

Care Leavers Local Offer

Created by:
Children in Care and Care Leavers Partnership group
(Tracie Copperthwaite, Sally-Anne Harrison, Shelley Cook, Sonja Joseph)

26th September 2018
Version: 1.2

Contents

Local Offer		What if I have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)	14
What is the Local Offer?	4	Apprenticeships	15
Leaving Care – Personal Advisor	5	Care Leaver Apprenticeship Pathway	15
Contacting your Personal Advisor	6	Building Bridges	16
Pathway Plans	7	Apprenticeships	16
How will I be involved?	7	Full Time Education	17
Who else will be involved	7	Full-time, academic study programmes	17
Identity	8	Full-time, vocational study programmes	17
Accommodation	9	Adult Learning Programmes	17
Accommodation – Other support	9	Careers Advice	18
Education, Employment & Training	10	Directory	20
Virtual School	10	Volunteering	20
Swindon Virtual School	10	Swindon Circles	20
Choosing a destination after Year 11	10	Health and Wellbeing	21
What is expected?	10	Children Looked After Health Team	21
Options	11	Emotional Health	21
Money to Study	11	Your own Doctor	21
Support to study from the Virtual School	11	OnTrak	22
University	12	KOOTH	22
Support with your application	12	Wiltshire Treehouse	22
Help with the cost of going to University	12	LIFT Psychology	22
University and College hardship funds	12	TaMHS	22
Special Education Needs and/or Disability (SEND)	13	CAMHS	22
SEND Support	14	Dentist	23

Contents

Sexual Health & Sexuality	24	OTAGO	41
Other Services	26	Pilate for Back Pain	42
Other resources	26	Smoking Cessation	42
Sexuality	27	Steps to Health	42
Who can help?	27	Relationships	43
Drugs & Alcohol	28	Finances	44
Other resources	29	Who will be eligible for Financial Support?	45
Smoking	30	What kind of Financial Support is available?	45
Sleeping	31	Support to Relevant Young people/care leavers aged 16-17	46
Opticians	32	Financial support to Former Relevant young people/care leavers aged 18-25	47
Your Health Passport	33	Help with going to College and the 16+ Bursary	47
Healthy Eating	33	Help with the cost of going to University	48
National Helplines	34	Other support	48
Live Well	36	Advise about your rights and entitlements	49
Ability Sport and Special Olympics	36	Asylum Seekers	50
Adults and Aging well Sessions	37	Accommodation	51
Adult Weight Management	37	Other Languages	51
Child and Family Weight Management	38		
Community Connections	38		
Community Navigators	39		
Girl Groups	39		
Health Ambassadors	40		
Healthy Lives	40		
NHS Health Check	41		

What is the Local Offer?

As a Local Authority, we have a legal duty to support young people making the transition from care to adulthood and to make sure you as care leavers know what services are available to you. This local offer is where you will find information to support care leavers 18 - 25, who have been in the care of Swindon Borough Council.

To be eligible to access this support you must either

- ✓ Been in care for at least 13 weeks between age 14 – 16 yrs (including your 16th birthday)
- ✓ Been in care for a least 16 weeks after your 16th birthday

If you are not sure if you qualify for support ask your personal advisor.



18 to 25

Leaving Care - Personal Advisor

At around 16 yrs of age you will be allocated both a Social Worker and a Personal Advisor within the Leaving Care Team. We will discuss with you when it would be best for you to transfer to the Leaving Care Team and we will take into account all the other things going on in your life such as taking exams to ensure there is minimal disruption for you.

Your Personal Advisor (PA) is an experienced support worker who is not a Social Worker. Personal Advisors within the Leaving Care Team have different backgrounds and qualifications, some of them in youth work, others in housing support, education and advocacy. There is no one 'Personal Advisor' qualification. The Personal Advisor is there to offer you support, advice, guidance and assistance to help you develop your independence. They will have the responsibility of ensuring that your views are taken into account when developing your pathway plan and will oversee your plan to ensure that things are on track for you.

Your Personal Advisor will see you in person at least once every two months but we would expect them to be in contact with you more often than that. You can see your Personal Advisor more often if you wish and can speak with them as often as you like, we will record how often you would like contact to be in your pathway plan.

Once you reach 21 years of age, you can decide if you'd like to remain supported by your Personal Advisor up to 25 or if you feel ready to move away from the service. Whatever your decision you will always be able to come back to us for support if needed.



Your Personal Advisor can help you to access other support services which you might need. This may include mental health support, debt planning and budgeting, housing and accommodation, benefits and education. Personal Advisors may not be able to provide this support to you directly but they will help you to find someone who can. Personal Advisors can advise you with simple, weekly budgeting, however, if you are in debt or have a more complex financial problem, they would find more specialised support for you.

Just like social workers, Personal Advisors will update your pathway plan with you every 6 months when you are over 18.

- ✓ **As a Swindon young person you will be allocated a PA at the age of 16 yrs and at 18 they will become your main worker as you will no longer have a Social Worker.**
- ✓ **Between 16 – 18 yrs your PA will be in regular monthly contact with you and will support you to ensure that your views are clearly recorded to inform your pathway plan.**
- ✓ **They will help with your transition into adulthood by supporting you to be more independent and giving advice and guidance after you leave care.**
- ✓ **We will try to let you keep the same personal adviser though this will not always be possible.**



Contacting your Personal Advisor

Your PA will provide you with telephone and email contact details or you can visit your PA at Clarence House, Euclid Street, Swindon. If you need to contact your PA and he or she is not available you can contact the Leaving Care Team on 01793 466715 and a duty PA will provide you with assistance. If the duty PA is also busy when you telephone then we promise that they will return your call as soon as possible and that they will contact you on the same day.



If the matter is really urgent you can ask to speak to either Tracie Copperthwaite (Team Manager) or Rachel Rowson (Assistant Team Manager Leaving care team). Both managers can be contacted on **01793 466891**

Pathway Plans

- ✓ We will prepare your pathway plan with you that sets out how we will help you achieve the things you want to. It sets out your needs, views and future goals and exactly what support you will receive from us and what you need to do.
- ✓ We review your plan at least every six months so it is kept up to date but can hold a review earlier at your request or if there is a significant change in your circumstances.

We will prepare a pathway plan for all Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant Young People. Your pathway plan will replace your care plan from the age of 16. Your Pathway Plan is about your needs and what we all need to do to ensure your successful move into adult life.



How will I be involved?

For your Pathway Plan to be effective it will be based on an up to date needs assessment which sets out what you need to move into independent living successfully. Your Pathway Plan will tell you the support that will be offered to you to achieve your aspirations. We aim to fully involve you in the development of your Pathway Plan. Your views must be fully recorded and you must get a copy of your Plan.

Who else will be involved?

With your agreement, we will seek the views of our partner agencies when completing your Pathway Plan. This may include Housing, Education, Training and Employment providers, Benefits, Health Services and The Youth Offending Service to ensure we all work together to provide you with clear and consistent advice and support.

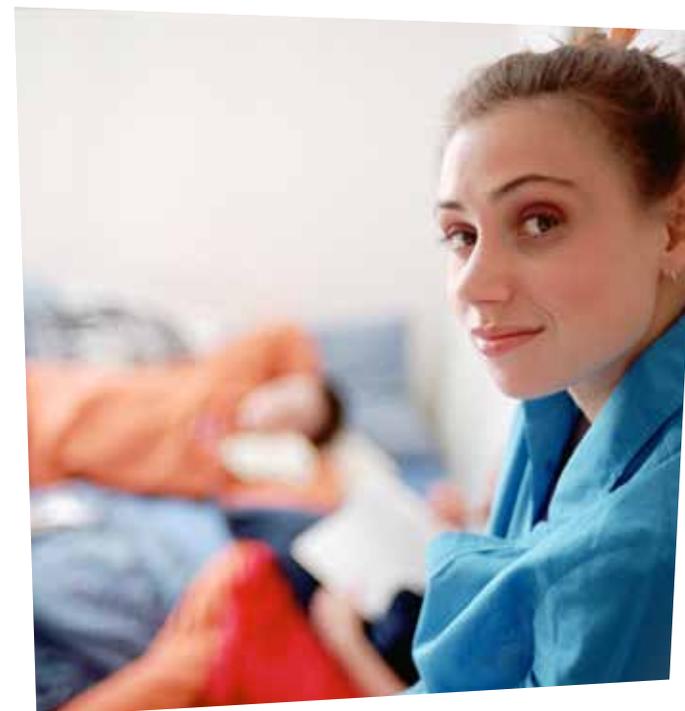
Identity

You have the right to see information that we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care.

- If you would like to see your files, write (letter/email) to the Information <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/dataprotection>
 - You will also need to provide proof of ID (driving licence/passport and proof of address – this can be a photocopy/picture emailed to us). Normally it will take one month but it may take longer (up to a further two months if there are many files). You can only see your own information.
 - Please ask your personal adviser to support you if you think it would be helpful.
 - We will help you gain important identification documents such as a birth certificate, passport and provisional driving licence before your 18th birthday.
- We will provide support and sign post you to organisations that can provide support around any issues such as: religion, sexuality, gender or culture.
 - You can make a complaint about any part of Children’s Services and Community Health services by searching online for www.swindon.gov.uk or Swindon Borough Council and entering complaints in the search box at the top of the page.

Alternatively you could contact:-

- The Complaints Manager
Children, Families and Community Health
Swindon Borough Council
Wat Tyler West (Ground)
Beckhampton Street
SwindonSN1 2JG
Tel: 01793 463302



We advise you to contact the team manager for the Leaving care team directly on **01793 466981** and let them respond to your complaint directly.