

Haringey

Young Adult Service Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of our Young Adult Service (YAS) newsletter.



The local offer

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires that all leaving care teams must publish a local offer for their care leavers. The local offer should provide information about the services and support that are available to care leavers, including information about both statutory entitlements as well as any discretionary support. Haringey YAS has been building web pages on Youth Space. You can access this information here.

www.youthspace.haringey.gov.uk/aspire-children-care-council/leaving-care-local-offer

We also have a local offer booklet, accessible via the website or you can request a copy from your allocated worker. This booklet needs revising, but we want to ensure that you have easily accessible information whilst we consult with you to update our local offer presentation and content, so that we can make appropriate changes. If you would like to get involved, please speak to Marjorie Lee, our participation advisor on **020 8489 5849** (email: marjorie.lee@haringey.gov.uk).

Important legislative changes

Previously, all care leavers were entitled to receive support from a Personal Adviser (PA) until they reached the age of 21. This support could continue up to age 25 if care leavers were engaged in education or training. In April 2018, the Children & Social Work Act 2017 changed this, introducing a new duty on local authorities which requires them to offer PA support to all care leavers up to age 25, irrespective of whether they are engaged in education or training. This includes care leavers who return to the local authority at any point after the age of 21 up to age 25 and request PA support.

In Haringey, we have been busy writing to all previous care leavers to ensure they are aware of this new duty. If you are in touch with any former care leaver under the age of 25, please do let them know that they can get in touch with the YAS duty social worker on **020 8489 5800**.

Your financial entitlement

Some financial support from the YAS is an entitlement, which means you will always be able to get it if it applies to your age and circumstances. All other financial entitlement is discretionary. You may be able to get this financial help, but it depends on your circumstances and what resources are available. In all cases, you should discuss your needs with your allocated worker. We will continue to do our best to support your needs and ambitions. You can access more information here. Alternatively, ask your allocated worker for a copy.

www.youthspace.haringey.gov.uk/aspire-children-care-council/leaving-care-local-offer



Young ambassadors group

We are recruiting a group of care-experienced young people to engage as Young Ambassadors for this service. This role will involve you:

- acting as a consultant advisor for consultations and research that effect this service;
- assisting with the development of the YAS with your views and experience;
- attending external events to promote the YAS;
- volunteering and helping with YAS events;
- sharing your experience, ideas and views to help other care leavers.

If you want to learn more and get involved, please do contact Marjorie Lee our participation advisor on 020 8489 5849 (or email: marjorie.lee@haringey.gov.uk).



National Care Leavers Week

National Care Leavers Week runs from 21-28 October. You can get involved with many events happening in London. Find out more here.

www.thecareleaversfoundation.org/About_NCL_Week

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) regularly meets with groups of young people from different local authorities to discuss issues relating to children in care and care leavers. The APPG is open to all care leavers - so why not take part? It will give you an insight into what goes on in parliament and how it makes decisions that affect you. The next APPG takes place on 24 October during National Care Leavers Week. If you would like to know more, please speak to your personal advisor.

FREE

Mental health first aid training

The Greater London Authority Peer Outreach Team is offering free accredited mental health first aid training, specifically and only for care leavers during National Care Leavers Week. The training will take place at City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 October 2018, both sessions from 9am to 5pm. Please speak to your allocated worker if you would like to be referred.





FREE

Gym membership

Here's a great opportunity to get fit and have some fun – all for free! Haringey Children's Services has agreed with Fusion Leisure to provide free gym, leisure and swimming membership to all of Haringey's children in care, care leavers up to the age of 21, as well as all of Haringey's foster carers.

We hope you will make use of this great offer. If you have any further questions, please contact your allocated worker.

Council tax reminder

You can apply for a council tax exemption if you are 18 – 25, a care leaver who was previously in Haringey's care, you live in Haringey and you are liable to pay council tax.

You should first apply for a discretionary reduction, which will leave an outstanding council tax amount, which the council will then reduce to nil (which will mean you will not owe the council any money).



Our corporate parenting pledge

We will include a copy of our corporate parenting pledge with this newsletter - please familiarise yourself with the pledge.

CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE

We hope you can come and celebrate with us all your achievements in 2018 and receive your awards on **19 December 2018 from 3pm**. Your allocated worker will let you know more nearer the time, but we look forward to seeing you there.

Life skills and tenancy workshops

If you have been nominated and verified for your permanent accommodation, please don't forget to sign up for your mandatory classes. We are holding the rescheduled cooking and DIY workshops in November. In January 2019, we are holding the next tenancy workshop. Please contact Novine Noel, our placement verification officer, on **020 8489 1357** or email her at novine.noel@haringey.gov.uk

Pathway plans

We have been working with care leavers and Aspire to review the current pathway plan, as we are aware from feedback that the template needs work to make it user friendly. In the meantime, we have enclosed a survey with this newsletter to canvas your views further. If you would like to get involved with the redesign please contact our participation advisor on 020 8489 5849 (marjorie.lee@haringey.gov.uk).

Setting up Home Allowance

We have renamed the **Leaving Care Grant** as the **Setting up Home Allowance**. The YAS, along with young people who have experienced the service and Finance and Procurement colleagues, came together for two weeks of intense work - an 'agile sprint' – to consider what needed improving.

It is often difficult for young care leavers to access the money they are entitled to quickly when they are moving into new accommodation. This makes it difficult for them to buy essential items they need for their home. The team agreed to work towards the following goals:

- a faster, more consistent process
- improved communication
- more payment options
- overall, happier young people and professionals!

Working together, the team achieved an incredible amount in such a short time and the work continues. We would like to thank the young people who were involved and helped to make the necessary changes. You can access more information on our website:

www.youthspace.haringey.gov.uk/aspire-children-care-council/leaving-care-local-offer



BAME care leavers' roundtable

The Peer Outreach Team is organising a roundtable on **Thursday 25 October, from 4-6pm at City Hall**. With Care Leavers Week falling in Black History Month, the roundtable is to discuss the experiences and the specific issues affecting BAME care leavers. If you would like to know more please contact our participation advisor on **020 8489 5849** (or email: marjorie.lee@haringey.gov.uk).

Haringey
LONDON