

OUR OFFER TO HARINGEY'S CARE LEAVERS

Find out:

- What you're entitled to
- Who will support you



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WHAT IS A LOCAL OFFER AND WHO IS IT FOR?

We know that it is a big step when you leave care and start living on your own or with friends. Now that you are working towards leaving care, we will continue to support and care for you.

We want you to be aware of our commitments to you, feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for advice support and help should you need them.

As a listening organisation, we have obtained your views about the content of this booklet, what should be in it, and what it should look like. We hope you find this booklet a useful guide in your journey from care to adulthood.

WHAT IS A LOCAL OFFER?

At Haringey Council, we have a special responsibility to look after our care leavers. We always try to provide you with the best possible support and care.

We have a legal duty under The Children and Social Work Act 2017 to publish our Local Offer to you as care leavers.

This document is our Local Offer for care leavers. It explains the support and services that are available to you if you are a Haringey Council care leaver aged between 16 and 25 years old.

WHO IS THE LOCAL OFFER FOR?

You are eligible for our support if you've been in care:

- for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16th birthday) or
- for 13 weeks after your 16th birthday

We offer advice, guidance and support to young people who:

- are leaving care from the age of 16, up to your 25th birthday. You can get support from a Personal Advisor at any point up until 25, if that is what you want



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Haringey Council is a 'corporate parent' for looked after children and care leavers.

'Corporate Parent' is quite a strange phrase. In plain English, it means the Council should act like a good parent to its children in care and care leavers. We wish only the best for you. We want to ensure you have the best start as you transition into adulthood.

In everything we do, we are supporting you to be healthy, happy, safe and working towards your goals. Your Personal Advisor will support you in this journey.

There may be times when we disagree over tough decisions that we believe are in your best interests. When this happens, we promise to listen to your opinions but we will always put your safety first. We will work hard to come up with solutions together to overcome tricky issues.



"As a council, we believe that every young person should be afforded the best start to their adult life. That's why I am delighted to continue to endorse Haringey's Local Offer for care leavers, which sets out our commitment to provide continued support and guidance to young adults leaving care."

CLlr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families

"Becoming an adult and learning to live independently is a big life challenge for all young people. We will do our very best to be at your side all the way through your journey. The Local Offer describes the support and advice we will provide you with, but remember if you need just a friendly chat, we'll be here for that too."

Ann Graham, Director of Children's Services

YOUR PERSONAL ADVISOR AND PATHWAY PLAN

You will be able to ask to have support from your young person's adviser up to the age of 25 whether you are in education or training or not. This is to ensure care leavers receive similar support to young adults who live with their families.

PERSONAL ADVISOR (PA)

You will have an allocated worker called a Personal Advisor, who will:

- meet you for a chat at a place where you feel comfortable
- visit your home to make sure it is suitable and safe for you
- keep an eye on your progress or difficulties you might have
- help you with decisions about your future
- listen to your wishes and feelings
- support your relationships with other professionals
- help you to achieve your goals, making sure you have what you need to succeed in the future
- keep talking with you even when we disagree. We will always explain our reasons for taking a decision
- link you to an Independent Advocate who can ensure your voice is heard and help communicate your views with the council on matters important to you.

We know the relationship between you and your PA is really important. Wherever possible we will try to ensure you keep the same personal advisor. When this is not possible, we will explain why.



PATHWAY PLAN

Everyone from 16 to 21 years old has a Pathway Plan which is reviewed every 6 months or reviewed more regularly should there be major changes in your life. Your pathway plan is your document and sets out your needs, views, and future goals and exactly what support you will receive from us. If you want and need, we can keep your Pathway Plan under review and updated with you until you are 25. If there are major changes for you, we will review it more often. The Pathway Plan is your plan, it helps you and the local authority set out the steps and goals that should be taken to prepare you for full independence and adulthood. This plan covers the following areas:

- Education, employment or training
- Health and wellbeing
- Finances
- Housing
- Important relationships
- Immigration status if you are an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child (UASC)
- Decisions and actions identified in your best interest
- Your wishes, feelings and goals

You may find creating your plan a bit confusing at first but remember it's your Plan - you are in control of it! You can get creative with your Plan. Ask your PA to bring along a 'vision board' to help with this.

You can ask other people to help you with your Plan. This might be other professionals or people close to you.

Together, you and your PA will review your Pathway Plan every six months to make sure your goals are still up to date and on track. You can bring your review forward if you wish.

If there is anything you do not like or do not understand ask your Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

ASPIRE COUNCIL

ASPIRE Council is our youth-led group for young people in care and leaving care in Haringey. As a member you will be able to meet-up regularly, plan events and make the Council aware of important issues.

Haringey Aspire offer a range of activities and events to all Care Leavers throughout the year. You are welcome to take part in the following, either on your own or with the support of your social worker/PA:

- A free monthly Cinema Club at Crouch End Picture House with refreshments.
- Discussion and Consultation groups where you are invited to discuss and share your views on policies relating to Care Leavers, for example, the Haringey Savings policy and the Care Leavers Covenant and Pledge.
- Planning groups for arts, theatre and music activities that take place at Percy House, Tottenham Hotspur Foundation and within London venues.

HOUSING AND LIVING INDEPENDENTLY

WHAT ARE YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS?

Getting set up in your new home is one of the most important aspects of becoming an independent adult.

Your Personal Advisor will help you to think about your options, which include:

- **'Staying Put'** – if this is what you and your foster carer want, supporting you to remain with your foster carers under what is called a "Staying Put" arrangement. This can last until you are 21. Our Staying Put policy is available to you and your foster carer. We will visit you and your carers to explain what this means to you before your 18th birthday.
- **Supported Accommodation** – explored as part of your housing pathways, or semi-independent shared accommodation considered with key work support.
- **Your own flat** – when your PA has assessed you as ready and you have completed independent living workshops i.e., Money house and skills for life modules.
- Making sure you are registered with Haringey's housing team or another local authority if your circumstances allow you to be eligible for housing elsewhere.



SUPPORT TO PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENCE

Learning to live independently for the first time is a big challenge. Suddenly, you are responsible for paying rent, gas, electric, water, travel and food costs. That's why we have put in place workshops to provide you with the skills you need to thrive.

These include:

- Skills for Life accredited training programme - Learning to manage money, health, social and relationship skills, personal safety and employment
- Moneyhouse - A 5-day intensive independent living skills programme. You have to attend before you can be approved for your permanent home

The Haringey Skills for Life app - information for local young people on housing, money and other matters that you can use to help progress with independent living skills. Includes information just for care leavers!

Your Personal Advisor will also support you to apply for the right benefits so that you are able to pay rent.

I AM READY FOR MY OWN FLAT, HOW DO I GET IT?

Once you have attended the workshops and you have been assessed as ready for independent living, you will be able to bid for properties. You may be offered housing but would be expected to attend appropriate training and workshop to upskill you for independent living.

Your Personal Advisor will be able to support you to do this. When a viewing becomes available, please let your Personal Advisor know so they can come with you to help you make the right choice.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SETTING UP YOUR NEW HOME

You are entitled to:

- Setting up Home Allowance (up to £3000 based on assessment of need) to help with your resettlement.
- Practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home.
- Helping you claim universal credit and other benefits if you are eligible and ensure these are transferred to your new home.
- Support if you have a housing crisis, including helping if you are threatened or at risk of losing your tenancy.
- Personal Advisor support when moving into your new home. Your PA will be there to help out with practical things like helping you with setting up your gas, electricity and water.
- As a new tenant, help you understand your responsibilities such as TV licence, home insurance, broadband etc.
- Exemption from Council Tax (until age 25) if you live within the borough
- Alongside your PA, you will also have additional support from a Resettlement Worker for the period of your probationary tenancy (6-12 months).

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

We are keen to promote your overall wellbeing, and should you have any worries about your health, we will be here to help signpost you to appropriate services for care and treatment.

Your physical and mental wellbeing effect every aspect of your life. That's why we have a range of support available to keep you feeling at your best especially important when living alone for the first time.

GENERAL

- Support to register with a GP and support with talking to your GP
- Provide you with your 'Care Leavers Summary' at your last statutory health review. This is a letter that details your health history before you turned 18.
- Support to access Eye (Opticians) and Dental Care
- Access to advocacy support to put your voice across in shaping your journey through care.

MENTAL HEALTH

- Support from your PA to access counselling or mental health services
- Access to a network of voluntary and community groups able to provide specialist support according to your needs
- www.Kooth.com – Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people. You can access friendly counsellors, self-help and community support daily until 10pm. Use the log-in code: N227SG

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- One You Haringey – free support to keep fit and healthy. Including help to stop smoking, exercise more and manage weight
- Free access to Haringey Fusion Leisure Centres (up to age 21), which includes:
 - Gym
 - Swimming
 - Exercise classes



SEXUAL HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

- Facilitate personal development workshops focused on safe, positive, and healthy sex and relationships.
- Healthy Living Pharmacies – sexual health testing, free condoms, and support to stop smoking at one of 20 pharmacies across the borough. [Find your nearest Healthy Living Pharmacy.](#)
- Advice & information around healthy relationships from your Personal Advisor
- You can find the latest information about sexual health services in Haringey at www.haringey.gov.uk/sexualhealth.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

- [Insight Haringey](#) – professional and confidential local support for young people on reducing or stopping drug and alcohol use. The service works to improve overall wellbeing, health and support networks
- [Talk to Frank](#) – online information and advice about drugs and alcohol



EDUCATION, WORK AND APPRENTICESHIPS

We are committed to helping you to achieve your ambitions. Whether you are studying for qualifications, training on the job or starting off in work, your Personal Advisor will be there to help. We will ask you how you are doing and be ready to celebrate your achievement with you.

If you have an Education, Health and Social Care Plan (EHC Plan) we will track this and attend any EHC Plan review meetings. Whilst in education you will have a Personal Education Plan which will be reviewed termly until you 19th birthday. This plan is an individual education which ensure you are able to meet your set targets.

EDUCATION

- Your Personal Advisor will help you to choose and apply to courses and a place of learning that is right for you.
- Your social worker/PA will support you to access the 16-19 bursary fund worth up to £1,200.
- Support with costs related to your education needs, depending on need. This could be up to £250 a year for equipment, books and other essentials.
- Support with grant applications for additional financial or equipment support.
- Support with public transport costs when travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews.
- Support to acquire a laptop for those in education to achieve qualifications.
- Haringey Adult Learning Service – free online courses leading to qualifications, including English and Maths, for those 19 and over
- Haringey Works will provide support for our care leavers/young people with Education Health care Plan (EHCP), autism and substance misuse in accessing permanent and temporal roles within the local authority and in the community.

APPRENTICESHIPS

- Haringey Council operate a guaranteed interview scheme for all care leavers applying for apprenticeship posts within the council, subject to the applicant meeting the minimum criteria.
- Haringey Council will offer access to apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers in conjunction with local partner agencies.
- We also have access to exciting apprenticeships with the UK Civil Service.
- We will support you with the cost of bus travel to your place of training and education within London. If you are a university student, your travel cost will be built into your student grant/bursary.

WORK AND VOLUNTEERING

- CV writing and interview techniques and preparation support.
- Access to interview clothing
- Careers advice
- Access to onsite Department of Welfare and Pensions (DWP) work coach sessions
- Access to volunteering opportunities.
- DWP employment support drop-in
- Support with the cost of bus travel to a confirmed job interview.

UNIVERSITY

- Haringey Council provides a Higher Education Bursary of £2,000 to cover the period of your degree e.g. 3-4 years
- Help with rent payments in the holidays of up to £100 per week for a total of 20 weeks
- Support from your Personal Advisor to apply for charitable grants and bursaries
- **Propel** – the website where you can check details of funding, support and applications for care leavers at the university you choose

ASPIRATIONS PANEL AND NEWSLETTER

The 'Aspirations Panel' is a chance for you to hear about the opportunities available to you within the Council and with our partners. In addition, we will offer the NEET Reduction Panel (16-18 year) alongside the Aspirational Panel for 18–25-year-old. Both panels will run side by side to offer support to YP not in education, training or employment.

Our partners include: - Haringey Works, Haringey Community Gold, Drive Forward Foundation, Tottenham Hotspur FC, UK Unsigned and DWP

We will send you up-to-date information on education, employment and training opportunities via direct emails, newsletter and WhatsApp (through the allocated social worker). It also contains helpful information about staying healthy and activities in the community. However, it is important that you maintain an up-to-date mobile number with your allocated worker or PA.



MONEY AND FINANCES

We want you to be confident in managing your money, maximising your income and making good financial decisions.

Lots of things change when you turn 18, and we know it isn't easy to think about rent, bills, food, travel and social expenses all at the same time.

WE WILL WORK TOGETHER SO THAT YOU ARE PREPARED TO COPE WITH NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.



We will pay for your first application for all important identification documents (ID) such as passport; National Insurance Card; birth certificate.



If you are living in semi-independent accommodation, you will get subsistence payments of £67.20 per week. Then four weeks after your 18th birthday you will transition to universal benefits to support with your daily expenses.



Birthday money on your 16th, 17th and 18th birthdays



Clothing allowance of £20 per month per month (age 16 and 17) for those not living with foster carers.



We will pay for and support you to get the following important identification documents: passport; National Insurance Card; birth certificate



Support for clothing for job interviews



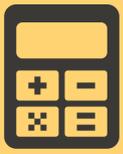
We will help you to set up a bank account



Support with bus travel costs to attend education or training.



If you have a Junior ISA or any savings - we will help you access these



Money management workshops through the Moneyhouse and 1-2-1 budget coaching if you need it



One month before you turn 18, our in-house Department for Work and Pensions officer will assist you in making a benefits claim if you need to make one.



Free access to Haringey leisure centres up to the age of 21 years old with a leisure pass.



You will have access up to £3,000 'Setting Up Home' grant to help with the costs of furnishing your home.

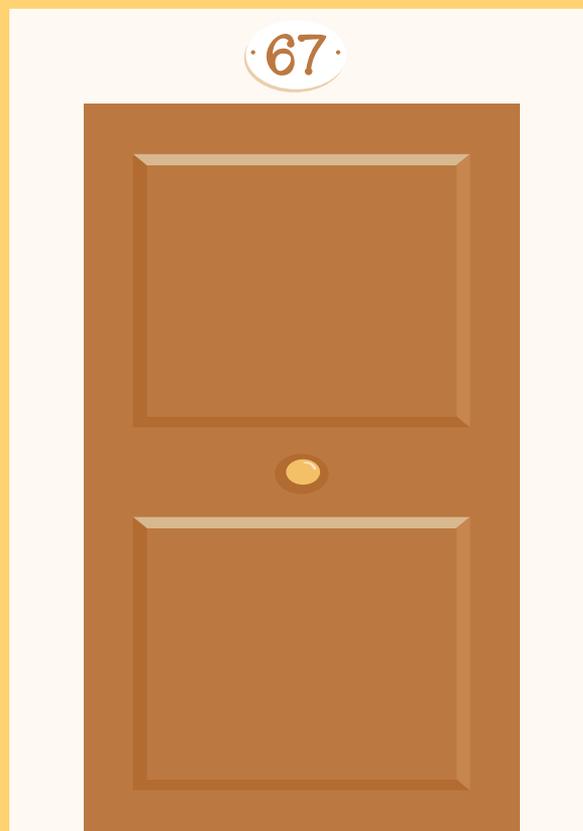


You will be exempt from paying Council Tax until you are 25th birthday if you live in Haringey and subject to negotiation for care leavers outside of Haringey.



In cases of emergency, you can get:

- access to food parcels
- discretionary financial support and support to access other sources of crisis payments



POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Our community also plays a big part in helping us feel connected to other people. Each of us have our own idea about what community means to us. For you, it might be a faith group, sports club or music studio.

We will support you to build and maintain relationships that are positive with people important to you as well as encourage you to contribute to the community.

Where appropriate, continuing to support contact with the “Independent Visitor” you had while you were in care.

Helping you to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like previous foster carers or social workers to continue the support in adulthood and your journey through life.

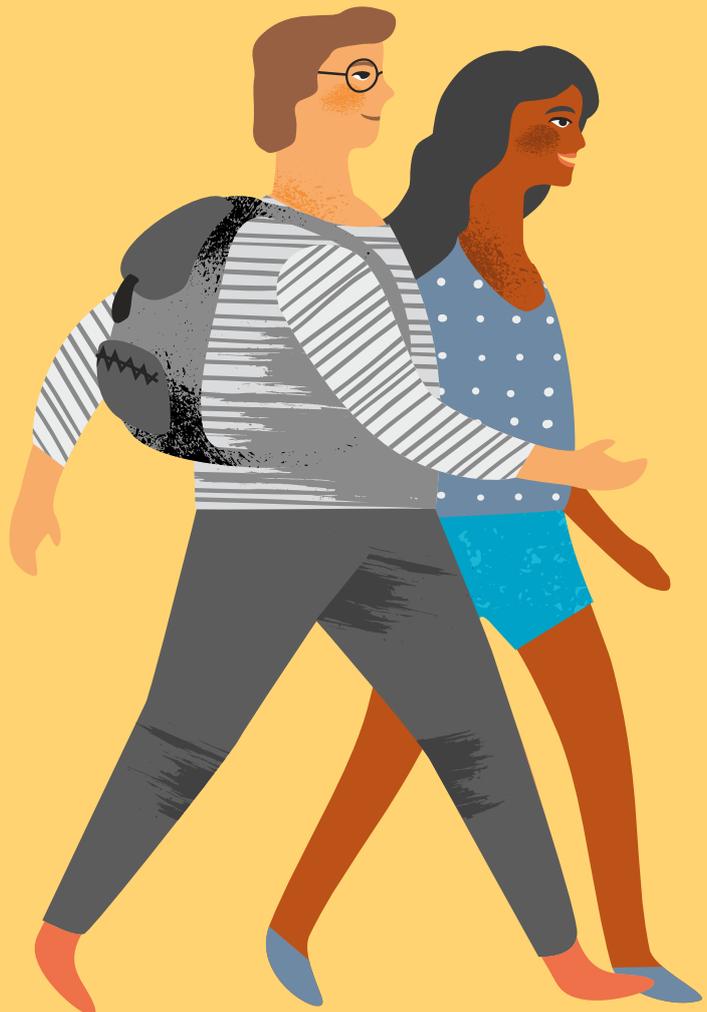
Supporting you to find and make contact with family members if you have come from another country.

We will offer you mentoring, coaching and befriending opportunities should you need this in navigating your way through life and/or presenting challenges.

We will connect you with groups, clubs and schemes that will help you make the most of your talents and interests. Including community and voluntary groups through our partners at [Selby Centre](#) and [Bridge Renewal Trust](#).

We will let you know about youth services and projects you can be involved in, including [Bruce Grove Youth Space](#) which is open every weekday evening. There is also a youth hub in Wood Green called Rising Green that opens Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings which you will be able to access.

Haringey has an incredible **arts, music and creative scene**. We have close ties with arts organisations in the borough that you can make the most of, including [Alexandra Palace](#). Ask your PA about the opportunities that are available.



Jackson's Lane Arts Centre – participation and volunteering opportunities with Jackson's Lane creative programmes.

Haringey Shed – music studios, theatre and personal development opportunities.

Care Leavers Covenant – exciting opportunities that are only available to care leavers. You can download the app from the app store.

Mentoring – we will connect you with mentoring opportunities.

People with disabilities – if you are disabled you may need support from adult services. If your social worker feels you need an assessment to be eligible for adult services, they will explain this to you. You will still be able to get support from us as a care leaver. We'll also connect you with the voluntary and community groups that are right for you.

LGBT+ - finding your way in the world as an out person can be a difficult experience. Your PA will be happy to talk through worries and concerns if you wish. **Wise Thoughts** offer drop-in group sessions and one-to-one support chats. **Stonewall Housing** support LGBT+ young people into safe, secure accommodation.

For UCAS we offer translation and interpreting services and support that is sensitive to cultural, religious and identity needs.

English as a second language – you will receive an assessment of your needs that looks at every aspect of your life, we will provide you with an interpreter and we will link you to local cultural and faith groups.

Care Leavers living outside Haringey – If you are living away from Haringey and want support to discover groups and spaces that are local to you, your PA will help you to do this. We will also put you in contact with the local leaving care services in the area where you are located.



PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY

We want you to be an active member of society, and to have all the chances in life that other young adults have.

We can help by:

- Ensuring you have all the important documents we all need to help us make our way through life. We will offer one off payment for all ID documentation which may be required when accessing services and support in the society.
- Providing information on groups and clubs you may wish to join, or interest that you enjoy and possibly helping with the cost of, leisure activities.
- Offering a tailor-made career pathway that could include work experience, apprenticeship, training or education.
- Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in and benefit from
- Informing you about the relevant award, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests.
- Encouraging you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in elections and participate in the electoral process.
- Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver.
- Access to your files- You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care. When you are close to your 18th Birthday, your Social Worker should make sure that you have your folder of key information, including your health records, and the records of your Children Looked After Review meetings. At your request a referral can be made on your behalf for emotional support.



SUPPORT IF YOU ARE IN CUSTODY

Being in custody can be a very difficult time. We are committed to supporting you get back on track and achieve your goals.

We will:

- Visit you every six weeks
- Use 'Email a Prisoner' to keep in regular touch with you. We will fund your replies.
- Support you to reduce the likelihood of reoffending.
- Help you plan for life after custody, including education, work and housing opportunities.
- Encourage you to work in prison. This will provide money to fund things that you need. We will also provide discretionary financial support, depending on need.
- Pay £5-£10 weekly to those aged 16 and 17, who are not able to work in prison. This is to pay for basic items and phone contact with family and carers.
- We will continue to review your pathway plan, seek your views and input and ensure there is a comprehensive resettlement plan in place prior to your release back into the community.



SUPPORT IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PARENT

Being a new parent can be a very exciting and nerve-wracking experience at the same time.

You will have full access to NHS services, like any new parent. This includes: a GP, a midwife and a health visitor.

We will also do everything we can to make you feel comfortable, happy and confident in your parenting. To do this we will:

- Support you to access children's centres.
- Help you build a network of support.
- Access to 'Watch Me Play!' for 16- and 17-year-olds – a parenting class supporting child development through play with parents.
- Keep you informed about the range of services available through Early Help. This includes groups and classes to learn more about parenting. As well as the chance to meet other young mothers and fathers.
- Help you to access 15 hours of free childcare when your child reaches two and 30 hours when they turn three.
- We will provide free 40-minute consultation with an Educational Psychologist from Haringey Educational Psychology Service, if you are concerned about your child's development, learning, emotional well-being or behaviour to talk through your concerns, help you decide a plan of action and signpost you to sources of help and support. If you have any queries or would like to book a consultation, please send an email with your name and telephone number to familyadmin@markfield.org.uk stating your preference for an in-person meeting or telephone consultation.

[Find your local children's centre.](#)

UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

We know that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children may need support with their immigration status to access education, work, housing and benefits.

We will be alongside you throughout your journey.

In addition to all the support included elsewhere in this guide, we will provide specific support for your needs:

- Support to understand the immigration process.
- Ensure you have access to legal immigration advice and help you to work with your solicitor
- Pathway Plan – planning for a successful application to remain in the UK. We will also help you make plans for what happens if your application for leave to remain in the UK is unsuccessful and then help you to make appropriate arrangements to return to your home country.
- A financial plan to enable you to make an application for settled status.
- Support with access to emotional and mental health support, if required

If your application to remain in the UK is unsuccessful, your Personal Advisor will support you to seek advice on the merit of an appeal for a fresh claim.

In the event this is not an option, we will arrange a Human Rights Assessment to take place. This will consider all aspects of your life in the UK and any barriers to you returning to your home country. We will also assist you with a voluntary return application, if this is your wish.

For further information and support as a young person seeking asylum visit:

- [Coram](#)
- [British Red Cross](#)
- [Migrant Help UK](#)

USEFUL CONTACTS

LISTENING WORKS

Phone, text and web chat support for care leavers, every evening 6-12. Call on 0808 802 0222 or follow the link for the web chat.

BECOME

The charity for children in care and young care leavers. Call their care leaver advice line 0800 023 2033 between 10am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

DRIVE FORWARD FOUNDATION

Support for care leavers in London that includes mentoring, career opportunities, and employment training.

REES FOUNDATION

Support for care leavers that includes grants, arts projects, careers coaching and driving.

SPARK FOUNDATION

Grants for children in care and care leavers up to £600 for skills, hobbies and equipment.

CARE LEAVERS FOUNDATION

Small grant making organisation targeted at care leavers without alternative sources of funding.

CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

BARNARDO'S ADVOCACY SERVICE

An advocate is someone who can help you understand your rights, express your views and be listened to and attend meetings with you. Barnardo's advocacy service is for children in care, care leavers and children in need of support and advice. Email: advocacy2@barnardos.org.uk