

18+ CARE LEAVERS SERVICE

**SUPPORT FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE
GOING INTO HIGHER
EDUCATION
(STUDYING AT
UNIVERSITY)**

OBTAINING A UNIVERSITY PLACE

- Application is done through UCAS, fee can be reimbursed / met by Children's Services
- Open days to be attended, costs of this can be met by Children's Services
- Application and Grants / Loans process is the same as for any other student, and care leavers are treated as "independent" students (their parental income is not taken into account), there is a box to check to let them know you are a care leaver

COURSE FEES

- Course fees are set by the university / college.
- Students apply for a tuition fees loan from the Student Finance agency; this is an on-line application
- The fees loan is paid directly to the university/ college
- The student is responsible for repayment of all student loans

MAINTENANCE

- Care leavers including those remaining with foster carers going to university are entitled to apply for a non-repayable maintenance grant from the Student Finance agency
- The grant is paid directly to the student in instalments, at the start of each term
- This should be used to cover day to day expenses, food, personal requirements etc.

Those living independently will also need to cover costs for gas and electric

STUDENT LOANS

All students can apply for a maintenance loan from Student Finance (repayable). Care leavers do not have to apply for the loan if they do not wish to, but if they do they will be responsible for the repayment of this, when they start working. This is their decision.

ACCOMMODATION

All students will be encouraged to live within student accommodation at their chosen university in order to participate in the full academic and social activities and life the university offers. This will be a personal decision.

Generally, these costs up to a reasonable amount will be met by Children's Services, to include;

- Rent for those who may already have their own tenancies and are attending a local university, so do not move away
- Student accommodation for those who will attend universities away from their local area
- Cost of any accommodation needs during vacations (summer, Easter, winter)
- For those remaining with their carers during the period of the university course and attending a local university, foster carers would be paid a lodgings fee, to cover the cost of the placement and ongoing support

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- Where the young person leaving care is "Staying Put" with their former foster carers, funding for this arrangement need to be agreed prior to age 18 and will be incorporated into the finance provided

BURSARIES

- Care leavers are eligible for a Care Leavers Higher Education (HE) bursary from Children's Services (see next section)
- In addition, other financial support is increasingly available from university/colleges, for young people from care backgrounds
- Applications for other bursaries should be made directly to the university/college

LOCAL AUTHORITY BURSARY

- Birmingham Children's Services will pay a Care Leavers HE bursary of £2,000 per course. There is only one HE bursary per care leaver
- This will be paid by instalments. The first paid during the first term, the second and third towards the end of the respective years
- The local authority may withhold payment of any unpaid balance of the bursary if the young person is not pursuing the course in accordance with their Pathway Plan
- Bursaries do not have to be repaid

ADDITIONAL COSTS

- The costs of books, equipment, clothing, trips that are essential for the course will be paid
- Basic equipment if needed for the young person's accommodation such as bedding, towels, kitchen items, to be provided from the Independent Living Grant
- Reasonable travel costs to and from university
- All young people will be encouraged to seek part time employment to assist with personal expenses
- All additional costs would be discussed and arranged through the young person's Aftercare Adviser
- Eve Brook Scholarship Fund works in partnership with Birmingham Children's Services to provide grants and other assistance to young people heading for Higher Education

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LOCAL UNIVERSITIES:

Aston University	www.aston.ac.uk
University of Birmingham	www.birmingham.ac.uk
Birmingham City University	www.bcu.ac.uk
Coventry	www.coventry.ac.uk/healthandwellbeing/careleavers
Keele	www.keele.ac.uk
Newman University College	www.newman.ac.uk
Staffordshire	www.staffs.ac.uk
Warwick	www.go.warwick.ac.uk/outreach
Wolverhampton	www.wlv.ac.uk/care
Worcester	www.worc.ac.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

Student Finance England
www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Buttle Trust
Charity that supports careleavers.
www.buttletrust.org

Aimhigher
Partnership of 4 WM Universities to encourage students from less advantaged backgrounds.
www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk

West Midlands Care Leavers Network
Baljit Gill b.k.gill@aston.ac.uk

Eve Brook Scholarship Fund

A Birmingham Charity that works in partnership with the 18+ Service and Birmingham City Council to help and encourage young people with financial support.

www.evebrookfund.org.uk



CONTACT US

BY POST:
18+ Care Leavers Service,
PO Box 16378,
Birmingham B2 2AH

BY PHONE:
0121 464 1229
(Duty Service)

You can also telephone the **Birmingham Customer First Centre** on **0121 303 1888**, or telephone/email your **Aftercare Adviser**.

YOU CAN VISIT US
AT OUR DROP-IN
SERVICE AT:
**New Aston House,
Alma Street, Newtown,
Birmingham B19 2RL**

Our opening hours are:
8.45am to 5.15pm Mon - Thurs
8.45am to 4.15pm Fri