

Bolton Care Leavers offer

If you are from Bolton and are, or will be, a care leaver this leaflet is for you as it tells you all about the support you will receive as a care leaver. Just because you are leaving care, or already have left care, doesn't mean we stop caring for you. We know it is a big step when you leave care so we want to make sure you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for help and advice.

What is a care leaver offer?

A care leaver offer is how we tell you what support is available to you as a care leaver. This leaflet will tell you information about the following areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Your home
- Financial support and advice.
- Employment, Education and training
- All other help

What is our offer to you?

Health and wellbeing

- You can have a leisure pass for free until you are 25. This means you can go swimming or to the gym for free to any council provision.
- You have access to Kooth. Kooth is an online service which can support you with your emotional health.
- Your PA will support you with any health advice. This can be about healthy eating, cooking or how to get more support for anything health related.
- As well as your PA you can speak to a Nurse who works with the Leaving Care Team. They can help you with anything to do with your health.
- You will be a priority if you attend Parallel the young person's Health Centre.

Your home

- There will be a number of different options available to you when you turn eighteen.
- If you live in a foster placement there will be an option to stay in your home following your 18th birthday.
- You will be a priority for local housing so you will be able to access your own property.
- There are a number of different supported accommodation offers available. We will be looking at all these options to make sure we have the right support available to you.
- You will get up to £2000 to help furnish your new home. This will be available until you are 25.
- We work with housing and will continue to work with housing to make sure that you are supported to stay in your home.

Financial support and advice

- You will have the support of the Money Skills Team who can help you with budgeting your money and saving your money.
- There are two workers from the Job Centre who are dedicated to care leavers. They will be able to offer you lots of support with what you are entitled to.

- If you attend University you will have lots of support with your finances. This can help you with your accommodation and weekly spends.
- You will not have to pay council tax up to the age of 25.

Education, employment and support

- You will have support from a Connexions worker up until you are 25. Connexions can help you with careers advice, CV training, and interviews. You will also be able to attend courses on interview preparation and confidence building.
- You will be able to attend six week course which helps to prepare you for working life.
- We provide a something called the 'Support into Employment Scheme for Care Leavers' or LASE for short. This scheme gives you the opportunity to attend paid work placements with the support of a co-ordinator.
- You will be guaranteed an interview for any apprenticeship that the Council advertises as long as you have the qualifications needed.
- We are going to continue to work hard to make sure that more jobs in the council will be accessible to you and other care leavers.

All other help

- You will be allocated a PA who can support you until you are 25. You should have a PA when you turn sixteen and they will support in all areas of your life.
- You will be able to have mentoring from Bolton Lads and Girls Club.
- Finally we will be appointing a Participation officer who will want to get you involved in helping design the future support that care leavers receive.

Useful numbers

Children in care team:

Designated nurse:

Kooth: www.kooth.com

Housing Team:

Director of Children's Services:

The boring stuff

This leaflet was designed to provide you with a snapshot of the support that we will provide you. There is a much longer more detailed version on our website. If you don't want to read that then you can always ask your PA for further information. This offer will always be reviewed as we want to be able to give you the best offer we can.