



# Financial Procedures for young people leaving care

**Revised April 2023**

## 1. Introduction

These financial procedures should be read alongside Gloucestershire County Council's Leaving Care Policies which can be accessed on-line at: <http://gloucestershirechildcare.proceduresonline.com/>, Gloucestershire's care Leavers Strategy and Gloucestershire's Local Offer 2023 which can be accessed on line at: <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-young-people-and-families/care-leavers-offer/>, which sets out the overview and general principles by which the local authority will support young people leaving care.

These procedures are designed to assist those making financial decisions in respect of young people leaving care. They are also designed to give young people leaving care and their carers a transparent view of what support they can expect from Gloucestershire County Council.

The young people who are eligible for support under these procedures are:

- Young people defined as 'relevant' (16 or 17 years old) within the definitions of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.
- Young people defined as 'former relevant' 18-25
- Young people defined as 'qualifying' (16-21 or up to 24 years old) within the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Young people who are not eligible support for under these procedures are:

- Young people who are looked after on a respite care basis (less than four weeks), as they are not defined as eligible even where the total period aggregated is 13 weeks or more
- Relevant young people once they have returned home for a period of 6 months or more prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be eligible as qualifying young people.
- Young people aged 16 to 21 for whom the local authority has powers and duties but who fall outside of the definitions of the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.

Financial assistance to young people aged 16 and over who are leaving care falls into two categories:

- **Entitlement to provision**, which is laid down in statutory instruments and where there is a legal duty to make such provision
- **Discretionary assistance**, where the local authority as the corporate parent has the legal power to provide assistance, but not a legal duty.

The use of public money to support young people in and leaving care is a responsibility placed upon Gloucestershire County Council in its duty to act as a reasonable corporate parent.

This duty is one which the local authority takes seriously and will, therefore, endeavour to use public money to promote the positive transition young people are making from being a child in public care to being a young adult, with opportunities, aspirations, stability and support.

Financial decisions will be based upon statutory or discretionary entitlement as defined in Gloucestershire's local offer and individual assessed needs. Pathway Plans will outline the individual financial planning for young people based on assessment.

Young people have different needs, which change over time. Assessment and planning will be based on individual needs and young people will not be discriminated against due to their age, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, disability or status as a young parent.

Any payments made to young people because of an application to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board or money left in trust for a young person will be disregarded for the purposes of statutory entitlements. Any discretionary payments to young people will consider their income from other sources.

## Contents

• Introduction	Page 1/2
• Contents page	page 3/4
• Overview of statutory entitlements	Page 5/6
• Personal Allowance	Page 6/7
• Accommodation support for Relevant YP Working	Page 7-10
• Council Tax Exemption	Page 11/12
• Staying Put	Page 12/14
• Supported Lodgings Allowances	Page 14
• Rent Arrears	Page 16
• Setting Up Home Payments	Page 16-18
• Incentive and reward payments	Page 18
• Support with Higher Education	Page 18-20
• Further Education Financial Support	Page 21/22
• Training Courses Financial Support	Page 22
• Employment & Apprenticeship Financial Support	Page 22/23
• Birthdays and Significant Events	Page 23
• Supporting Contact with Family	Page 24
• Supporting Health Needs	Page 24/25
• Supporting Hobbies and Positive Activities	Page 25/26
• Support with Identification Documents	Page 26
• Support with Learning to Drive	Page 26
• Support with Clothing	Page 26
• Support for Migrants / British Citizenship	Page 27
• Emergency Payments	Page 27-29
• Appendix One — Council Tax Exemption Request	Page 30-33

- Appendix Two – Suitable Accommodation Page 34-36
- Appendix Three – Higher Education Funding Form Page 37/38
- Appendix Four – Application for Digital Inclusivity & Driving Lessons Page 39-41

## 2. Overview of statutory entitlements:

The table below shows the minimum entitlement that Gloucestershire County Council has a duty to provide.

Type of financial support	Relevant	Former Relevant	Qualifying
Personal Allowance	<p>Yes</p> <p>A personal allowance paid in cash or kind, equivalent to current level of Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance.</p> <p>NB If in full time employment, this should be considered, and the amount payable be adjusted.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>(if at university a bursary and contribution to living costs is paid based on 3 years of study)</p>	No
Accommodation Costs	<p>Yes, although a young person is likely to need to pay a service charge if they live in supported accommodation</p>	No	No
Staying Put Arrangement	No	<p>Yes</p> <p>(Where the young person &amp; the foster carer agree this should be supported unless the local authority consider that the staying put arrangement is not consistent with the welfare of the former relevant child.)</p>	No

Higher education Bursary	No	Yes	No
Vacation Time Accommodation support for FE & HE	Yes When young person is unable to remain in their term time accommodation during vacations	Yes When young person is unable to remain in their term time accommodation during vacations	Yes When young person is unable to remain in their term time accommodation during vacations

### 3. Personal allowances for 16/17-year-old Relevant Children

Each young person's situation at the age of 16 or 17 is different and every individual and Pathway Plan should reflect the needs and circumstances of the young person, including their financial situation and plans.

The contribution that young people aged 16 and 17 years might make towards to their accommodation and maintenance will be means tested, but in most cases it is expected that young people aged 16/17 will not be making a contribution directly unless they are receiving a personal allowance equivalent to Universal Credit, because they are living in semi-independent or their own accommodation as a relevant young person, in which case they should be contributing to service charges or utility bills .

The overall financial support levels for relevant young people will not be below the level of benefit support to which they would be entitled if they were not a relevant care leaver. The level of payment of personal allowances will be subject to annual review, adjusted according to inflation and national benefit award.

Income that will be disregarded, in terms of the statutory entitlement, when young people are aged 16/17 and in receipt of any of the following:

- Money from any Criminal Injuries Compensation award
- Any inheritance monies
- Bursary payments for further education (formerly Education Maintenance Allowance)

If a young person is in receipt of a bursary payment (formerly Education Maintenance Allowance) because they are in further education, this will be disregarded for overall income maintenance purposes, as this is viewed by Gloucestershire County Council as a support and incentive payment for young

people attending education and should be used to support the young person's learning.

The financial arrangements for young people aged 16/17 must be clearly specified within the young person's Pathway Plan.

Costs will be met by the local authority for:

- The equivalent of a personal allowance, in cash or in kind, matching the Universal Credit level commensurate with the young person's age and needs.
- Specific needs in relation to culture, religion, language or disability that are not met by other benefits available to them;
- Other expenses relating to the support of family and social relationships, such as contact with family and friends and reasonable transport costs on public transport, based on assessed need.

### **Relevant young people who are living in semi-independent accommodation**

The 11+ Service will usually arrange payment of the personal allowance into the young person's bank account. Workers are required to complete a Bank details form with the young person and return the signed and verified form to their team administrator. Requests for payments to start directly into a bank account should allow two weeks for set up and processing, alternative arrangements for cash payments should be in place during this time.

Where a young person is not able to open a bank account due to their immigration status for example, the 11+ service will make payments directly to young people on a weekly basis where possible these will be loaded onto a pre-paid e-card.

Young people must be made aware that they are responsible for paying for any service charges relating to their accommodation from their own income, this information needs to be included within the Pathway Plan.

Where young people are finding it challenging to budget their money, weekly payments can be divided up into smaller amounts, and payments can be made via E-Card cash or in kind.

Where this is the case, proportions of the allowance can be set aside by the 11+ Service for payment directly to the accommodation provider for service charges.

If this decision is made, young people should be involved in the discussions and be made fully aware of the reasons for the decision. This should be regularly reviewed, and the agreed appropriate action recorded in the Pathway Plan.

### **Income from employment for 16 /17 year olds**

Young people aged 16/17 who are relevant and are in full-time employment should be getting paid at least the minimum wage level for their age group, which is £5.28 per hour.

Relevant young people who are on apprenticeships will be supported to ensure income matches the minimum wage. Gloucestershire County Council will support young people by paying a monthly top up, so they receive the equivalent of the minimum wage for their age group.

Where a Relevant young person aged 16/17 is in full time employment (i.e. over 30 hours per week), their income after deductions will easily exceed the level of the personal allowance. The local authority therefore has no duty to pay a maintenance allowance.

Young people in part time work (i.e. under 30 hours per week) who are relevant will only have their personal allowance reduced if they are earning over £25.00 per week more than Universal Credit rate. After this amount is reached, their Personal Allowance will be reduced by £1.00 for every additional £2.00 they earn. This is to incentivise work as an option and for young people to gain valuable experience.

For example: young person works 24 hours a week, and is paid £5.80 per hour. Their income is £139.20 per week. Of this amount, the £67.20 + £25.00 = £92.20 is disregarded (equivalent of Universal Credit 2023/24). They keep the rest of their income which is an additional £47.20 but their personal allowance from the local authority will reduce by £23.60.

## **Exceptions to income maintenance duties of Gloucestershire County Council**

### Lone parents or sick or disabled young people

Lone parents and children with disabilities will continue to be eligible for benefits including Job Seekers Allowance and any other benefits due to them because of their disability or parental status. Note that they will not, however, be eligible for Housing Benefit until they are 18 so will still require assistance with accommodation costs.

### Young people who return home

Eligible young people who have returned home to live with a parent or person with Parental Responsibility for a period of 6 months or more will no longer have the legal status of relevant child, but entitlement still remains to advice, guidance and support as a qualifying young person under Section 24 of the Children Act 1989. If the placement at home breaks down before the young person is 18, he / she will become a relevant young person again.



Young people who return to live with their parents do not receive a maintenance allowance from Gloucestershire County Council. The parents are expected to claim Child Benefit and the young people are expected to engage in a course of education or training which renders them entitled for post 16 Child Benefit and an education bursary or to seek employment. Other benefits may be able to be claimed and the Social Worker or Personal Adviser must advise the parents and young person about this prior to them moving in together.

#### Young people in custody

If a young person is on remand or serving a custodial sentence they will be fully maintained within the institution and so will not be entitled to income maintenance from Gloucestershire County Council. We wish to support young people to maintain contact with family and friends whilst in custody and will pay a monthly allowance of £20 to support telephone contact. Young people in custody may have the opportunity to earn pocket money/weekly allowance whilst in custody. Requests for exceptional payments for items such as clothing and educational equipment will be considered in line with current procedures for other young people who are leaving care and will be based on need.

#### Qualifying young people

Care leavers qualifying for advice and assistance under Section 24(2) of the Children Act 1989 are able to claim benefits for income maintenance from the Department for Work and Pensions. Gloucestershire County Council will use its discretion in determining any additional financial assistance based on individual need or in exceptional circumstances.

### **What happens when a young person becomes 18**

The local authority will cease to be responsible for paying the income maintenance and accommodation costs for relevant young people when they reach the age of 18.

Where a young person needs to claim benefits, the Personal Adviser will work with the young person at least 3 months before they are 18, to ensure they maximise their income and support them to make a claim for Universal Credit and other benefits, if they are eligible for these.

No ongoing payment of a personal allowance will be continued beyond the age of 18 years and 2 weeks, unless this has been approved at the appropriate officer level (Service Manager or Head of Service), and is outlined in detail within the Pathway Plan.

Gloucestershire County Council will not promote or assume young people's dependence on state benefits and where young people are not taking up employment, education or training, will work to assist and support them to do so.

Gloucestershire County Council may use its discretion to offer some financial support to those young people in further and higher education in particular circumstances, (see Sections 7 & 8) as well as provide a bursary payment for those in higher education.

## 4. Accommodation costs

### Accommodation costs for 16/17 year olds

#### Payment of rent:

There is a duty to pay for the cost of accommodation for all young people who are aged 16 /17 and relevant. No relevant young person can make a claim for Housing Benefit until the age of 18 and all elements of accommodation must be funded.

The rent costs will be covered in total by the local authority unless the young person is in full time employment or a training course. The local authority will cover in full the first month's rent if a young person aged 16/17 is in full time employment or awaiting payment of a training allowance. After the first month, the calculation for contributions to rent is as follows:

Where the young person's income is above the level of Universal Credit, which for 2023 is £67.20, Gloucestershire County Council's will only start to expect a contribution to rent when a young person's income exceeds £147.44 per week. This is the amount a young person would have to earn based on current benefit levels of £67.20 per week + £25.00 disregard = £92.20 to lose all of their personal allowance entitlement. A further £1 will be deducted from rent payments for every additional £2 earned over £147.44. For example, if a young person works 40 hours per week and earns £6.20 per hour their weekly income will be £248, £61.22 + £25.00 = £86.22 would be disregarded before their personal allowance was reduced, when they earn £147.22 they would no longer receive any personal allowance and further earnings would reduce by £1 for every £2 earned.  $£248.00 - £147.44 = £100.56$  at £1 for each £2 earned a deduction from the rent payment of £50.28 would be made and Gloucestershire County Council will continue to top up to the level of the full rent.

Payment of service charges: young people aged 16/17 who are relevant and living in semi-independent or unregulated supported accommodation must make a reasonably realistic contribution to the costs of living in this accommodation. This is another aspect of preparing them for living by themselves.

A contribution to service charges, including heating, lighting and water rate costs and use of telephone must be paid for from the young person's Personal Allowance. The level of contribution made to accommodation costs should not increase for a young person who is getting additional income as a result of being in receipt of a bursary for further education (formerly Education Maintenance Allowance), as this is an

incentive payment for the young person in further education and should be used to support the educational course. For a young person on benefits this contribution should be £10 per week.

### **Planning for when young person is 18**

All social workers and Personal Advisers must address the issue of affordability of accommodation when the young person reaches the age of 18. When planning with the young person their future accommodation and housing related support needs the Pathway Plan will address arrangements for how the accommodation is to be afforded once the young person reaches 18. This may include:

- A pre tenancy determination of future Housing Benefit based on the Local Housing Allowance rate for the type of accommodation.
- Any support costs that can be met via Supporting People arrangements

### **Young people aged 18 and over**

The local authority will cease to have a duty to pay for accommodation costs for relevant young people when they reach the age of 18 and become former relevant.

One exception to this is, where needed, the payment of rent for suitable accommodation for those former relevant who are in higher or further education and have no accommodation during vacation periods (*See Section 7 – Support with Higher Education and Section 8 - Support with Further Education*). Other exceptions where discretion may be used would include a former UASC who is unable to access public funds but still has a current asylum claim or appeal being considered.

Where young people approaching the age of 18 will need to claim Universal Credit, the Personal Adviser will support them to prepare a claim in advance of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to reduce unnecessary delays in payments.

Where it is deemed that a young person aged 18 and over may need to continue to live in accommodation with a high level of support, the cost of which will not be covered in full by payment of Housing Benefit, and Supporting People services, the full financial implications for the local authority must be made clear to Head of Service / Service Manager prior to any discussions with commissioning or 16+ panel. Any decision to continue to make payments from Gloucestershire County Council's budgets will be at the discretion of the local authority and be reviewed regularly. In addition, Adults' Services must be fully consulted where there is a possibility that the young person may need Social Care support beyond the age of 18.

## **Council Tax Exemption**

Care leavers who are in full or part time employment aged 18 – 21 who are liable for council tax on a property where the council tax bill is in their name will be eligible for a council tax reduction. Where a property is solely occupied by a care leaver 100% discount will be awarded, where the council tax bill is in joint names a 50% discount will be awarded. The care leaver discretionary discount will be awarded after statutory discounts, exemptions; disability discount and local council tax support have been claimed.

Where a care leaver is living outside of Gloucestershire they will still be eligible for support with their council tax in line with the support they would receive if living in Gloucestershire. Where a care leaver is unable to access support via a local scheme the leaving care service will cover the costs in line with our policy, following receipt of council tax liabilities, payments will be made directly to the care leaver every 2 months.

See Appendix One for further information on the council tax reduction for care leavers and Council Tax Exemption Request Form.

## **Staying Put**

It is recognised that many looked after children, like other young people, should be able to remain living with their carers if this meets their needs. Gloucestershire County Council promotes this ambition and supports Staying Put as a way of enabling young people to remain with their foster carers post 18.

The reasons for considering a staying put arrangement is often linked to education though this is not a requirement, for example a young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday falls early in the academic year or the current course will last until the following July. A young person may be aspiring to attend university and wish to retain the support of former foster carers whilst completing further education. The staying put arrangement will allow stability of their living arrangements and for young people to continue to receive support to complete their chosen course. Though these arrangements are often for a reasonably short duration and often planned until the young person completes planned further education. Plans are individual as is the length of time a staying put arrangement is required, these arrangements are not ordinarily financially supported past a young person's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. There are some circumstances where an extension past the 21<sup>st</sup> birthday will be considered, for example a young person becomes 21 before the end of their education course. Agreement for extension beyond 21<sup>st</sup> birthday should be sought from Head of Service - Integrated Placements Commissioning

Following the young person's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday the placement is no longer deemed a foster care placement, it becomes a 'Staying Put' arrangement, the legal basis on which they occupy the property (former foster home) changes (the legal term is that

the young person becomes an 'excluded licensee' lodging in the home). In terms of income tax and national insurance regulations the placement is deemed a vulnerable adult placement. Carers must be made aware of the Income Tax and National Insurance regulations relating to post eighteen placements that are set out in the HMRC Help Sheet 236 updated in April 2022.

The arrangements outlined within the HMRC help sheet HS236 Qualifying care relief: foster carers, adult placement carers, kinship carers and staying put carers (2020) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-hs236-self-assessment-helpsheet/hs236-qualifying-care-relief-foster-carers-adult-placement-carers-kinship-carers-and-staying-put-carers-2020>) refer to 'Staying put care', The Income Tax free allowance consist of two elements:

- Firstly, a fixed amount per foster care or 'Staying Put' household per year (for 2022/23 this is set at £10,000). Secondly, an additional amount per week per adult £250 per week.

The carer/s will receive a staying put allowance of £220.00 per week. The financial support to the young person will change as they will no longer be a child in the care of the local authority and will be eligible to claim state benefits in certain circumstances. A Leaving Care Personal Advisor will advise the young person about benefits they may be entitled to claim. For a young person in further education they would be eligible to claim benefits. In this case the staying put allowance to the carer would be made up from:

- Housing element – towards the cost of rent (usually between £90 - £100 per week)
- Young person's contribution – towards the cost of food, gas & electric (usually £20 if on benefits)
- Local authority – towards the cost of the support (remainder of cost difference usually £100 - £110 per week)

Local Housing Allowance / Housing Benefit payments made for a young person may affect any means tested benefit that the carer/s are receiving, particularly Housing Benefit/Local Housing Allowance, Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance and will need to be declared to the Department of Work and Pensions and specialist advice sought. As a guide a carer providing a staying put arrangement where meals or food are provided would use the following to calculate the impact of the payment/s on the carers benefits is the 'Income from Boarder' rules – The first £20 disregarded and 50% of the remainder.

- Example, carer received £220.00 per week, £110.00 is paid by the local authority under section 23C, the amount taken into consideration by the DWP will be the remaining £110.00. Of the £110.00, £20.00 and a further £45.00 (50%) is disregarded, therefore the carer/s will be deemed to have a £45.00

per week income from the 'Staying Put' arrangement and will lose £45.00 of their benefit. This arrangement would apply to each young person if two or more young people aged eighteen or over remain in the home. However the local authority (GCC) will in these circumstances make a compensatory payment of £45.00 from section 23C (that would be disregarded by the DWP) which would negate the loss of the carer's benefit.

Additional guidance is set out in the publication "Staying Put" Arrangements for Care Leavers aged 18 and above to stay on with their former foster carers. DfE, DWP and HMRC Guidance May 2013. This is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-put-arrangements-for-care-leavers-aged-18-years-and-above>

Specialist financial, benefit and tax advice should be sought in all circumstances to ensure that carers are fully aware of the implications of providing a home to a young person over the age of eighteen.

### **Supported Lodgings**

Supported Lodgings scheme remains in place for young people living in family setting and receiving support where the provider is not a former foster carer. The current rate of support for a Supported lodgings arrangement is £220.00 per week.

### **Supported Housing**

If a young person is aged 18 or over and is in full time employment, the Personal Adviser must work with the young person to calculate the financial implications of employment in relation to Housing Benefit entitlement and any costs of support met through Supporting People arrangements.

If they are not able to claim the full amount of Housing Benefit as a result of their income, the shortfall of the rent element will need to be covered through the young person's income. In the short term the Personal Adviser should contact the local District Council and discuss the possibility of topping up the rent through use of Discretionary Housing Payments.

The costs of support within an accommodation based Supporting People service can act as a disincentive to taking up employment. Personal Advisers will need to assess with young people and providers of such accommodation and support, the costs, likely level of contribution needed and determine if it is viable for the young person to continue to live in supported accommodation whilst in employment.

Where young people do secure employment while living in supported accommodation, they can apply for assistance with paying their rent through the 'Step Forwards programme'. If agreed this will be a short-term arrangement whilst seeking alternative affordable accommodation. Initially for 6 months with any extension to this requiring evidence that clear plans to access alternative



accommodation for example via Homeseeker Plus are progressing. Support will be based on a financial assessment to calculate how much a young person can contribute up to the level of the local housing allowance.

### **Making payments of accommodation costs to landlords**

Where possible and appropriate, young people whose accommodation costs are funded in part or full by the local authority, will be paid into their own bank accounts and be expected to pay the landlord / landlady the element of contribution themselves.

Where there are concerns about a young person's ability to do this, due to lack of budgeting skills, learning difficulty / disability, substance misuse etc, the young person should be given every opportunity and help to develop these skills and calculated risks then be taken by Leaving Care Personal Advisors (with their manager's agreement) to pay directly to young people and monitor the results. It should be noted that failure to take such risks will only perpetuate many young people's lack of financial management and sense of financial dependence.

Where young people are claiming Housing Benefit / Universal Credit, the Personal Adviser should advise and if needed, make a recommendation on whether Housing element should be paid directly to the landlord.

### **Living with parents or someone with parental responsibility**

Gloucestershire County Council will not pay rent when a young person lives with a parent or someone with parental responsibility. This includes properties which are owned by the parent or person with parental responsibility, or a property where a young person may have a separate bedroom but shares communal facilities such as a bathroom or kitchen with a parent or person with parental responsibility for them.

### **Accommodation in the private rented sector**

Where a young person is likely to move into private rented accommodation, the 11 + service will work with housing colleagues from the local District Council to consider:

- Is sharing a house / flat a good or viable option for a young person?
- Is there a cashless bond scheme or a rent deposit scheme that the young person can access?
- Will the landlord accept a cashless bond as an alternative to a deposit for the property?
- The leaving care service will pay the rent in advance for the first move to independent accommodation.
- If the young person is claiming Housing Benefit, how quickly is this likely to come through?

- Should the Local Housing Allowance be paid to the young person, or would it be more prudent to pay this directly to the landlord, at least to begin with?
- Young people leaving care are now exempt from the Shared Room Rate until they reach the age of 25. Once the young person reaches the age of 25, if they are not sharing accommodation and are claiming Housing Benefit, is the rent likely to be affordable?

See Appendix Two for a further definition of suitable accommodation

### **Rent arrears**

Where young people have built up rent arrears and are at risk of losing their accommodation as a result, Gloucestershire County Council will:

- Look at the circumstances which caused the arrears to build up
- Consider the affordability of the accommodation for the young person in the longer term
- Support the young person to negotiate a regular repayment with the landlord
- Look at the method of payment of rent to the landlord and if the young person is in receipt of Housing Benefit, consider a request of making direct payments to the landlord
- Discuss with the district Council the possibility of accessing Discretionary Housing Payment to assist with the eligible part of any rent arrears.
- Use discretion to make a contribution to reduce the level of arrears in order to maintain the young person's accommodation and avoid the risks of homelessness. This decision can only be authorised by a senior manager.

## **5. Setting up home costs**

- We will support young people moving to independent accommodation with a Setting up Home Grant, the maximum total amount is £3000.
- The uplift to the setting up home grant came into effect on 1 April 2023. Our expectation is that all young people who receive their setting up home grant after that date should be entitled to £3,000. We recognise that some young people may have turned 18 prior to April 2023, but not received their setting up home grant at that point because, for example, they were in a Staying Put arrangement. In circumstances such as this, our expectation is that they will receive the £3,000 setting up home grant as they are moving into their first independent tenancy after the date that the setting up home grant was increased.
- Care leavers up to age 25 who received a £2,000 setting up home grant prior to April 2023 are not automatically entitled to an additional £1,000. Young people who received their setting up home grant prior to April 2023 were entitled to £2,000 at that point and we are not applying the uplift



retrospectively for those young people. If a young person who has spent all of their setting up home grant does need to replace an essential item this will be looked at via our care leavers panel to see if further assistance can be offered.

- Where young people have received part of their setting up home grant prior to 1 April 2023, we will use some discretion, if the young person has spent more than 50% of their setting up home grant as above we will not award £3,000 but will look at any requests over the £2,000 via our care leavers panel. If a young person has spent less than 50% of their setting up home grant prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 we will apply the new higher level of £3,000 setting up home grant. Rent deposits will only be considered as part of setting up home payments if a young person has been unable to access a cashless bond scheme or rent deposit scheme. Where this happens a young person should be aware that any deposit would come directly back to them when they move.
- Young people leave care at different times and move into different sorts of accommodation, which means that not everyone will need all the equipment and furniture for a home at once. Some young people may get a small amount of setting up home money to begin with, because, for example, they don't need to furnish and equip a whole house/flat, only a bedroom, but they can request more financial support later on, when they do move into their own self-contained accommodation
- The 11 + Service will keep a detailed record of money paid to each young person within each financial year and the Personal Adviser will keep a record of payments to each young person in the 'Financial' section of the young person's case file.
- There is no set age for care leavers getting the setting up home grant, because young people will move on at different times and in different circumstances, money will not be given to care leavers after they have finished receiving a service from the 11 + Service at age 25.
- If a young person is going to live with a partner or share accommodation, there will not be an automatic assumption that the young person would only get 50% of the maximum amount available. The Personal Advisor will work with the young person to find out what they need, in terms of equipment and furniture and what essential items the other person/partner has. It is expected that the tenancy would be in both names and that it is jointly furnished. This should be taken into account when decisions are made regarding the amount of payment to be made.
- If a request is not considered essential (for example, a games console, or iPod) then it will be turned down.
- A setting up home payment will not normally be paid to young people returning home to a person with parental responsibility, but a part payment may be made for bedroom items such as bed and wardrobe, if the young person has not lived at home for some time.

- In most cases, the 11+ Service Personal Advisor or another person designated in their place (for example an ex-foster carer or a supported housing worker) should supervise the spending of any setting up home money. This is because it should be a learning exercise and the young person should be helped to achieve value for money, although this does not always mean buying the cheapest items.
- Second hand furniture and reconditioned electrical goods may be purchased, as long as they are certified as safe to use
- There are occasions when the young person's maturity is such that they may be able to spend the agreed money themselves. In these cases part payment can be released with the promise of the next payment when the young person returns with receipts for appropriate items.

### **Setting up home items for consideration:**

- TV licence for 1 year
- Household contents insurance for 1 year
- Health and safety items such as a door chain, spare keys, carbon monoxide and smoke detectors (where not fitted), fire blankets and basic first aid equipment.
- Carpets, floor coverings and curtains
- White goods" such as cooker, fridge and washing machine
- Lounge furniture
- Dining furniture
- Bedroom furniture
- Electrical items, such as TV, toaster, kettle, iron and Hoover
- Bathroom items
- Cleaning items & materials
- Bedding & linen
- Cooking utensils
- Cutlery & crockery
- Decorating materials etc
- Removal costs

This list is not exhaustive, and Pathway Plans should take account of individual circumstances when detailing support to be provided.

Young people can apply for a grant of up to £250 to support the first 12 months of Broadband when moving to independent living via the digital inclusivity fund. Personal advisers can submit a request to the care leavers panel for consideration.

## **6. Incentive and reward payments**

Rewards and incentives will be offered to young people in employment, education and training at the discretion of the local authority.

Where young people are able to claim a bursary payment (formerly Education Maintenance Allowance), this will be disregarded as income, for the purposes of any other income maintenance payment.

Leaving Care Workers can request a one-off payment of up to £50 if the young person has achieved a key milestone, milestones needs to be recorded as a goal in the pathway plan. The 11+ Managers will use their discretion to make a decision. The milestone will vary from individual to individual and should be a reflection of the “distance travelled” rather than a uniform benchmark of, for example, GCSE results. (I.e. 100% attendance on a training course for 6 weeks for a young person who has had poor attendance in school or college)

The type of reward or incentive will be agreed individually, but may include personal gifts, gift tokens or, where appropriate, a cash payment. A maximum of 4 incentive payments can be requested for a young person.

## **7. Support with Higher Education**

In accordance with the Children’s and Young Person’s Act 2008, Gloucestershire County Council will pay a one-off Higher Education Bursary to former relevant children who pursue a higher education course in accordance with their pathway plan. The figure for the bursary payment is currently £2,000. This will be paid as part of the enhanced financial support package given to young people attending Higher Education.

In order to access local authority funding, young people are expected to attend the university / college course teaching, in accordance with university / college regulations and comply with attendance and assessment requirements. Continued funding by the local authority of young people at university / college is dependent on their satisfactory attendance and performance.

### **Support with equipment for higher education courses:**

Young people will receive a generous bursary each year and this is intended to support living costs and help with the purchase of necessary equipment. The leaving care worker will also support young people to make grant applications to charitable organisations who also support care leavers in education.

### **Living and accommodation costs**

Young people will need to apply for other funds to support them with day to day living costs. These could include a combination of:

- Applying for student loans
- A Special Support Grant
- Applying to their university's Access to Learning Fund for additional assistance with costs. Many universities identify young people leaving care as a priority group for such funding

Young people should be encouraged to consider seeking part time employment to supplement their income, as many of their peers who are not care leavers will be doing.

In some circumstances students can apply for income related benefits and Housing Benefit. The Personal Adviser will need to work with the young person to find out if they are eligible. Lone parents disabled young people and those on low incomes undertaking part time higher education course may be able to apply for these benefits.

Gloucestershire County Council will pay the young person an enhanced bursary which will include a contribution towards their accommodation and living costs.

### Vacation Support

This support is only available where there is no possibility of the young person remaining in their term time accommodation. The arrangements a young person has for vacation accommodation will vary. Some may return to ex-foster carers or supported lodgings hosts. Others may choose to continue to live in shared accommodation, or rent a room just for the vacation period. The Personal Adviser should plan with the young person what their likely preferred accommodation will be for vacation periods.

Financial and practical support will be provided to help fund / arrange vacation accommodation. As a guide, the additional amount payable should be around the level of the single person's Local Housing Allowance level for the area where the young person wishes to spend their vacation.

The local authority will support young people to make arrangements with ex foster carers / supported lodgings hosts for vacation accommodation.

### Financial Assistance

Gloucestershire County Council will support young people in Higher Education with a £2,000 per year bursary based on 3-year degree programme to a maximum of

£6,000 and £50 per week to help with living costs up to maximum of £2,600 per year. This funding is payable over 3 years to a maximum of £7,800. The financial support a young person will receive for a Higher Education course taking account of the bursary and support towards living costs is a maximum of £13,800. Where applicable additional support / funds will be given to access vacation accommodation if a young person is unable to remain in their term time accommodation, this will be based on the local housing allowance rates. Where young people are intending to spread their studies over a longer period than 3 years they should discuss how best to arrange the financial support they receive from the local authority. Payment of local authority bursary and living costs can be made either termly, monthly or weekly as agreed with your leaving care worker and should be recorded in the Higher Education Funding Request Form (Appendix Three) and the Pathway Plan.

Gloucestershire County Council will assist young people with the costs of the Graduation ceremony including hiring of gowns and the purchase of two tickets for friends, family or previous carers.

Gloucestershire County Council recognises the difficulties young people face when they complete their chosen Degree programme. Young people often are faced with relocating and additional expenses associated with this, needing to search for employment or in some cases a wish to travel and experience other cultures prior to starting their career. To assist them with additional costs at the end of their study a one-off payment of £2,000 will be given in recognition of their achievement. This payment is only available if the degree is completed. This achievement bonus is only available once and is not payable on subsequent achievements at post graduate level.

Gloucestershire County Council will offer a one-off fixed bursary for young people who wish to progress beyond degree level for example to complete a masters. The bursary will be £2,000.

## **8. Support with Further Education**

Young people who are aged 16 or 17 and are eligible or relevant and are in further education will receive income maintenance and have their accommodation paid for by the local authority. Where they are able to claim a bursary payment (formerly the Education Maintenance Allowance) they should do so. This is to be disregarded by the local authority in terms of calculating the income maintenance a young person needs, and should be viewed as an incentive payment to support their educational course. Former relevant young people who remain estranged from their family can claim Income Support on the grounds of being in relevant education from their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

### Support with equipment for training courses:

Young people can request financial support for equipment in order to attend the training course. This may include a contribution towards IT equipment, specialist clothing, tools etc. It is at the discretion of the 11+ Service to agree to fund such equipment. Where funds can be accessed via other agencies or support schemes these should be exhausted first before making a request.

There is no automatic entitlement to, for example, a laptop / notebook. Each young person's situation will be looked at individually before a decision is made. Assistance to apply to local trusts / charities for funding will also be offered.

### Further education enrolment after the age of 21:

Where young people leaving care are considering enrolling on a full time (16 hours a week or more) further education course after their 21st birthday, they will need advice regarding which benefits they may be entitled to claim. Recent changes now allow for young people to retain benefits until they reach the age of 21.

Lone parents and disabled young people under certain circumstances may continue to be eligible to claim means tested welfare benefits whilst studying full time further education, even if they commence the course after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

If the young person is doing a course which is part time, the young person may be able to claim Universal Credit while studying, provided the course involves no more than 16 hours per week of guided study i.e. learning in the presence of a tutor. The young person must also be actively seeking work.

Where there is any shortfall in income or accommodation costs for those in further education over the age of 21 who are not able to claim benefits, the local authority will use its discretion in deciding whether to top up their income to the level of income support, and their accommodation costs. Young people should be encouraged to consider seeking part time employment to supplement their income, as many of their peers who are not care leavers will be doing.

All decisions regarding additional financial commitments for further education will be agreed through the Resource Panel and should be included in the Pathway Planning process.

Young people leaving care in further education can also apply to their college for help with equipment costs. Young people aged 21 or more who are doing either part time or full-time further education can apply to the college access fund for help with equipment.

### Vacation Support for young people in full time residential further education

This support is only available where there is no possibility of the young person remaining in their term time accommodation. The arrangements a young person has for vacation accommodation will vary. Some may return to ex-foster carers or supported lodgings hosts. Others may choose to live in shared accommodation, or rent a room just for the vacation period. The Personal Adviser should plan with the young person what their likely preferred accommodation will be for vacation periods.

Financial / practical support will be provided for vacation accommodation. As a guide, the amount payable should be around the level of the single person's Local Housing Allowance level for the area where the young person wishes to spend their vacation.

The local authority will support young people to make arrangements with ex foster carers / supported lodgings hosts for vacation accommodation.

## **9. Support with training courses**

Because each course is different and the level of training allowance will vary, Gloucestershire County Council will use its discretion to support young people, based on their individual circumstances.

The type of support offered may include:

- assistance to purchase any necessary equipment or specialist clothing
- payments for taking tests if required
- a reward on completion of the course
- travel costs

## **10. Support with employment / Apprenticeships**

Care leavers will be supported when moving into employment of their choice.

Costs may be met by Gloucestershire County Council for:

- Minimum living costs for the first month or until the first wages are paid
- Rent costs for the first month or until the first wages are paid
- Specified clothing / uniform
- Any necessary equipment
- Public transport from accommodation to employment for first month
- The cost of one professional license or membership of a professional body

Personal Advisers will advise young people about the minimum wage and ensure that they are being paid according to their legal entitlement.

Former relevant young people who are on apprenticeships will be supported to ensure income matches the minimum wage. Gloucestershire County Council will support young people by paying a monthly top up so they receive the equivalent of the minimum wage for their age group.

## **11. Birthdays and significant event costs**

Care leavers will receive a birthday present and card from their Personal Adviser within 11+ Service on their birthday.

Young people can continue to receive a birthday present and card until they are 21 years old, as long as contact with them is maintained to this age. If the whereabouts of a young person is known or they remain open to the Local Authority until the age of 25, then a birthday card will be given or sent.

The value of the present for 18th and 21st birthdays should not exceed £80.00. The value of a present for other birthdays up to the age of 21 should not exceed £35.00. It is at the discretion of the Personal Adviser to decide whether or not to give a shop/book token as a present, or to surprise the young person with a gift.

Best practice would be to purchase a present for the young person, if a Leaving Care Worker wants to give cash as a present approval is required from their manager.

The Personal Adviser can take the young person out for a meal on their Birthday up to the age of 25. This can be up to £60.00 in total (£30.00 per person) for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday and £40.00 (£20.00 per person) for other Birthdays. Alcohol cannot be purchased with public money. A young person can request this funding for an activity if they would prefer not to go out for a meal.

For Christmas and other religious celebrations for care leavers up to the age of 21 we will purchase a gift up to the value of £35.00. Where young people are also parents living with their child/ren up to the age of 21 we will purchase a gift for their child up to the value of £20. If the whereabouts of a young person is known or they remain open to the Local Authority until the age of 25, then a Christmas card will be given or sent.

## **12. Supporting contact with family**

Should contact with a family member have a cost implication due to distance and necessary travel arrangements, the local authority will consider paying the cost of public transport (but not private hire vehicles).

If contact with a family member is of a significant nature, due to a special event (such as a wedding, birthday party or significant religious event) or because contact is not



frequent, the young person may request a contribution from Gloucestershire County Council to assist with the occasion.

This may be, for example, the cost of a meal in a restaurant of up to £20.00, taking part in a leisure activity or buying of a small present. No alcohol or tobacco can be funded through public money.

If a family member dies, the young person may receive support for the funeral from the local authority. This can include financial support for transport to the funeral and other items such as flowers.

If a young person has a mentor that is recognised by Gloucestershire County Council as acting in this capacity, the costs of mentoring, in terms of travel, refreshments and leisure activities undertaken can be paid for by the Local Authority. Any events planned which will be relatively costly (over £20.00) need to be agreed with the mentor and an 11+ Manager in advance.

### **13. Support with Health needs**

Young people who are aged 16, 17 and 18 and who are undertaking full time education or training courses will generally be exempt from the majority of NHS health charges. Exemptions include:

- NHS prescription,
- Dental charges
- Sight tests (free to young people under nineteen and undertaking full time education).

For other young people aged 16/17 who are not undertaking full time education or training courses and who receive financial support from Gloucestershire County Council, there are arrangements in place for claiming help with health costs. Such young people will be fast-tracked to help through the NHS Low Income Scheme. They will need to fill in either a short claim form HC1 (SC) or full HC1 form. The form should then be sent off in the envelope provided. It will be dealt with immediately on receipt and an NHS exemption from charges certificate (HC2) for full help sent to the young person.

Young people aged over eighteen who are being supported by the local authority and do not automatically qualify for an exemption, (for example, young people being financially supported to undertake education courses) should complete a HC1 form and submit the form together with information from the local authority about the level of support. Young people will then be sent an NHS full exemption from charges certificate (HC2) or a partial exemption from charges certificate (HC3) depending on their level of income.

The 11+ service will hold copies of the HC1 (SC) and full HC1 form, but they can also be obtained from Jobcentre Plus offices, NHS hospitals and from some doctors, dentists and opticians.

The NHS Forms order line on 0845 610 1112 or by email from the following address: [nhsforms@spsl.uk.com](mailto:nhsforms@spsl.uk.com)

The exemption certificates will last for 12 months or until the young person's 18th birthday, whichever is longer.

Single parents and young people who are sick or disabled and in receipt of Income Support or Employment & Support Allowance, will be exempt from NHS prescription, dental charges and sight tests charges by virtue of their Income Support or Employment & Support Allowance claim.

Information about HC11 'Help with health costs?' is also available at

<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HealthCosts/1558.aspx>

Gloucestershire County Council will use its discretion in whether to provide any additional financial contributions towards meeting young people's health needs. An example of the type of support offered is additional money to top up the basic amount available through the NHS to buy glasses. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis and will be made by the Resource Panel up to a maximum of £100 in any two financial years. Support with transport costs to attend appointments particularly where frequent appointments are needed will be supported.

## **14. Support with hobbies, cultural , sport and other Leisure activities**

Gloucestershire County Council will use its discretion to support young people to pursue hobbies, or sporting and other leisure activities, where these are identified in the Pathway Plan as being of significant to the well being of the young person.

When not available from other sources, costs may be met in part for leisure and cultural activities beneficial to a young person's personal development from the local authority.

All activities should be reasonable in costs and length and the ability and dedication of the care leaver towards the completion of the activity should be considered before providing any funding for this purpose.

### **Support with identification documents**

Gloucestershire County Council will pay for a passport and a copy of a birth certificate if required by young people leaving care. The need for these documents

should be checked at the care plan review prior to the young person's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. However, if the young person reaches the age of 11 or over without these documents, then these will be paid for by the 11+ Service.

### **Access to records**

Support will be offered to assist a care leaver to access their records, this can be from the leaving care worker or from an independent advocate.

### **Driving lessons**

Gloucestershire County Council recognises that young people's employability is likely to increase if they are able to drive.

If a young person has been volunteering, attending training, college or employment they may request financial help with learning to drive. The local authority can use its discretion to assist in full or in part with the following costs:

- Payment for a provisional licence
- The cost of first driving theory test (check with instructor that ready)
- The cost of first practical driving test (check with instructor that ready)
- Young people can apply for a £250 grant towards the costs of driving lessons, to be able to access this support young people must be able to show they can afford to continue driving lessons.

### **Clothing payments**

Gloucestershire County Council will assist young people with clothing in the following circumstances:

- When a young person is pregnant
- When a young person due to an emergency needs clothes (for example fire / flood etc.)
- When a young person needs clothing that cannot be purchased as standardised item and consequently costs are significantly increased.
- When a young person has no suitable clothing for job interview or other significant event.

### **Support for migrants and asylum seekers**

If you have a legal right to stay in the UK, you will be considering making an application for indefinite leave to remain (ILR) once your refugee status expires. We support your bid to get the permanent right to live in the UK. The majority of people are able to access legal aid to fund the application. Be patient as it takes the Home Office around six months to decide. Most young people are able to get legal aid to support this process, if you are not able to access legal aid we will consider a

contribution towards your costs on a case by case basis and requires approval from a senior management and resource panel.

**British Citizenship** The pinnacle of settling in the UK is getting British Citizenship. If you have this, you will have all the same rights as anyone who was born in the UK, including the right to vote and the right to get a passport. Where possible applications for British citizenship should be made before a young person reaches the age of 18, where this has not been possible financial support with the cost of your British citizenship application will be offered up to the age of 25.

### **Emergency payments**

If a young person (18-21) is seeking some emergency payment or support in kind, decisions will be made on a case by case basis. We will only consider emergency payments / support for care leavers over the age of 21 in exceptional circumstances.

In the first instance, where young people are in receipt of benefit or eligible they should be advised by the 11+ service to approach the local authority for assistance via the Welfare Fund.

Payments or support can be considered for:

- Personal allowance – up to 2 weeks, which can be at maximum up to level of Universal Credit, whilst awaiting benefits if proof is provided that benefits have been applied for.
- Food and toiletries, assistance with fuel costs gas / electricity, where evidence of need
- Travel costs where urgency and need has been evidenced and where it is impractical to send a travel warrant, the value of travel will be sent
- Clothing items where urgency and need has been evidenced

The above list is not exhaustive.

In all instances professional judgment is needed to reduce the level of repeat dependency. Leaving Care Workers will encourage young people to learn from mistakes, suggest ways to avoid emergency situations arising and encourage take up offers of budgeting skills. Gloucestershire County Council will only support care leavers with emergency assistance 4 times in any rolling six months.

### **Payment methods**

Young people report that the difference between living in care and living independently is difficult to manage for a number of reasons, one of which is the financial difference, which many young people are not prepared for.

Young people who are still looked after, in foster care or residential care, but have left Year 11 of school, should be encouraged by their foster carer(s), social workers, support workers and 11+ Personal Adviser to manage money effectively as part of developing their life skills.

Young people should be encouraged to save and to have control over some elements of their finances.

### **Payment into bank accounts:**

Where young people are receiving regular payments, for example, a Personal Allowance or Incentive payments, these should be made directly into a young person's bank account, unless there are clear reasons why this should not take place.

If a young person does not have an account, the 11+ Leaving Care Personal Adviser should assist the young person in opening one. Bank account details and a sort code will be required by the finance section to set up direct (BACS) payments into the young person's account.

The young person may require a number of forms of identification including photo identification and a letter or reference confirming their current address. Where young people do not have the necessary identification their 11+ Personal Advisers will assist them to obtain the necessary identification. When the young person is in receipt of a personal allowance or benefit then the financial cost of providing this identification should be covered by the 11+ Service.

Where there is a delay in setting up a young person's bank account or in exceptional circumstances where a young person is assessed as not being able to maintain a bank account, prepaid card can be used. In the latter, such arrangements may be most appropriate when a young person has poor self-management skills, a chaotic lifestyle or problems with drugs and alcohol.

Exceptionally, consideration may be given to making part payments direct to young people in vouchers with at least £20 in cash. This method of payment must be specified in the Pathway Plan and reviewed regularly for suitability.

Reasons may include the young person having a substance misuse problem or a gambling problem. The risk of paying money into a bank account should be weighed against the risk of not giving responsibility to a young person at a critical stage of their life. Young people should be involved in discussions about such dilemmas, as a good parent would involve their child in such a discussion. The agreed outcome and directions for payments; should then be recorded as a finance activity on the ICS system.

## Appendix One

### Council Tax Reduction for Care Leavers

#### 1. Background

The government made recommendations in its care leavers strategy “Keep on Caring” published in July 2016, that local authorities should consider exempting care leavers from council tax, using their existing discretionary powers under Section 13a of the local Government Finance Act 1992. Many Councils have since introduced discounts for care leavers.

The 6 Gloucestershire District Councils (billing authorities) and Gloucestershire County Council have worked together to agree a common council tax discount scheme for Care Leavers from April 2019.

Discounts made using this power have to be funded by the billing authority. Gloucestershire County Council, by agreement, will fund its share of the cost of any Care Leavers discounts proportionate to its share of the council tax.

#### 2. Legal Provision

Billing authorities have discretion under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to reduce the amount of council tax payable for individuals, or for classes of council taxpayer. This includes the power to reduce the amount payable to nil.

This provision is separate to and distinct from the Council Tax support scheme which is made under Section 13A(1)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It allows the Council to reduce the amount payable after all statutory discounts and exemptions and local council tax support.

#### 3. Eligibility Criteria

- A care leaver, for the purpose of this policy, is defined as a young person aged 18 – 21 who was formerly a child in the care of Gloucestershire County Council and then became a Former Relevant Care Leaver as defined by The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. The Care Leaver must be resident and liable for council tax on a property within the Gloucestershire County Council area.
- A Care Leaver must be aged 18-21 years old to qualify for a reduction under the care leavers discount scheme. A Care Leaver will cease to qualify for the discount from the date of their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

- The Care Leaver must be the liable person for council tax, either solely or jointly and severally with other(s), at the dwelling in respect of which the application is made. The council tax bill must be in their name.
- Where a Care Leaver lives in a HMO or other property where they are not the council tax payer no discount will be awarded.
- The Care Leaver discount will apply to occupied properties only.
- Confirmation that a claimant is a Gloucestershire County Council Former Relevant Care Leaver must be received from Gloucestershire's 11-25 Permanency Service .

#### **4. Care Leaver Discount**

The Care Leaver Discount is effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Care Leavers that meet the eligibility criteria above will be eligible to apply for a discretionary council tax discount as follows.

- Where a property is solely occupied by Care Leaver(s) 100% discount will be awarded,
- Where a Care Leaver is in occupation and jointly liable with others 50% discount will be awarded

The Care Leaver discretionary discount will be awarded after statutory discounts, exemptions, disability discount and local council tax support.

#### **5. Application Process and Administration**

Gloucestershire County Council's 11-25 Permanency Service will provide District Councils information to confirm the name, address and date of birth of Care Leavers, living in the Gloucestershire area who will qualify for the discount.

A Care Leaver discount may also be awarded where the following information is provided and the Care Leaver status has been verified with Gloucestershire County Council's 11-25 Permanency Service.

##### **An application should provide the following information:**

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Current address
- Details of any other adults in the property and relationship to them
- Details of any circumstances that would be relevant to entitlement to legislative
- discounts, disregards or exemptions

- Contact details
- Name of Leaving Care Worker

Awards will be made directly by a discount in council tax liability and notification of the discount being awarded will be by way of the council tax bill.

The Revenues and Benefits Service will undertake periodic reviews appropriate to the individual circumstances of each case.

The care leaver (or his/her appointee or a recognised third party acting on his/her behalf) must advise District Councils of any change in circumstances which may affect entitlement to the discount within 21 days of the change occurring.

Any overpaid Care Leaver discount will be reclaimed through the relevant council tax account and collected and recovered under the Council tax (Administration and Enforcement) Regulations 1992.

## **6. Review of Decision / Backdating**

Under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, there is no right of appeal against the Council's use of discretionary powers. However, the Council will accept a written request for a reconsideration of the initial decision. The request must be supported by further information or evidence and be made within one calendar month of the decision. The reconsideration will be undertaken by the Executive Director Finance and Assets within the relevant district.

The Council will accept applications backdated to the beginning of the financial year, or to the date the care leaver became responsible for council tax so long as the date is not more than 12 months prior to the date of the application. The Care Leaver discount cannot be awarded prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.



## COUNCIL TAX EXEMPTION FOR CARE LEAVERS AGED 18-21

CARE LEAVER DETAILS			
<b>Name:</b>	Click here to enter text		
<b>DOB:</b>	Click or tap to enter date	<b>Age:</b>	Click here to enter text
<b>Liquid Logic ID:</b>	Click here to enter text	<b>Date of 22<sup>nd</sup> Birthday</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	Click here to enter text		
<b>Contact Details:</b>	Click here to enter text		
<b>Leaving Care Worker: Email: Tel:</b>			

<b>Details of any other adults living in the property and their relationship to them</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	
	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	
	Click here to enter text	Click here to enter text	
<b>Employment Details:</b>	<b>Full Time</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part Time</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Any entitlement to benefits?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If yes, are these being claimed?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is the tenancy in their name?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is it a shared tenancy?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is the Council Tax bill in their name?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is the Council Tax bill in shared names?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Do we have consent to share information with the District Council?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Is consent recorded on Liquid Logic?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Are they living outside of Gloucestershire</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Date:</b>	Click or tap to enter date
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## Appendix Two

***Taken from the “Planning Transition to Adulthood for Looked After Children” published in autumn of 2010 (including guidance on the amended Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001)***

### **Suitable Accommodation**

Regulation 11 of the *Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001* requires the local authority to place care leavers in accommodation that is **suitable**. Bed and breakfast accommodation is not considered to be suitable.

7.17 **Suitable accommodation** is accommodation:

- Which, so far as reasonably practicable, is suitable for the child in light of his needs, including his health needs;
- In respect of which the responsible authority has satisfied itself as to the character and suitability of the landlord or other provider;
- Complies with health and safety requirements related to rented accommodation; and
- In respect of which the responsible authority has, so far as reasonably practicable, taken into account the child's
  - wishes and feelings; and
  - education, training or employment needs.

***Taken from Volume 2 of the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review guidance published in 2010***

The 2010 Regulations set out factors that must be considered in determining whether accommodation is suitable for individual care leavers . These are set out below.

### **Facilities and services provided**

Consideration of facilities and services will be particularly relevant where the young person is not placed in a domestic setting (i.e. with a host family as part of a supported lodgings arrangement or where s/he chooses to live with family or friends) but is placed in accommodation where s/he is independent or sharing the occupancy. The responsible authority will need to take the following issues into account:

- the space available in the property;
- where the property is shared with others the young person must have his/her own lockable room allowing him/her privacy
- where the young person is in education or training the property should
- offer study space, in his/her own room or elsewhere;

- the bathing and toilet facilities, which must be sufficient for the number
- of occupants in the property;
- whether the state of repair of the furniture is adequate where the property
- is already furnished prior to the young person moving in; and
- the adequacy of the heating and hot water.

### **State of repair**

The property must be 'habitable' – i.e. structurally sound, free from damp and in an adequate state of repair. In addition, the household appliances must be useable and fit for purpose. The young person should be fully informed about who is responsible for repairs and maintenance to the property, fittings and fixtures and of what to do and who to contact in an emergency, for example a water leak or if the heating breaks down.

### **Safety**

The responsible authority will need to check, as far as reasonably practicable, that:

- the landlord possesses a current up to date gas safety certificate, that any fire detection equipment works and that if there was a fire, the property could be evacuated safely.
- the electrical wiring has been checked within the last five years, and any electrical appliances in the property must be safe; and
- the accommodation is secure (e.g. is there a burglar alarm; locks on windows; mortice locks) and the local authority knows whether the previous tenant has returned all their keys or that the locks have been changed.
- The landlord should have all the necessary buildings and liability insurance cover for the accommodation.

### **Location**

There should be adequate transport links between the property and the young person's place of education, training or employment and the accommodation should be reasonably accessible to people in the young person's personal support network, health and leisure services and other amenities.

The area where the property is located should be thought to be generally safe at night. Where the assessment of the property's suitability for the individual young person suggests that there are concerns about the safety of the area where the

property is situated, it will be even more important to ensure that the accommodation is secure.

The responsible authority will need to take steps to be satisfied that the assessment and selection process has involved proper independent scrutiny, involving safeguarding checks and checks on the provider's financial viability, to establish that the provider has the necessary skills and competences to respond to the needs of the young person in order to achieve the goals agreed as part of his/her care plan.

## Appendix Three

### Higher Education Funding Request 2023/24

<b>Name</b>		<b>DOB</b>	
<b>LL ID</b>		<b>Current Address</b>	
<b>University</b>		<b>Course</b>	
<b>Planned length of Study</b>		<b>Date commenced study</b>	

**Funding:**

- **£2000 per year Bursary** (up to maximum of 3 years = £6,000 total)
- **£50 per week living costs** (up to maximum of 3 years = £7,800 total)
- **Vacation Accommodation** Will be supported for the summer break where a young person is unable to remain in accommodation at Local Housing Allowance Rates, assistance to find appropriate vacation accommodation will also be provided.

Outline of how this money will be paid to young person, for example weekly, monthly or each term (Money cannot be paid in larger than termly amounts in line with student finance). Does the young person want any elements of money held back for a specific purpose for example vacation accommodation and is any further assistance required to arrange this.

If a young person is planning to study over an extended period of time please ensure this is considered when looking at finance arrangements.

Payment arrangements:

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Termly

Please indicate if any particular circumstances for example:

- **Staying Put Arrangement**
- **Need Vacation Accommodation in Summer break**
- **Need to resit year**

<b>Manager:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Senior Manager:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

- Please ensure finance team receive a copy of this request form when setting up arrangements.

## Appendix Four

DATE OF REQUEST

### CHILD/YOUNG PERSON'S DETAILS

Name of Young Person:  
(also known as)

Date of Birth:

Gender (please tick): Male ☐ Female ☐

Liquid Logic (ICS) Number:

Address and Postcode [Click here to enter text.](#)

Legal Status Relevant Young Person (Leaving Care) ☐ Former Relevant Young person (Leaving Care) ☐

Qualifying Young Person (Leaving Care) ☐

Type of Accommodation Staying Put ☐ Staying Close ☐

Supported Accommodation ☐ Independent Accommodation ☐

Living with parents or relatives ☐ Shared Accommodation (HMO) ☐

Other (please specify) ☐ [Click here to enter text.](#)

Type of Education, Training or Employment Working F/T ☐ Working P/T ☐

Further education - College ☐ Higher Education - University ☐

NEET ☐

Training Provider ☐ [Click here to enter text.](#)

Other (please specify) ☐ [Click here to enter text.](#)

### REQUESTOR DETAILS

Social Worker / PA /  
Care Leaver:

**Team:**

**Contact Number:**

#### DETAILS OF REQUEST

**Details of Request:**

**Learning to Drive Fund** (Single Driving Lessons support package value £250)

(Please note any grant issued should be paid directly to driving instructor)



**Digital Inclusivity** (Voxi 12 month Sim package value £120 and/or contribution towards handset up to £150) or (Broadband 12 month support package value up to £250) Mobile Dongle support Package value £150)



**Please check Martin Lewis website for current deals:** [Money Saving Expert:](#) [Energy Help, Credit Cards, Flight Delays, Shopping and more](#)

**Expected Outcomes:**

*(Please list expected outcomes for Learning to Drive fund linked to ETE and for Digital Inclusivity linked to social isolation)*

**Will the young person be financially contributing and if so how much and is this affordable** (This will be necessary for Driving lessons, Broadband or funding towards Smartphone):

**Have any alternative funding sources been considered prior to this request:**

**Is a plan in place for young person to be able to complete Driving Test or maintain Driving Lessons? or to maintain Mobile Phone / Broadband Connection?**



