax.

However, we will support you to **register for social housing** after your sixteenth birthday, because this will build your eligibility. When you are eighteen, you are entitled to bid for properties. Housing providers will want a financial assessment and to be satisfied that you are tenancy ready.

When you have somewhere independent to live, we will help you to make it ready with a **Setting Up Home Allowance** and can contribute to your costs by **paying your Council Tax**, wherever you live in the UK.

If your water is supplied by Severn Trent, we will support you to apply for a discount of up to 70%, until your twenty-fifth birthday.

If you are at **risk of homelessness** you need to tell your Personal Advisor as early as possible and we will support you to access services and advice to prevent this happening.

## **Your Money**

The type of help you receive from Shropshire Council will depend on whether you are an Eligible or Relevant child, Former Relevant or Qualifying care leaver. Your Personal Advisor or Social worker will help you to work out what you are entitled to. You can also see our full list of financial entitlements at the end of this document.

## **Your Savings**

If you have been looked after for a long period of time you will have a savings account. You can access this once you turn 18yrs. If you have a Junior ISA then your personal advisor will have the number of your account to share with you when you are 18. You can find out more about the savings scheme on the ShareFound website: [The Share Foundation](#)

## **Financial Entitlements 16-17 Year Olds**

While you are still 16-17 years of age you will be encouraged to be in education, employment or training. If you are at college you will be entitled to a bursary and in some instances additional support with travel costs.

We will ensure you have a mobile phone and sufficient credit for your basic needs aged 16/17. At age 18 this will be re-assessed.

If you are still living with your foster carers at age 16/17 or in a residential home, or supported lodgings you will be entitled to pocket money and clothing allowance, as well as birthday, festival and holiday allowance. This will be paid to your carers. If you are working, you may agree with your carers to make a contribution to your keep. This will be negotiated depending on how much you earn.

If you are living in semi-independent or supported accommodation you will be provided with a personal allowance, equivalent to Universal Credit. You will be expected to contribute to your keep from your allowance. You will also be entitled to access financial support for other items.

### Financial Entitlements Age 18+

There are staff at the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) Job Centres who we will contact on your behalf to help you set up benefits payments and to help prevent problems from getting out of hand. Your PA will support you to attend your first appointment if necessary.

If you have a place at university, post eighteen, you will be supported to access financial support from Student Finance and there is an additional bursary from the local authority. (See section on page 7).

If you started an education or training course before the age of twenty-one years but it continues beyond the age of twenty-one, any assistance, as described in the Pathway Plan, extends until the end of the course. If you stopped receiving a service from us at age twenty-one and you ask for support with education or training before your twenty-fifth birthday, we will carry out an assessment to see if the course or training is one we would agree to support. We will consider providing financial assistance if we agree that financial help would be necessary to complete the course.

### Setting Up Home Grant

You are entitled to help to set up your own home when you start to live independently. Please see Local Offer table of full financial entitlements and benefits on pages 19-26

### Council Tax

You are exempted from paying Council Tax wherever you live up to the age of 25. If you live with other adults, you will be exempt from paying your proportion of the Council Tax.

### Your Education, Training and Employment

Your personal advisor or social worker will help you to achieve the best possible opportunities for education, training and employment and will work with anyone else who can help you. We have two dedicated advisors from the Virtual School who will be happy to offer to careers advice until the end of year 13. They are available through your Personal Advisor (PA).

Your Personal Advisor, the Virtual School Advisors, Enable and Education Services can help with:

- Your CV
- Applications
- Preparation for interviews
- Clothing for interviews
- Employment Support <https://enableservices.co.uk/>

There are also opportunities across the country for care experienced young people that can be accessed on this link <https://mycovenant.org.uk/>

**Commented [JB2]:** Suggested change - Your Virtual School link will ensure that you have a good quality PEP each term throughout your school years and until the end of Year 13. A PEP ensures that you have support at every stage of your education as you move towards towards successful engagement with KS5 education, employment or training - and also supports your onwards progression as you leave care. There are opportunities for participation throughout KS5 and when you feel a little more help is needed with your education or aspirations, we have a range of support options. More information can be found on our website: [Pupil Premium Plus | Shropshire Council](#)

**Commented [JB3]:** Can Virtual School advisors please be removed as we have added detail about our service above.

### **Preparation for Work or College, Apprenticeships, Traineeships and Work Experience**

We will support you to prepare for interviews and writing a CV. We will ensure that you can travel to and from interviews and college/work/apprenticeship/traineeship. We can support you to access essential equipment and clothing for work, college or training. This will be subject to Needs Assessment.

- We will provide incentives for work experience through vouchers and money for lunches and travel.
- We will help you to access financial support for training that falls outside student financing.
- We will pay for copy exam certificates, if required.

Shropshire Council has created apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers in several parts of Children's Services and within the wider council.

For more details, please contact the Leaving Care Team manager on 01743 250 020.

### **Help with the Cost of Full Time Education or Attending University**

Your Personal Advisor will discuss the financial and any other support that we will provide you with to support you whilst you are in full time education or attending university.

If you are a Former Relevant care leaver and you enter a higher education course, we will provide you with financial support. The support available will be discussed with you.

You will, however, always be provided with the following if you need it:

- A weekly living allowance during the summer holidays
- A bursary of £2,000.00 divided over the length of your course
- Help and support with the cost of accommodation during the holidays
- Support to communicate with a nominated support worker at the university to ensure all necessary support is provided
- Support with education equipment and materials

You will be expected to apply for any student finance or other support to which you are entitled, and your Personal Advisor will help you to do this. From this you will be expected to fund your own accommodation and travel costs in term time.



## Your Health and Wellbeing

Every young person will have different support needs when it comes to health, and it will be for you to ask your personal advisor for help where you need it. If you feel there are things that you really need to talk to someone about, then your personal advisor can direct you to services and perhaps attend some of the initial meetings with you, if you would like some moral support.

Your personal advisor or the Leaving Care Team can signpost you to appropriate services for your physical, mental, and sexual health including advice on healthy living, which will include anything from being smart about having safe sex, all the way through to having a balanced diet.

## Registering with a Doctor, Dentist or Optician

We can help you to register if you have not done so already or if you have moved to a new area. You have the right to choose your primary health care providers and cannot legally be refused treatment based on any outstanding application for Leave to Remain in the UK. To check for your nearest health service, go to the NHS Service Search tool:

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search>

## Health Passport

Every young person is entitled to a Health Passport, describing your health history which will be provided in their last Child Looked After Health Assessment.

## Free Prescriptions

Care leavers in Shropshire and Telford are also entitled to free NHS prescriptions, if you are unable to access free prescriptions in any other way. You will need to complete the form and follow the instructions: <https://www.shropshiretelfordandwrekinccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/Prepayment-Prescriptions-for-Care-Leavers-Application-Form.pdf>

## Attending Health Appointments

Attending hospital appointments with you for non-routine health concerns, as these can often be stressful and so it is good for you to have someone there with you. Also, if you do end up as a patient in hospital, then your personal advisor should come in to see you.

## Your Emotional and Mental Health

Here are some services that can support you:

- <https://beeu.org.uk/im-young-person/im-16-or-over/BeeU> can put you in touch with services when you feel that you need support with your emotional or mental health.
- <https://kooth.com> provides free, safe and anonymous online support for young people, via a social platform for young people.
- You can also ask your personal advisor for support to “Ask Jan”, provided by the Rees Foundation <https://www.reesfoundation.org/>
- Don't forget The Samaritans, who provide emotional support if you are struggling to cope or are having suicidal thoughts. Freephone 116 123
- <https://www.shropshiremhs.com/> Shropshire Mind provides a range of mental health support which includes the Calmer Cafe.

## Help to Manage Substance Misuse

If you want help or support to manage drug or alcohol misuse ask your personal advisor or the Leaving Care Team. The local service in Shropshire is provided by WeAreWithYou:

[Home - With You \(wearewithyou.org.uk\)](http://Home-With-You(wearewithyou.org.uk)) Shropshire Tel: 01743 294700

## Family, Friends, Relationships & Living in Your Community

We know how important it is to have close friendships and family support so we want to do as much as we can to help you to keep people you value close to you. We also know how important it is for you to be able to go to your place of worship, do activities with your friends, go shopping and get to essential appointments.

We will support you with the cost of seeing close family and other people important to you twice a year and make it possible for you to make new relationships through things like leisure passes and the Care Leavers' Forum.

It will be important that you are as independent as possible. You will be supported to use public transport when this is available and safe, and we will help you to learn how to use this and financial support with fares. This will be reviewed through your Pathway Plan.

We may contribute to the cost of driving lessons or to access the Wheels to Work project if this is safe and meets your assessed needs. You will be expected to make a contribution to identified costs.

We will also support you when things are not going well with your close relationships, by either talking things through with your personal advisor or by putting you in touch with other people we know.

**If you have children of your own** and you live in the Shropshire area, here are some useful links on the Shropshire Family Information Service website:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/early-years-and-childcare/parents-and-carers/shropshire-family-information-service-0-19-years/>



You can also visit the Shropshire Council website: [Shropshire Council](#)

Nationally you can find advice on these websites:

[Parent Talk - Support for Parents from Action For Children](#)

[Services and support for parents - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

## **Staying Safe**

We are here to help you to stay safe. As your corporate parent your safety is very important to us. If you want to talk through any worries you have about your own safety and it is not an emergency, please do contact your personal advisor or the duty personal advisor who can give you advice.

If you are at immediate risk, call the police.

We will do everything that we can to support you to feel safe and secure where you live and in your local community. If where you live feels unsafe tell us as soon as possible. We can then work with you and others to address the issues or help you to move. Our advice would be never to let strangers into your home and if you feel in danger, contact the police straightaway.

We understand that at times it may be difficult for you to share your worries and concerns with us. We will provide you with guidance and practical advice on how to keep yourself practically and emotionally safe.

At times you may not 'see' the harm and a conversation may be able to support you to see this.

Abuse can be physical, sexual, financial, or emotional and includes being neglected by someone caring for you.

## **Domestic Abuse**

If you think you are experiencing domestic abuse or conflict in a personal relationship and would like help and advice, you can talk to your personal advisor or contact the following:

Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service: Tel: 0300 303 1191  
Email: [sdas@shropsdas.org.uk](mailto:sdas@shropsdas.org.uk)  
Web: [shropsdas.org.uk](http://shropsdas.org.uk)

## **Exploitation**

Anyone can become vulnerable to being taken advantage of or being abused. Sometimes we do not recognise this is happening. Your personal advisor or the Leaving Care Team can give you help and advice to understand different kinds of exploitation and to support you to avoid, stop or leave an unsafe situation and work with others, like the police or support services.

- Criminal exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Modern Slavery
- Trafficking
- Scamming
- Cuckooing

## **Harassment and Hate Crime**

Everyone is entitled to live in their home and within their community without being harassed or abused for any reason and especially because of their race, sexuality, gender, or any disability. The police and local housing services can take action on your behalf.

### **Forced Marriage and FGM**

It is illegal to force someone into marriage or to have the medical procedure defined as Female Genital Mutilation against your wishes. Your personal advisor or the Leaving Care Team can support you to contact the police and support services who can take action to protect you.

### **Police and custody**

If you are under 25 years of age the police should ask you if you are a care leaver. If they don't, please tell them so they can contact us. We will then contact you to offer you support.

If you are a former relevant care leaver and in custody, we will continue to offer you support up to the age of 25yrs. If, however, you do not want to be supported after you are 21yrs, then please let your personal advisor know.

We have close working relationships with local prisons and resettlement officers. As you near release from custody we will explore with you your housing options. You will have a release plan that will be incorporated into your pathway plan so that everyone is clear what needs to happen to help you to make sure you can do well on your release.

### **Participation – Have Your Say**

You can join the Care Leavers' Forum, which meets regularly to support the Leaving Care Team improve what we do. In fact, this booklet was put together with the help of the Forum and feedback from other care leavers. For more details about how to get involved, please contact the Leaving Care Team on 01743 250 020.

You can use Mind of My Own to share your views and feelings and can continue to do so, after you are eighteen.

You can let your personal advisor know if you have a view or suggestion about our services.

You can use the Care Leavers' Facebook page. Ask your social worker or personal advisor. Search for Shropshire councils leaving care team on Facebook





## Complaints and Advocacy

We will always try to give a high standard of support. If you are unhappy with the service you have received, you might want to talk to someone you trust who might be able to help you solve the problem. This could be a parent, carer, key worker, personal advisor, social worker, designated teacher or an advocate.

You may also want to give feedback about the following:

- Anything good about the service you received
- Any ideas which you may have about how we can do things better or do things in a different way

You are entitled to let us know if you are not happy and, if necessary, to make a complaint if you are not satisfied with the support you are receiving or feel that you have not been listened to.

If you have tried to speak to someone or feel unable to and there is still a problem and you want to make a complaint, make a suggestion or give a compliment, you can contact us in several different ways:

- Email: [customer.feedback@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.feedback@shropshire.gov.uk)
- Telephone: 0345 678 9000
- Link to Feedback Shropshire Forms: [Feedback | Shropshire Council](#)

You have the right to have an advocate. An advocate is someone who can help you to get your voice heard. They are separate from Children's Services and work for you. Advocates will listen to you and help you to put your views and wishes across. If you need help or support in making your complaint, you can contact Coram Voice on their freephone number 0800 800 5792 or email them: [help@coramvoice.org.uk](mailto:help@coramvoice.org.uk) or download their leaflet from: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/>

Commented [CC1006954]: Who is the new provider?

### **Access to Records and Data Protection**

The law says that you have a right to see information that is written about you. This includes social services files. You can ask to see any information held by the Council about you. Please ask your social worker or personal advisor for further information or follow the link; <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/access-to-information/request-information-about-you/>

### **Getting In Touch with Us**

Your social worker and personal advisor will provide you with the office numbers, their mobile number and email addresses.

If your social worker or personal advisor is unavailable, or you do not have a personal advisor, you can contact the Leaving Care Duty Personal Advisor, who will help you: tel: 01743 250 020

If you need to urgently contact us during the evening, at night or at the weekend, contact the Out of Hours Team on 0345 678 9040.

If you need to visit the Leaving Care Team, you can call in at Main Reception, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND. Or contact your Leaving Care Personal Advisor.

You can also use the Care Leavers' Facebook page to find information: Shropshire Council's Leaving Care Team

*Please see Local Offer table of full financial entitlements and benefits on pages 19-24*

06

### Shropshire Council Care Leaver Entitlements (effective from 01 April 2023)

I am age:	16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)	16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)	16/17 and have left care (Relevant)	16-24 (Qualifying) <sup>1</sup>	18/19/20 (Former Relevant)	21-24 on an agreed course of education or training <sup>2</sup>	21-24 <sup>3</sup>
<b>and entitled to:</b>							
<b>Weekly Maintenance</b>	Yes. Provided by carers.	Yes. At the equivalent of Universal Credit, if you have no other income.	Yes. At the equivalent of Universal Credit, if you have no other income and are not living with a parent.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	No. Universal Credit can be claimed if no other income available. We will support you while you wait for your claim to be processed.	No. Universal Credit can be claimed. We will support you while you wait for your claim to be processed. If you are at university, equivalent to Universal Credit during holidays*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Custody</b>	Yes. £5 per week, while on remand.	Yes. £5 per week, while on remand.	Yes, £5 per week, while on remand.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Yes. £5 per week, while on remand.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Leisure Centre or Gym Pass</b>	Three months pass at your local centre, renewable subject to attendance.	Three months pass at your local centre, renewable subject to attendance.	Three months pass at your local centre, renewable subject to attendance.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Three months pass at your local centre, renewable subject to attendance.	Three months pass at your local centre, renewable subject to attendance.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Accommodation Costs</b>	Yes.	Yes. Rent and support paid. You will have to pay a service charge for utilities.	Yes. Rent and support paid, if not living with a parent. You will have to pay a service charge for utilities.	No financial support is available if benefits or student finance can be claimed. Top up, subject to assessment.	No financial support is available if benefits or student finance can be claimed. Top up, subject to assessment.	No additional financial support if benefits or student finance can be claimed. If you are at university and living with Staying Put carers or supported lodgings providers you will be expected to contribute to your keep if you are in receipt of student loan, benefits, wages or an equivalent allowance. Top up, subject to assessment.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.

I am age:	16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)	16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)	16/17 and have left care (Relevant)	16-24 (Qualifying) <sup>1</sup>	18/19/20 (Former Relevant)	21-24 on an agreed course of education or training <sup>2</sup>	21-24 <sup>3</sup>
and entitled to:							
<b>Rent in Advance, Deposit and Fees for First Private Tenancy</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Yes. At affordable rent and when social housing is not available. If you choose to live with a partner we would only pay 50%.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Council Tax</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	We will pay your council tax liability.	We will pay your Council tax liability.	We will pay your Council tax liability.
<b>Passport and Birth Certificate</b>	Full cost of first passport, birth certificate and any other form of identification, such as a provisional driving licence.	Full cost of first passport, birth certificate and any other form of identification, such as a provisional driving licence.	Full cost of first passport, birth certificate and any other form of identification, such as a provisional driving licence.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Full cost of first passport, birth certificate and any other form of identification, such as a provisional driving licence.	Full cost of first passport, birth certificate and any other form of identification, such as a provisional driving licence.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Essential Clothing Payments</b>	Yes. Provided by carers.	Yes. Up to £100 summer and £100 winter. A voucher of your choice will be provided (plus up to £150 for education or work-related clothing)	Yes. Up to £100 summer and £100 winter. A voucher of your choice will be provided. (plus up to £150 for education or work-related clothing).	Dependent on Needs Assessment	Yes. Up to £100 summer and £100 Winter. A voucher of your choice will be provided. (plus up to £150 for education or work-related clothing)	Up to £150 for education or work-related clothing	Dependent on Needs Assessment

I am age:	16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)	16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)	16/17 and have left care (Relevant)	16-24 (Qualifying) <sup>1</sup>	18/19/20 (Former Relevant)	21-24 on an agreed course of education or training <sup>2</sup>	21-24 <sup>3</sup>
and entitled to:							
<b>Maternity</b>	£250 in third trimester in addition to state benefit entitlement. This is for only your first child.	£250 in third trimester in addition to state benefit entitlement. This is only for your first child.	£250 in third trimester in addition to state benefit entitlement. This is only for your first child.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	£250 in third trimester in addition to state benefit entitlement. This is only for your first child.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Further Education Course Fees</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Travel Fares to College</b>	Fares paid if not covered by the college bursary.	Fares paid if not covered by the college bursary.	Fares paid if not covered by the college bursary.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Fares paid if not covered by the college bursary.	Fares paid if not covered by the college bursary.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Travel Fares up to First Month of Employment</b>	Fares paid.	Fares paid.	Fares paid.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Fares paid.	Not applicable.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Travel around your community</b>	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Travel to Visit Family or Significant Adults</b>	Bi-annual fares. Upper limit dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Bi-annual fares. Upper limit dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Bi-annual fares. Upper limit dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Bi-annual fares. Upper limit dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.

I am age:	16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)	16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)	16/17 and have left care (Relevant)	16-24 (Qualifying) <sup>1</sup>	18/19/20 (Former Relevant)	21-24 on an agreed course of education or training <sup>2</sup>	21-24 <sup>3</sup>
and entitled to:							
<b>University Bursary</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	£2,000.00 split into equal instalments (annually) through the duration of the course.	£2,000.00 split into equal instalments (annually) through the duration of the course.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>College or University Related Equipment</b>	Via the college bursary. Top up dependent on Needs Assessment.	Via the college bursary. Top up dependent on Needs Assessment.	Via the college bursary. Top up dependent on Needs Assessment.	Via the college bursary. Top up dependent on Needs Assessment.	Via the college bursary or trust funding. Top up dependent on Needs Assessment.	Via trust funding. Top up, dependent on Needs Assessment.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Setting Up Home Allowance</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Part of the Setting Up Home Allowance may be made available.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	If living independently and your eighteenth birthday is after 01 April 2023 <sup>4</sup> maximum £3,000 for household fixtures and fittings, first television licence, insurance and locks, fire safety, decorating allowance, initial food and cleaning products. Available up to age twenty-five years.	If living independently and your eighteenth birthday is after 01 April 2023 <sup>4</sup> maximum £3,000 for household fixtures and fittings, first television licence, insurance and locks, fire safety, decorating allowance, initial food and cleaning products. Available up to age twenty-five years.	If living independently and your 18th birthday is after 01 April 2023 <sup>4</sup> maximum £3,000 for household fixtures and fittings, first television licence, insurance, locks, fire safety, decorating, initial food and cleaning products. Available up to age 25 years.

<b>I am age:</b>	<b>16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)</b>	<b>16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)</b>	<b>16/17 and have left care (Relevant)</b>	<b>16-24 (Qualifying)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>18/19/20 (Former Relevant)</b>	<b>21-24 on an agreed course of education or training<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>21-24<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>and entitled to:</b>							
<b>Birthday and Festival Money</b>	Yes. Provided by carers.	Yes. At birthday and festival allowance rates. This includes Eligible 16 and 17 year olds living at home with a parent.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	No financial support is available.	£75.00 for eighteenth and twenty-first birthdays. £50.00 at ages nineteen and twenty. Festival £75.00 (£100 if a parent) and a hamper.	No financial support is available.	No financial support is available.
<b>University Vacation Accommodation</b>	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Yes. At the equivalent of the local housing allowance rate.	Yes. At the equivalent of the local housing allowance rate, unless returning to Staying Put or supported lodgings.	Yes. At the equivalent of the local housing allowance rate, unless returning to a Staying Put arrangement or supported lodgings.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Readiness for Work, Apprenticeships , Traineeships and Work Experience</b>	Essential equipment and clothing, clothing for interview, incentive vouchers for unpaid work, travel costs, lunch vouchers, course fees and exam certificates – dependent on Needs Assessment.	Essential equipment and clothing, clothing for interview, incentive vouchers for unpaid work, travel costs, lunch vouchers, course fees and exam certificates – dependent on Needs Assessment.	Essential equipment and clothing, clothing for interview, incentive vouchers for unpaid work, travel costs, lunch vouchers, course fees and exam certificates – dependent on Needs Assessment.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Essential equipment and clothing, clothing for interview, incentive vouchers for unpaid work, travel costs, lunch vouchers, course fees and exam certificates – dependent on Needs Assessment.	Essential equipment and clothing, clothing for interview, incentive vouchers for unpaid work, travel costs, lunch vouchers, course fees and exam certificates – dependent on Needs Assessment.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.

I am age:	16/17 living in foster or residential care (Eligible)	16/17 living in semi-independent accommodation (Eligible)	16/17 and have left care (Relevant)	16-24 (Qualifying) <sup>1</sup>	18/19/20 (Former Relevant)	21-24 on an agreed course of education or training <sup>2</sup>	21-24 <sup>3</sup>
and entitled to:							
<b>Immigration, Citizenship and Asylum Applications</b>	Asylum attracts Legal Aid. Immigration and citizenship funding if required.	Asylum attracts Legal Aid. Immigration and citizenship funding if required.	Asylum attracts Legal Aid. Immigration and citizenship funding if required.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Asylum attracts Legal Aid. Immigration and citizenship funding if required.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.	Dependent on Needs Assessment*.
<b>Participation Payments</b>	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.	£40.00 per day (vouchers) pro rata, plus travel and refreshments. Minimum payment of £20.00.

<sup>1</sup>We are unlikely to provide financial assistance to Qualifying young people, but you are entitled to request a Needs Assessment.

<sup>2</sup>If you started your course before the age of twenty-one but it continues beyond age twenty-one, any assistance as described in the Pathway Plan extends until the end of the course. If you stopped receiving a service from us at age twenty-one and you ask for support with education or training before age twenty-five, you are entitled to request a Needs Assessment.

<sup>3</sup>We are unlikely to provide financial assistance, but you are entitled to request a Needs Assessment.

<sup>4</sup>If your eighteenth birthday is before 01 April 2023, you will be entitled to a maximum of £2,000 setting up home allowance.



