

# **Local Offer for Bradford Care Leavers**

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## 1 Introduction and Testimonies

Our Local Offer will help you understand what services and support you can expect not only from your Leaving Care Service but from the wider services within Bradford District Council in supporting your journey to independence and adulthood.

Your Leaving Care Service is your first point of contact. We recognise that just because you are preparing to leave care or have left care already; we haven't stopped caring about you. The Local Offer for Bradford Care Leavers sets out what you can expect beyond care.

Bradford Care Leavers have helped to develop this offer and we will continue to listen to your views to make sure the services we offer are what you need.

You have told us your top priorities\*;

- **Finding a good place to live**
- **Having time to get to know your social worker and/or personal advisor and build relationships**
- **Knowing your rights and entitlements before leaving care to help you plan**
- **Help with budgeting and finding work**
- **Help with getting important qualifications**
- **Being creative in how you learn new skills including virtual and e-learning opportunities**

*\* December 2021 Leaving Care Survey Monkey*

Bradford Children's Social Care and all its council departments have a responsibility to act as your 'Corporate Parent' which means it is a shared responsibility to be good parents to you, working together to enable you to achieve.

The Corporate Parenting Panel is founded on 7 key principle as set out within the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#).

The 7 principles are;

- **To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being of those children and young people**
- **To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings**
- **To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people**
- **To help those children and young people gain access to and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners**
- **To promote high aspirations and to seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people**
- **For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work**
- **To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living**

Our [Corporate Parenting Panel](#) is chaired by Councillor Duffy and is aligned to the [National Corporate Parenting Principles and the Care Leavers Charter](#)

Dear Care Leavers,

The next few years will undoubtedly be a scary and confusing time, full of new challenges to face and problems to solve. However, the lessons you will learn, people you will meet and opportunities that will come your way will make it a worthy and useful time, shaping and preparing you to navigate the world as an independent and capable adult.

During your leaving care experience, you will have your own team of people guiding and supporting you in every way they can, from social workers to IRO's to personal advisers.

Whatever path you take, support can always be put in place for you, so explore your options and make sure to find the best one for you.

My advice, as someone who has been through the system, is to be firm in what you want but be prepared and willing to cooperate - the people around you only want the best for you, even though it may not always seem like it.

**On behalf of the Care Leavers Council, we wish you luck in your journey and wherever it may take you.**

## 2 Your Leaving Care Service; Who we are and what we do

There are four statutory care leaver definitions; if you are not sure what this means for you, you can ask your Personal Advisor and/or Social Worker for help with explaining your eligibility to Leaving Care support.

### Eligible:

- you are aged 16 or 17 years
- you have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since your 14<sup>th</sup> birthday and inclusive of your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday\* and still in care now
- or for 13 weeks\* after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and still in care now

*\* It does not matter if the times you were in care was in a single period or over several different periods.*

### Relevant:

- you are aged 16 or 17 years and have previously been Eligible but no longer in care

### Former relevant:

- you are aged 18 and up to 25 years who used to be an Eligible or Relevant young person

### Qualifying:

- you are aged between 16 and up to your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday (up to 25 if in education) and was in care for less than 13 weeks on or after your 16<sup>th</sup> birthday but no longer looked after
- you were looked after immediately prior to the making of a special guardianship order and are now 16- 21 years old
- you are aged 16 or 17, and been living at home with your parents for a period of 6 months, previously having Relevant Leaving Care status (and still under the age of 18 years).

## **Advice and Support from a Personal Adviser**

You are able to ask for support from your Personal Adviser beyond your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

You will have a named Personal Adviser if you have **Eligible, Relevant** or **Former Relevant** Leaving Care eligibility. We will try to enable you to keep the same Personal Adviser, though this will not always be possible. The amount of support that you receive from your Personal Adviser will depend on what you want and your circumstances.

Between 16 and before you are 18 your Personal Adviser will focus on getting to know you and build a relationship where you will start the conversation about what you want for your future. They will help you (alongside your Social Worker) bring together your Pathway Plan goals and when you turn 18 will continue to keep your Pathway Plan under review.

Your Personal Adviser will be at your side to help you work through decision making, even if these are tough, and celebrate your achievements. Your Personal Adviser will be open and honest with you and help you figure out new responsibilities as life changes.

## **Support from your Social Worker**

If you are 16 and 17 years old and also have **Eligible** or **Relevant** Leaving Care eligibility, you will have a social worker in your Leaving Care Service. Your Social Worker will be responsible for making sure your Pathway Plan is focused on what is going to happen both in the present and in the future as far as possible. They will include other important people such as family and friends that are involved in your life, as well as those who may be in your professional support network such as health and education to make sure everyone is working together and towards your goals.

If it is the right thing; your Social Worker may stay in your life a little longer than your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to make sure things are in place and allow you time to get to know your Personal Adviser.

You can make contact with your Leaving Care Service Monday- Thursday 09:00-17:00 and Friday 09:00-16:30. If your named worker is not available you can speak to the duty social worker or duty personal adviser within these hours.

## **3 Your right to be heard and taken seriously**

You have a right to be involved in all decisions about your plans for leaving care. You have a right to support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you.

Independent advocates can inform you about your rights and help you to be heard in meetings. They are separate from Children's Services.

We can support you to access independent support via the National Youth Advocacy Service [NYAS](#).

# NYAS Mission Statement

We **listen** to what children and young people want, **care** about what they say, and **empower** them to get their voice heard.

We ensure their wishes and feelings are expressed and acted upon to improve their situation and help them build a better future.

We will **never** stop in our efforts to influence, lobby and campaign to bring about positive changes and ensure children's and young people's rights are upheld

For more information, you can either click on the above link or contact: - 0808 808 1001 or email [help@nyas.net](mailto:help@nyas.net)

You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records write about you when you were in care. If you would like to see your file, please speak to your Personal Adviser. More information can be found at [Access to Records / Subject Access Requests](#).

You can; visit [Coram Voice](#) for further information on your rights as a care leaver.

We want you to continue to shape the future of your Leaving Care Service. In Autumn 2021 we asked you what you would like to see changed or strengthened in the service; these are our promises for the year ahead: -

- **Continue to build good relationships with you and the people involved in your life. Arranging to see you and keep in touch both face to face and by phone**
- **Listen to your worries, anxieties or concerns and support you in whatever way we can to alleviate these**
- **Support and guide you in your education, employment and training choices**
- **Ensure you are safe and happy with where you are living**
- **Help you, guide you and sign post you in the right direction in developing the skills you need to live independently**
- **Provide you with all the information you need as a young person accessing our Leaving Care Service**

We want to hear from; you can do this in speaking with your Social Worker or Personal Adviser. You can also reach out directly to our Strategic Director, Marium Haque by e-mailing [talktomarium@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:talktomarium@bradford.gov.uk).

## 4 Your Pathway Plan

Your Pathway Plan is an important document as it tells you how your Leaving Care Service will support you plan and prepare for life as an independent adult and that you have the right support to achieve your goals in life. Your plan starts before you leave care (no later than 16 years and 3 months) and will continue to be reviewed and updated as your life changes right up until you are 21 years. If you chose to stay with the service after your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday (up to 25 years) you may still need a plan which you will agree with your Personal Advisor.

Your plan covers important areas;

- **Health and Development**
- **Education, training and employment**
- **Emotional and Behavioural Development**
- **Identity**
- **Family and social network**
- **Money Matters**
- **Practical and other skills**
- **Accommodation**

We will work with you to review your plan at least every 6 months. We can also review your plan if there are significant changes in your life so it continues to be purposeful.

Sometimes you might not agree with what your Social Worker or Personal Advisor identifies as important and we will make sure your views are reflected.

We will tell you who we share your plan with (such as your IRO, carers or advocate) and when you are an adult you can tell us who you agree for your plan to be shared with.

### 4.1 Health and Development

When you leave care, we will provide you with the support and guidance you need to take care of your physical and mental health;

- Support you to register with a GP, Dentist and Optician
- Be there for you if you are making the move from CAMHS to adult services and help you ask the questions important about this transition.
- Your Leaving Care Nurses will prepare your **Health Passport**. This gives you information about your health history and shows you how to register with a GP and a dentist. It also contains information about other services that can provide you with health support. Your Child in Care or Leaving Care Nurse will give you the passport which contains your personal information so it is important to keep it somewhere safe.
- Throughout your Leaving Care journey (up to your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday) you can access support and advice from our dedicated **Leaving Care Nurses**. Our nurses offer a drop in 'come and chat' every Wednesday 13:30- 16:30 at Sir Henry Mitchell House.

- We will; invite you to **Smooth It Out Group**; now in its 20<sup>th</sup> Year the group is facilitated by both Social Workers and Personal Advisers in Children in Care and Leaving Care and open to young people age 15 ½ to 21 years and are either looked after or with care leaver eligibility. The group promotes independent living skills, social skills in working together in a group setting including a focus on budgeting, what it means to manage a tenancy and the practical and social skills that support successful transitions to adult life and responsibility. We focus on what it means to be empowered, making informed and good decisions around leaving care and living independently.
- You can; download [healthy living apps](#) to help you access advice and plans which promote healthy living including; healthy eating, exercise, stop smoking, and harm reduction if you are worried about the impact of drugs and alcohol.
- We will; support you to access 'My Wellbeing College'; a service which helps young people manage everyday problems such as low mood, anxiety, sleep problems and stress. You can contact them directly on; 0300 555 5551 or visit their website [My Wellbeing College](#)
- We will; support you to access a council gym membership or help you find out alternative free ways to keep fit.
- We will; support you to access confidential advice and guidance so you can make informed decisions about your sexual health; heterosexual and same sex relationships, contraception, family planning and support around gender transitioning. We work closely with both our Leaving Care Nurses and agencies including Locala Community Partnerships Health & Wellbeing\*.

**If you are a parent or parent to be;**

- We can; support you in accessing [Locala Community Partnership](#) for free confidential support and advice.
- We can; help you access Early Help Services that make sure you get more intense support as a new parent. This will start while you are pregnant and continue up to your child turning 2. This is to help you learn what it means to be a parent, support you in developing routines and learning how to be a good parent. They can also support you accessing children's centres and parenting classes.
- Early help services such as children's centres and parenting classes are available for you to attend and participate in if you would want extra support in being a good parent. Your PA can help you access these settings; we can attend with you or wait outside if this will help you feel more confident.

**If you have a child and they have a social worker;**

- We will; do what we can to support you in understanding what is happening and managing any decision made about your child. If you invite us we will be present at any meeting or court hearing, any meeting with your child's social worker or with your solicitor.

## Top Tips;

- ***‘Talk about any worries early with someone you know will listen and work out a plan that will work for you’ (YP, CiC Council)***

### 4.2 Preparation for Working Life; Education, Employment and Training

In Bradford; we want all of our young people to have the opportunities to achieve their goals. We know that education, skills and employment can increase and improve your experiences whether your goal is to be financially independent, career orientated or to make friends in a new environment, we know it's not a one size fits all journey.

We will offer you;

- Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) from our dedicated Personal Advisers and colleagues within the Virtual School including routes into employment which might include traineeships and apprenticeships
- Preparation for interviews; from mock questions with your Personal Adviser, support to access online resources and if you need it, a clothing grant to make sure you feel at your best
- Help with writing your CV and in accessing specialist careers support via Skills House Bradford (formally known as Connexions) - [Skillshouse](#)
- LCEP; Leaving Care Employment Programme; the programme offers 12 months paid work experience for 25 hours a week over a 12 month period within the family firm (Bradford Council). is extended to our young people to allow 12 month paid work opportunities in the district and within Bradford Council- just ask your Personal Advisor for more information.
- If you are eligible; support to access the 16-19 Learning Bursary\* from your education or training provider so you can purchase the equipment you might need or pay for travel costs to your course.
- Support you to access [Bradford Vibe at Forsters College](#). Bradford Vibe is a community initiative led by the Department for Work and Pensions, hosted by Bradford College and supported by a wide variety of services all under one roof. It supports 18-25 year-olds who have multiple barriers to gaining employment and are receiving benefits.
- Traineeships; are an exciting way to achieve your qualifications whilst learning on the job and can be a stepping stone into an apprenticeship. Your Personal Adviser can link you with local learning providers including [Qube Learning](#) to find the pathway in the industry you are interested.
- Apprenticeships; start at Level 2 up to degree level, where you can undertake work based learning alongside study. You will be paid as part of your apprenticeship and can find out more via [Apply Apprenticeship](#). You will also be eligible for a one off grant of £1000 [Apprenticeships Bursary-for Care Leavers](#).

- come along with you to open days and job fayres so you can find out what opportunities might be in your reach and build on your confidence in speaking with potential employers

*\*Care leavers are a priority group for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund administered by FE colleges, which pays a bursary of up to £1,200 a year to support vulnerable young people to participate in education or if over 19 the discretionary bursary for costs associated with your course*

### **If your path takes you to University;**

- support you if you choose to study higher education alongside your employment or whilst remaining in your own accommodation.
- help you navigate Student Finance and whether your chosen Higher Education establishment offers anything further for students who are also care leavers.
- help you decide on the right affordable university/ student accommodation, and if needed where you will stay in the holidays.
- assist you with a bursary of £2000\* to help with the costs of books and materials spread over the length of your course.

*\*The HE Bursary can be paid termly, annually or as a lump sum at the end of the course depending on your individual circumstances and needs. We offer financial support for one course of higher education. This will be paid in the same way as National Funding, e.g. the length of the course (plus one extra year if required]*

- If you are a Qualifying young person; you are entitled to an assessment of your needs, to establish whether you require advice and assistance to maximise your right to national grants, bursaries and student loans. Where, following assessment, support is identified as required over a period of time, a plan will be completed to outline the support to be provided. As a Qualifying young person, you will not, as a right, be entitled to higher education financial support such as the student bursary or accommodation fees.

### **Top Tips**

- ***‘Speak to your PA, I didn’t even realise what opportunities or what was available until we started talking about it. I got help to prep for my interview. Take every opportunity you can, I’m now planning on going down to Number 10!’*** (YP; Leaving Care Apprentice Personal Adviser)

### **4.3 Emotional and Behavioural Development- Relationships and Important People**

Having positive and healthy friendships and relationships are important to everyone. Positive relationships help you to build secure attachments, develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-reliance and contributes to a strong sense of identity and belonging and the feeling of being valued for who you are.

Positive relationships include traits such as: -

- Kindness
- Mutual respect
- Trust
- Honesty
- Feeling safe from harm
- Feeling valued
- Support
- Empathy (listening and understanding each other)

The sense of being part of a community helps us to feel like we belong, to feel safe and secure. To support this, we will;

- listen to who is important to you in your life.
- Support you to find opportunities to build on your friendships and networks so you are not alone- this might be through opportunities of work experience or education or helping you explore your hobbies and interests.
- be open and honest if we are worried about people in your life and talk to you about what support you might need to feel safe and in control.
- Help you connect with family and link with the Red Cross if you have had to leave your home country and separated from your family
- If you move home, we will work with you to figure out the area and how you can get involved in the community whether it is making new connections and friendships or seeking out new experiences
- You might even be interested in '[start something yourself](#)'. There are many opportunities for [volunteering](#) at home or abroad. As well as helping other people, you can gain skills and experience which can promote confidence, build friendships and may prepare you for work. If you are interested in volunteering or getting involved in mentoring, please speak with your Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

### Top Tips;

- ***'Step outside of your comfort zone, it can be terrifying at first but it has made such a difference. I have made so many really good friends for trying something new'*** (YP; Leaving Care Apprentice Personal Adviser)

#### 4.4 Identity- celebrating who you are and making sure you have your important documents

Being care experienced is just one part of who you are. We want to support and celebrate your identity and understand what makes you, you. This will include;

- Listening and respecting your experiences and journey. We won't make assumptions about your identity and will ask you what you want us to know and what support you need from us.

- Get to know your faith and practices; and have regard when we are planning time to spend with you; for example, if you are observing Ramadan
- Celebrate religious festivals and support you to link with faith networks in your area
- If you are a part of the LGBTQ+ community; you can come and join our Leaving Care Group for informal chat and a coffee- just speak to your Personal Adviser who will link you with the group

We know how important it is to have key documents to make sure life runs as smoothly as possible. This is why we will make sure;

- when you are 16 we will apply for your **National Insurance Number (NI/ NINO)**; this is needed when you start work to make sure you are paying the right national insurance and tax; everyone who works in the UK needs one. Your National Insurance pays for things like the NHS, your state pension but also goes to support people who may need to apply for Universal Credit (UC). If you need to apply for UC in the future, you will also need to have your NI number.
- purchase for you your **first adult passport**; a passport verifies your country of citizenship, it serves as legal photo ID and might be needed if you are applying for jobs, it's also needed if you want to travel abroad. If you are unable or do not want a passport we will support you to obtain an alternative form of photographic ID.
- support you to **open a Bank Account**. The benefits of having a bank account include having a debit card so you don't have to find a cash machine, receiving money such as wages, bursaries or benefits, paying your bills and keeping track of your money.
- access to the **Participation Forum (Your Voice)** whether this is as an active member or simply being informed about matters which might impact you or young people after you. You may wish to influence change and be involved in discussion and debate which takes place via a range of forums such as activities, trips, focused groups.

#### 4.5 Money Matters

In Bradford; we want our young people to aspire to be financially independent; we also know that this can take time and it can be tough starting out.

If you are 16 and 17 years old and living in semi-independent or independent living, we will help you begin to learn about your increasing financial responsibilities by paying you a weekly Income Maintenance Allowance which is above the Universal Credit payment (£65/week). We will try to help you financially including;

- Making sure you know what you are entitled to (See Finance Guide Table)
- support you to budget your priority payments such as bills, meal planning and household essentials so you can maximise this payment.

- Whilst aged 16 and 17 years we will pay for your rent costs if you are living in a place which we have agreed.
- help you understand how you might maximise your income by undertaking further education, apprenticeships or employment and what the potential could look like.
- support you to access your children's Independent Savings Account (ISA) set up in your name by the department of education (DfE).
- help you arrange to open a bank account and learn about the different payment methods that might suit your circumstances.
- When you are ready to move in to your first independent tenancy we will support you to make sure you have all of the essential items using you Setting Up Home grant and a moving in kit.
- Between your 18<sup>th</sup> and 25th birthday we will pay your Council Tax wherever you choose to live in the UK
- celebrate your birthday with a gift or voucher for as long as you are in touch with the service
- celebrate important religious festivals for example Christmas or Eid with a gift or voucher for as long as you are in touch with the service
- If you are ready and prepared and have worked out your budget plan; we will assist you with starting your driving journey by funding your starter driving lessons (up to £250) and will pay for your first driving theory test and first driving practical test.
- If you are involved in participation work and helping us to make positive changes to your Leaving Care service (for example; helping with recruiting our staff) we will pay you for your time and contribution.

#### **Top Tips:**

- ***'If you need help reach out. There is a way out of debt but you need a plan and everything that felt was building up for so long was not so bad once I had my plan that my PA helped me with.'*** (YP; Leaving Care Apprentice Personal Adviser)

#### 4.6 Where you live

In Bradford; we will encourage you to stay in care until you are 18. Many young people still live at home with their families at this age. Your Social Worker and Personal Advisor will make sure you have the right information and advice at the right time to help you plan and prepare for where you are going to live. This might involve;

- If you are living with your foster family, you might both want to consider staying put. This arrangement allows you to stay with your carer beyond your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and up to your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday if this is the right thing for you both.

- If you are living in a residential home, you might want to consider Staying Close. This arrangement allows you to be in reach of your residential home and the people that have supported you, in your own place for as long as you need support, and up until 25 years if this is right for you.
- If you live in semi-independent accommodation; we will advise you on the range of accommodation and support in your reach and the steps you need to take when you are assessed and ready to apply for Priority Status with Bradford Homes and In-Communities.
- help you furnish your first home using your Setting Up Home Grant and how to get the best value out of this.
- give you practical assistance to decorate your home
- provide New Home Kits when you move for the first time into your own place in addition to your Setting Up Home Grant
- Support, advice and guidance in knowing your priority payments
- If you are still in education or not yet working when you move to your first place, we will support you to make an early application for Universal Credit (up to 28 days before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday) and as long as you do what you need to do we will bridge any delay in your first payment so you do not start adult life in debt.
- Support if things don't work out and you find yourself in a crisis or emergency situation; we will work alongside colleagues in Bradford Homes to make sure you have somewhere safe whilst we help you work out a plan.

## Top Tips

- ***Start the conversation early; it doesn't mean you will be moving on but knowing what the future holds means we can talk through any worries and make sure you have the right support at the right time.***
- ***Be involved in tailoring your support plan; if you are worried about how to check the meter or how to top up, let's walk this through until you are confident***
- ***If you are unsure who you would go to if you lose your keys; let's make sure that this is included in your plan***

## 4.7 Practical and Other Skills

Before you are ready to leave care; it's important that you feel equipped with the know how (and who to contact if that doesn't work out). This happens in lots of different ways at home and in school from learning to manage time, routines at home such as keeping your place tidy, to skills you need for later in life such as navigating social situations, or knowing which is the best electric tariff for your household needs. Wherever you live, we all have corporate parenting responsibilities to help get you ready. This might

be through independent living skills programmes, or just day to day help and support which we can capture in your Pathway Plan. There are some other ways to help guide you;

- Groups and activities led by Leaving Care or our partners (such as Supper Club and Smooth it Out)
- Accredited Independent Living Skill modules with Jumpstart
- The *Stepladder of Achievement Programme*; which ‘provides both life skills and financial resources in order to enhance the capability and prospects of children and young people in care, who are likely to have experienced an unpredictable education.’

## **5 Youth Justice Services, Probation and Prison**

If you find yourself in trouble you may need to work with the Youth Justice Service or Probation Service. There are ways we can support you including;

- working with these organisations to make sure you are supported and helped. There are dedicated workers who understand what it is to be looked after or a care leaver and can offer support accordingly (we will ask your consent)

If you have been remanded or are under sentence in Prison;

- Wherever possible we will work with you to make sure your custody officers know you are a care leaver. While they can't make concessions to your stay they will keep an extra eye on you to make sure you are ok. They will make sure your Personal Adviser gets to visit on a family visit as opposed to a legal visit and we will make sure we work with you and your offender manager to make sure you get what you need inside to support your development and that you have a well-planned discharge where all your needs are met when you leave custody.
- We will write to you between visits
- If you haven't already we will assist you to make a Bradford Homes application and request your Priority 1 Status is applied and if appropriate make referrals for Intensive Housing Management (IHM) support
- If you leave custody after your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday and still have remaining Setting Up Home Allowance; we will save this for you to access on your release.

## **6 Next Steps and Turning 21**

As you approach your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday your Personal Adviser will talk to you about whether you feel you would need and benefit from support from your Leaving Care service beyond your birthday. Your Pathway Plan may continue and might look at certain things that are important for you or might cover all areas. You are entitled to a named Personal Adviser up to your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday if you still need support from the service.

If you decide that you do not want support after your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday; but later change your mind or find that you are struggling, you can simply contact the service where we can support in assessing your needs and if appropriate restarting your Pathway Plan.

You will continue to be exempt from Council Tax up to your 25<sup>th</sup> birthday regardless of whether you still need a Leaving Care Service.

## **7 Turning 25 'Always Here'**

There is no age limit to when you might need support or a familiar face to call upon. You won't have a Pathway Plan but we will have an open door for you to get in touch and let us know how life is going. This might be a special event like a wedding or starting a family. It might be for something trickier like coming out of custody or struggling with money. As your corporate parent we are still here to help you and will offer advice and guidance to help you find your way.

## **8 Participation (Your Voice)**

We have three forums where children and young people can participate to be heard and influence change.

Your Voice (16-25) forum will be run every two weeks (alternately); these will be interactive sessions. One aspect of the session will be the development of Corporate Parenting workshops to be held 4 times a year. There will also be information sharing sessions to support children and young people's knowledge on why social workers and partner agencies do what they do. Children and young people will also be involved in wider consultation to contribute to the development of services for children and young people.

The forums will lead 4 Corporate Parenting events a year ensuring that matters that affect children and young people in care and leaving care are raised and discussed with those who can influence how Bradford Childrens Services are run.

The forums will undertake commissioned work that enables the voice of the child to be integrated into service delivery. This involves the forums developing ideas and projects that will improve the lives of children and young people in care and care leavers. The forums will also listen to ideas about how we can improve how adults work with children in care and care leavers.

The forums will get involved in training (this includes student social workers at University, newly qualified social workers and foster carers), interviews of staff entering social care (at all levels) and other processes where the voice of the child or young person is needed to improve service delivery.

The forums will send out a Newsletter quarterly to children and young people in care. The Newsletter is called – Your Participation News.

You can be an active member attending forums or you can simply be a member, receiving news and participating in different activities.

For Further information, contact:

Emily Rhodes – Participation Coordinator: 07582 102 355

Mick Nolan – Participation Officer: 07977 235 992

There is an email for all communications: [CiCCQueries@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:CiCCQueries@bradford.gov.uk)

## **9 Comments, Complaints and Compliments**

We always try to give a high standard of service. But there will be times we do not agree with each other or where you are unhappy with the service you have received. When this happens you might want to talk to someone you trust who might be able to sort out the problem.

You are allowed to tell us if you are not happy and if necessary make a complaint if you are not satisfied with the support you are getting or feel that you have not been listened to.

In the first instance, you might talk to your Personal Advisor, Social Worker or the Team Manager. They will try to sort out your complaint as most complaints can be resolved quickly at this stage.

If you are still unsatisfied, or if the problem reoccurs you can contact the complaints team via; [comments, complaints and compliments](#).

## Who can Help?

### Key Contacts for the Leaving Care Service:

4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Sir Henry Mitchell House 4 Manchester Road Bradford BD5 0QL 01274 435833	Odsal Resource Centre 6 Odsal Road Bradford BD6 1AT  01274 436760	Shipley Office 2 Well Croft Shipley BD18 3QH  01274 437123
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Strategic Director, Marium Haque; [talktomarium@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:talktomarium@bradford.gov.uk).

### Health and Development:

- Give us a Shout
- Youth in Mind
- Health and relationships pages
- LGBTQ+ Youth in Care
- Sexual Health for under 25's
- SH24 (free and discreet STI testing for young people over the age of 16 years)
- Health and Relationships
- Need to talk to someone?
- Are you drinking enough water
- Eat better, looked better and feel better
- Eating Disorders
- Vegetarians and Vegans
- Worried about your weight
- Personal Hygiene
- Female Genital Mutilation
- STI clinics fears and myths
- Most Common Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Sexual Health Clinics
- Contraception / Condoms
- Gay or straight?
- Illegal Drugs
- Drugs used in sports and fitness
- Headspace
- Child and Adult Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- NHS 111
- Find a Dentist
- Emergency Dentist
- Samaritans can also provide emotional support and can be contacted on 01274 547 547 or emailed [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)
- For urgent mental health support, you can contact First Response Crisis Service 24hours a day on 0800 952 1181.

### Drug and alcohol services for young people:

- Bridge 01274 723863
- Project 6 01535 610180
- Bradford's Stop Smoking Service 01274 437700
- Change Grow Live
- Frank offers honest and confidential information about drugs - Phone: - 0300 123 6600  
E-mail:- [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) (there is also an anonymous enquiry form online)

### Education, Employment and Training

- SEND
- EHCP
- Employment, Education and Training
- Getting Advice on Employment, Education and Training
- Education, Employment and Training Equal opportunities
- Employment Education and Training - Your Options
- Need a CV
- Apprenticeships and Training
- Your Rights on Training Programmes
- Part-time or Holiday Employment
- Looking for a job
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Outward Bound
- Raleigh International
- How to make a good first impression
- Care to Learn - GOV.UK is for young parents aged 19 years or under and they provide funding to support with child care costs whilst you study
- Drive Forward Foundation offers support to young people with education, employment and training - Phone: - 0207 620 3000 E-mail:- [info@driveforwardfoundation.org](mailto:info@driveforwardfoundation.org)

### Healthy Relationships

- Say No, Mean No
- Safety Net Kids website
- ChildLine website
- NSPCC website
- Bullying UK website
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection website
- Keeping Safe
- Bullying UK 0808 800 2222 [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk)

### Community and Interest

- Youth Centres
- Libraries
- Visitor Information Centres
- Leisure and Community
- Travel and Transport
- Discount Travel Cards

- You and Your Rights
- How organisations use your personal information
- Privacy Policy
- How to negotiate
- Youth Hostels
- Silent 999 calls what you need to do
- Youth Info | Bradford Council

## Finances

- Money and Benefits
- Rees Foundation offers information, advice, financial support and help finding a community of people who are care experienced. Rees provides a range of useful extra services that anyone with care experience can take advantage of including a peer network, opportunities, sign posting, a crisis fund, and various other things - Phone: - 0330 094 5645 - E-mail:- [contactus@reesfoundation.org](mailto:contactus@reesfoundation.org)

## Housing

- Housing-help / Homelessness
- Housing
- How much is the rent
- Life and independence skills

## Other forms of support for Care Leavers

- Become is a national charity which works to improve the care system and support young people. Their mission is to provide help, support and advice to children in care and young care leavers so that they can take control of their lives and unleash their potential. They want you to reach your dreams through recognising your abilities - Phone: - 0800 023 2033 Freephone number (lines open Monday-Friday 10.30am-3pm) - E-mail:- [advice@becomecharity.org.uk](mailto:advice@becomecharity.org.uk)
- Capstone Care Leavers Trust awards grants to people aged 17-25 years who have been in Local Authority care in England or Wales and are in need. The CCLT also offers advice and guidance to young people to help reduce their experience of social exclusion and enhance their life chances. Capstone Care Leavers Trust will consider awarding grants for:
  - Further and Higher Education courses
  - Training courses
  - Laptop
  - Travel costs to place of study/training
  - Driving lessons - subject to meeting criteria
  - Practical Driving Test
  - Household goods – Sofa, cooker, fridge, freezer, washing machine, bed, wardrobe etc.
 Phone: - 0121 374 2601 - E-mail:- [info@capstonetrust.org](mailto:info@capstonetrust.org)
- Catch22 supports care leavers in the transition from care to independence. They can support with:
  - Alternative education provision
  - Support for children who go missing and/or experience sexual exploitation
  - Skills development programmes such as the National Citizen Service

- Housing support and a peer landlord scheme
- Apprenticeships and employability services, including Care2Work
- Engagement within prison or youth offender's institutes
- **Childline** is there to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they're going through. You can talk about anything. Whether it's something big or small, their trained counsellors are there to support you - Phone: - 0800 1111
- **Family Lives - Parenting and Family Support** - Phone: - 0808 800 2222 – Parentline (lines open Monday-Friday 9-9, Weekends 10-3) - E-mail:- [askus@familylives.org.uk](mailto:askus@familylives.org.uk)
- **Bradford Maze** is a Domestic Abuse Prevention Programme (DAPP) and is aimed at heterosexual adult men, aged 22 +, who are using any form of domestic abuse in their intimate relationships. There is also a Young Man's Group Work Programme for 16 to 21 year old men - Phone: - Rosie Taylor 01422 386 544/ 07821 315 126
- **Migrant Children's Project** could offer asylum seeking care leavers with indefinite leave to remain help with home fees and advice and guidance in respect of their immigration matters - Phone: - 0207 636 8505 - E-mail:- [mcp@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:mcp@coramclc.org.uk)
- **Relate** offers counselling relating to relationships, sex life, parenthood, and family life - Phone: - 0300 100 1234
- **Shelter** can support with any issues around housing or homelessness. They can offer legal advice and help with challenging housing authorities. They can help if you have nowhere to sleep, might be homeless soon, if you have somewhere to sleep, but nowhere to call home or, if you are/could be at risk of harm - Phone: - 0808 800 4444 (weekdays 8-8 and weekends 9-5)
- **Bradford Counselling Services** supports people throughout the Bradford District to access the counselling support they need by offering therapeutic services to help individuals explore and cope with a range of emotional issues. They work with adults, young people and children from the age of 16 upwards, providing up to 12 sessions of counselling. Our funded services provide free counselling to people who live in Bradford District - Phone: - 01274 733 080 - E-mail:-[info@bradfordcounsellingservices.org.uk](mailto:info@bradfordcounsellingservices.org.uk)
- **The Care Leavers Association** bring together the voices and experiences of care leavers to support care leavers of all ages, improve the current care system and change for the better society's perception of people in care - Phone: - 0161 826 0214 - E-mail:-[info@careleavers.com](mailto:info@careleavers.com)
- **The Children's Society** offer services across the country and have professionals ready to listen to how young people are feeling. After talking things through and getting some advice, young people will be in a better place to make changes. They cover a range of issues such as situations like living with an alcohol-dependent parent, feeling too anxious to leave the house, stressed at school, worried about getting mixed up in drugs, they will work with young people to get them through it -  
Phone: - 0300 303 7000
- **The Clothing Bank** provide free clothing to those who need them and they are discreet, quick and efficient - Phone: - 07949 591852 (Emergency support line) - E-mail:-[info@theclothingbank.org.uk](mailto:info@theclothingbank.org.uk) (there is also an enquiry form on the website)
- **The Mix** provides free, non-judgemental and confidential legal advice and support for young people under 25 via online, social and mobile - Phone: - 0808 808 4994
- **The Prince's Trust** offers support to prepare young people for work, and help in gaining employment. They can help with developing skills and confidence, getting a taste of new industries or in gaining some solid work experience. They can offer development awards to fund training - Phone: - 0800 842 842
- **Turn 2 Me** hosts online support groups on anxiety, suicidal thoughts & feelings, depression, stress management and general mental health issues. Sessions need to be booked on line,

are run by qualified professionals who ensure every member is respected and heard and are completely free.

- **Unite Foundation** offers a scholarship to ensure you have a place to live whilst at university leaving you free to study, meet new people and plan your career. They will help you settle in, keep in touch with you and offer you extra opportunities for enjoyment or employment throughout your studies. The eligibility criteria are: -
  - Aged 25 or under
  - A care leaver or estranged from your family
  - Starting or studying your first undergraduate degree
  - Holding UK home fee status
  - Applying to/studying at a partner university

Phone: - 0117 302 7073 - E-mail:- [info@unitefoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@unitefoundation.org.uk)

- **Young Minds** support young people with their mental health and offer support to both the young people themselves and their families – Text YM to 85258

## Financial Offer

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Former Relevant 21+	Qualifying (discretionary payments based on assessment of need only)
<b>Setting Up Home Allowance</b> (supervised) £2000	No <i>*discretionary with consultation with PA</i>	Yes <i>*if living in independent home</i>	Yes	Yes <i>*including post 25 for care experienced YP leaving custody</i>	No
<b>First Home Food Stock</b> £40 (one-off)	Not Applicable	Yes <i>*if living in independent home</i>	Yes	Not Applicable	No
<b>First Home Decorating Allowance</b> £100 (one-off)	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Income Maintenance</b> £65/week (see 10.9)	Yes <i>*living semi-independently/ independently</i>	Yes <i>*living semi-independently/ independently</i>	* 4 weeks from 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday only subject to UC claim	No	No
<b>Birth Certificate</b> £14	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>First Adult Passport and photographs</b> £85 + £10	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Application Fee for British Citizenship</b> (where not met by legal aid)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Council Tax Exemption</b> (including out of district)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Former Relevant 21+	Qualifying (discretionary payments based on assessment of need only)
<b>TV License (1<sup>st</sup> Year)</b> <u>£159</u>	Yes <i>*living semi-independently / independently</i>	Yes <i>*living semi-independently / independently</i>	Yes	No	No
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Years Home Contents Insurance</b>	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Gym Membership</b> (Bradford Council only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Sturdy Luggage Item</b> <u>£60</u> (one-off purchase)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>EET - Attendance Incentive</b> <u>£10/week</u> subject to full attendance (term time only)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>EET - 16-19 Bursary</b> <u>£1200</u> (see 15.2)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	*Discretion of the education provider
<b>EET - FE Bursary</b> <u>£350/ year</u> (see 15.3)	N/A	N/A	Yes	No	No
<b>EET - Computer Bursary</b> <u>£250.00</u> (see 15.4)	Yes	Yes	Yes	*discretion of DWP/service	*discretion of DWP/ service
<b>EET - Prom</b> <u>£100</u> contribution to associated costs	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Former Relevant 21+	Qualifying (discretionary payments based on assessment of need only)
<b>EET - Higher Education Bursary</b> £2000 <i>*paid in instalments/ lump sum on completion of programme of study</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
<b>EET - Higher Education Vacation costs</b> <i>*assessment required to support proposed costs</i>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>EET- Keeping in Touch with Family</b> 3 x visits home per year via public transport <i>*assessment required to support proposed costs</i>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No
<b>EET - Graduation Celebration</b> Cost of Cap and Gown/ celebration of achievement <i>*assessment required to support proposed costs</i>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>EET - Interview Clothing</b> Up-to <u>£50</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	*discretion of service	No
<b>EET- Travel Support to New Job</b> (4 weeks public transport costs)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

	Eligible	Relevant	Former Relevant	Former Relevant 21+	Qualifying (discretionary payments based on assessment of need only)
<b>Winter Clothing</b> <u>£100</u> <b>Summer Clothing</b> <u>£100</u>	Yes *living semi-independently/ independently	Yes *living semi-independently/ independently	Yes	No	No
<b>New into care (SMC)</b> <u>£200</u> (one-off clothing grant)	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Pregnancy Clothing</b> <u>£150</u> (one-off)	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Birthdays</b>	Yes  £207 (gifts) *2022/23  *In line with Fostering Rate **living semi-independently/ independently	Yes  £207 (gifts) *2022/23  *In line with Fostering Rate **living semi-independently/ independently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £100 (18<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>)</li> <li>• £50 (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul> (gifts) *subject to remaining in-touch with the service	£25 gift	No
<b>Festival Gift</b>	Yes  £207 (gifts) *2022/23  *In line with Fostering Rate **living semi-independently/ independently	Yes  £207 (gifts) *2022/23  *In line with Fostering Rate **living semi-independently/ independently	£50 Gift   *subject to remaining in-touch with the service	£10 Gift  (if still in touch)	£10 Gift  (if still in touch)

<b>Driving Lessons</b> Up to <u>£250</u> contribution <i>*subject to assessment</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Relevant</b>	<b>Former Relevant</b>	<b>Former Relevant 21+</b>	<b>Qualifying</b> <i>(discretionary payments based on assessment of need only)</i>
<b>Driving Theory Test (1<sup>st</sup> attempt)</b> <u>£23.40</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Driving Practical Test (1<sup>st</sup> attempt)</b> <u>£62.90</u>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Provisional Driving License and photographs</b> <u>£34</u> (license) <u>£5</u> (towards photos) <i>*subject to assessment</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Custody Payments</b> £20/month- remanded only	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Health Costs (dentist/ optician/ prescriptions)</b>	Yes  <i>*assessment of need</i>	Yes  <i>*assessment of need</i>	HC1 Form to be completed  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/nhs-low-income-scheme-lis/">https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs/nhs-low-income-scheme-lis/</a>		
<b>Activity/ Trips</b> £414/annum <i>*in line with Fostering Holiday Allowance Rate see point 17 for detail</i>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

<b>Consultation Payments</b>	£30/day	£30/day	£30/day	£30/day	£30/day
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