

Young People's ENTITLEMENTS

EDUCATION

- Local authorities **must** pay the Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 to all eligible care leavers going on to university, or higher education.
- A new 16-19 Bursary scheme began in 2011. Looked after young people and care leavers should get a guaranteed £1,200 bursary if they stay in full-time education. Young people should get in touch with their education provider (e.g. school or college) to find out how to claim the bursary. For advice speak to student support services or your tutor, or go to www.direct.gov.uk/16-19bursary

ACCOMMODATION

- In deciding whether accommodation is suitable to meet a care leaver's needs, a council must listen to their views about the accommodation they want. What the local authority needs to consider are listed in the Regulations.
- If the council has itself arranged the accommodation for a care leaver, they must review it after 28 days – and at least every three months after that. The care leaver's personal adviser must visit them within a week, and at least every two months after that, or whenever their Pathway Plan is going to be reviewed.

STAYING IN TOUCH

- Alongside giving advice and support, and helping the care leaver to get services they need, a care leaver's personal adviser must also take part in any Pathway Plan reviews, stay in touch with the council about sticking to the Pathway Plan until the young person is 21, or older if they are still in education.
- A care leaver must be given a copy, and full explanation, of their assessment and Pathway Plan.
- Pathway Plans must be reviewed at least every six months. They must also be reviewed whenever the care leaver asks for one (their personal adviser or the council can also decide to call a review whenever they think one is needed).

PERSONAL ADVISORS

- The law changed last year to say that care leavers up to age 25 who tell their council that they have returned, or want to return, to education or training, will also be able to get support from a personal adviser while they are on their course (if the course is agreed in their pathway plan).

CARE LEAVERS GRANT

- Setting up home allowances (also known as 'leaving care grants'), that are given out by local authorities, will be crucial in helping young people establish their identity and independence. These should be used to make sure that care leavers have what they need to set up safe, secure and stable accommodation. You can ask your authority for £2,000 for the setting up home allowance. This was the amount that young people agreed, at the regional meetings for Chairs of Children in Care Councils, to ask their local authorities for.