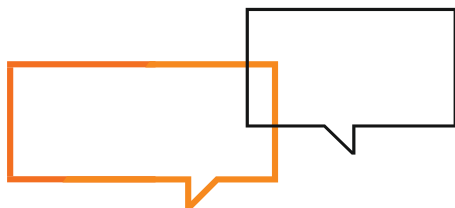


care leaver local offer:
Audit tool



If you are an NLCBF member, you can access the full care leaver local offer Toolkit here: www.leavingcare.org or contact nlcbf@catch-22.org.uk

Local Authorities (LAs) are now required to publish a local offer for care leavers that includes information about statutory entitlements, but also additional support that LAs choose to provide for care leavers. Government Guidance states the local offer should cover six main areas: **health and well-being; relationships; education and training; employment; accommodation** and **participation in society**¹. The National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum (NLCBF) has produced a toolkit to help members learn from each other and support them with ideas on how to continue to improve their own local offer. The project focuses on the additional support recorded in local offers; it looks at the six main areas and includes support for finances and different groups of care leavers.

The printed toolkit comprises of:

- **Guide and Key Messages** – describes the background of the project, summarises key findings and recommendations
- **Survey Findings Summary** – details members' views and experiences of developing their local offer
- **Audit tool** – based on systematic mapping of a sample of 20 members' local offers. This tool helps local authorities (with young people) review and improve their local offer

care leaver local offer: **Audit tool**

this document is the Audit tool

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-offer-guidance>

each local authority will prioritise different types of non-statutory support, so every local offer will be unique. Members are keen to learn from each other and understand more about the additional support they are giving their care leavers. However, there is no easy way to benchmark the content of the different care leaver local offers.

By mapping local offers we can start to understand what components are commonly included as well as highlighting less common areas of extra support - this will inspire and support members with ideas on how to continue to improve their own local offer.

This tool is based on a systematic review of a selection (n=20) of NLCBF members published local offers. The review was carried out between June and August 2019. Ideas from a focus group with seven Champions from the Young People's Benchmarking Forum (YPBMF) have also been incorporated.



Health and Well-Being

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhargal Caitlin Burrows
		Your Care Leaver Local offer now	Your Care leaver Local offer in the future		
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers		Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?		
Support with Health appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport costs to doctor or hospital appointments covered - Leaving care worker can attend appointments with care leaver - Financial support (e.g. up to £300 towards health costs, such as glasses, dentistry or accessing medical appointments) 		<p>We currently offer support with registering for the GP, dentist and optician from your Personal Advisor (PA) - we don't explicitly say that your worker can attend appointments however this is an unwritten expectation of workers when requested.</p> <p>There have been many times when we have provided financial support for attending appointments however this is on a case by case basis.</p> <p>We don't currently offer any additional financial support for glasses, dentistry etc however anyone under the age of 18 is entitled to these services at no cost. We will support with the application of a Health Cost Certificate (for those on a low income) or a Medical Exemption Certificate (for those with long term medical illness). In exceptional circumstances we have made a financial contribution for dentistry work however this would be considered on a case by case basis.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can ask your PA to attend appointments with you • That financial support for additional medical appointments and transport to these appointments can be considered on a case by case basis. 		
Health passport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Available to every care leaver - Care leaver offered opportunity to understand information / ask questions about content of health passport 		<p>We currently offer a health passport at the last annual health check with the Looked After Nurse. This includes data collated from young people's annual health assessments. There have been a number of young people who say that they have not received this.</p> <p>We offer an annual health checkup up to the age of 18</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you haven't received your Health Passport by 18 then you can request this information from your PA • You will be offered a final meeting at 18 with the LAC nurse to review your Health Passport. 		

	<p>and currently offer an incentive for young people to attend these.</p> <p>We are not clear about offering the opportunity to help young people understand the information - whilst it's assumed that young people can ask their worker.</p>	
<p>access to leisure services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free leisure membership of LA facilities (sometimes there is an age cut off e.g. end at age 21; from age 22+ receive discount membership not free) - Free leisure membership with a 'plus one' (e.g. take a friend; for carer / mentor) - Discounted leisure membership of LA facilities NB: sometimes offer is time limited (e.g. free for 3 months) - Offer equivalent to care leavers out of area 	<p>We currently offer a leisure or gym pass up to the age of 21 and offer to make a financial contribution of up to £25 per month for gym memberships for young people who are out of area.</p> <p>We do not currently offer a discount membership to over 21s or offer a plus one.</p>	<p>The local authorities where they have given a plus one the leisure centre is owned by the local authority and they are giving young people a free membership. The majority of leisure centres in Warwickshire are independently run by Everyone Active and we pay a reduced monthly fee for every care leaver who requests a leisure pass. Therefore, to fund a plus one for each care leaver would be to a high financial commitment.</p> <p>We propose that we create and promote a Buddy Up Scheme for care leavers to go to the gym together.</p>

Health and Well-Being

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
Specialist health project or worker (for care leavers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialist health project or worker (for care leavers) - Care leavers can see the specialist looked after nurses (sometimes there is an age cut off e.g. till 21, till 24) - Health drop in at care leaver venue - Clinical psychologist available in leaving care team - Speech and language therapists available in leaving care team - Mental health coordinator and / or practitioner in leaving care team - Healthy lifestyle adviser available - One to one session or group program (e.g. 12 weeks) for care leavers to promote healthy and active lifestyle - C cards available at leaving care venue - Young person's support service (e.g. substance misuse) eligibility age criteria extended for care leavers (up to age 25) - Mindfulness, Stress Reduction and Communication skills training available for care leavers - Workshops at leaving care base e.g. help to manage emotions and learn relaxation techniques - Care leaver fast track access to counselling support up to age 25 - Cooking and healthy eating workshops offered at leaving care base - Cookbook (including healthy recipes) produced by care leavers 	<p>We currently do not have specialist workers within the Leaving Care Team who are health workers, clinical psychologist, speech and language therapist or mental health co-ordinator. However, we have worked closely with the LAC nurse to provide a drop in session at our Drop In bases.</p> <p>We currently have COMPASS available to young people up to the age of 25 years which is a support service for alcohol and drug misuse.</p> <p>We did offer a relaxation and yoga workshop however the uptake was very low. This is something we will revisit.</p> <p>We have had two care leavers complete a beauty course who then undertook an afternoon of beauty treatments for care leavers.</p> <p>We offer cooking workshops regularly which encourage young people to cook meals on a budget as well as baking treats.</p> <p>We have had 7 young people complete the accredited Food Hygiene Course from which one young person has gained employment within the catering industry and supported the kitchen staff at Old Shire Hall, Warwick for our Refugee Week Celebration in June 2019.</p> <p>We have two care leaver apprentices working on a cookbook with the support of other care leavers. This is ongoing.</p>	<p>We recognise that this area is a weakness in our local offer. We propose that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We arrange for C cards to be made available at the drop ins for young people to be able to access free contraception across Coventry and Warwickshire. • We liaise with the LAC nurse to continue the Drop In sessions • We explore possible healthy lifestyle workshops • We consider a couch to 5K running group • We are aiming to take a group of young people to climb Snowdon and run an obstacle 10K – Wolf Run - to promote healthy lifestyle • We arrange positive mental wellbeing workshops which include mindfulness, relaxation, managing stress and other emotions and ways to positive wellbeing.
other ideas for extra support for health and wellbeing	We work closely with Family Nurse Partnership who offer pregnancy support for young people who are pregnant before their 18 th birthday and they continue to support the young parent until the child is 2 years old.	

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?
What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?

Mini survey was completed at a recent event and it was apparent that randomly 35 out of 40 young people did know about the offer. The Care Leavers Offer is embedded in the Pathway Plan documents and is available online and in print for all Care Leavers. More could still be done to promote this. Could put on a big re-launch of this document - as one of our events and a morning event for workers - mandatory Team Meeting.



Idea From YPBMF: Financial Support for Prescriptions up to 25

Relationships

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhangal Caitlin Burrows
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	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
Mentoring scheme for care leavers - Mentors (general) available - Peer (care leaver) mentors available - Grand mentors ('older adults') available NB: mentor support available 'out of hours'	<p>We started offering Grand Mentors in April 2019 and currently have 11 care leavers successfully matched with a Grand Mentor and have had excellent media coverage across BBC radio and TV. Our volunteer co-ordinator continues to train Grand Mentors and liaise with the Leaving Care Team with matching care leavers with a Grand Mentor.</p> <p>We currently offer peer mentor training and will be promoting peer mentors within the Leaving Care Team in 2020.</p> <p>Mentoring schemes are available through Young People First as an outside agency.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Mentors are available and explain what a Grand Mentor is • Peer Mentors are available • Peer Mentor training is available

Understanding life story

- Offer opportunity to talk prior to requesting records
- Support to young person when access records (e.g. work with you to help you understand what it all means)
- Fee of £10 to request access to records (may be waived)
- Virtual memory box to store photo, film, documents (up to age 25)

We held a workshop in joint partnership with the Rees Foundation in November 2019 to support young people to understand what accessing your records would be like and discuss any concerns around this.

We currently state that your PA will be available to discuss this and support with accessing records.

Warwickshire are currently recruiting 5 Family Support Workers to work with Children in Care and Leaving Care to understand their life story. We also have a PA within the Children in Care Team (aged 14-18 years) who is being trained in Complex Life Story Work who will support our young people to understand their life story.

We do not charge a fee to access records.

There has previously been a lot of discussion around virtual and real memory box.

We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:

- We continue to offer workshops to learn about accessing records, with support from the REE's foundation.
- We will offer the young person the opportunity to read their files with a worker present for emotional support.
- We will offer counselling support before and after your read your files with at least a one to one session with a worker before you read your files and a follow up call after you have received your files.

Relationships

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
<p>Support to maintain and strengthen important relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transport costs to 'family contact' (NB: 'in some circumstances') - Help to stay in contact with family / friends / past carers (not specified type of support) - (if applicable) Support to relationship with independent visitor - Team of family group conference (FGC) workers who can help young people reconnect with people they want to support them in the future - Lifelong champion scheme (leaving care service invite young person to join 'keep in touch register' –send annual newsletter) - Leaving care worker profile given to young person before work together (sometimes range of profiles so young person can choose their worker) 	<p>We are clear within our local offer that we cover transport costs to see family for arranged Family Time.</p> <p>We currently state that your PA will support and encourage you to establish and maintain healthy relationships.</p> <p>We do offer independent visitors for children in care however it is unclear how well this is known/understood by young people.</p> <p>We have a team of Family Group Conference Co-Ordinators that will be expanding however their main role is within Early Help at this time. This may be something to review in the future.</p> <p>We do not currently have a Lifelong champion scheme or 'Keeping in Touch' service.</p> <p>We do not currently have a worker profile; this is being discussed within the Children in Care Team and the Leaving Care Team as something to progress.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your PA will support and encourage you to establish and maintain healthy relationships such as family, friends and past carers • We begin to create a 'Keeping in Touch' scheme – which would include a newsletter written by Care Leavers twice annually and include a summer BBQ keeping in touch day • Worker profiles to be considered within the teams and a Worker Profile Welcome Board to be created at both Drop Ins. • We develop our drop in groups further to establish a worker/young people group which promotes positive discussions at regular meetings for problem solving and relationship building.
other ideas for extra support for relationships		

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?
What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?

See Above



Ideas from YPBMF: Regular chances for YP and professionals to meet, discuss and solve problems
Have a domestic violence and relationship counsellor in Leaving Care

Education and Training

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhangal Caitlin Burrows
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	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?

additional education / training related incentives (inc. extra financial support)

- Monetary incentive linked to education/training (sometimes linked to attendance)
- Additional money towards housing costs if in education/ training
- Laptop and software
- Trips (paid for) linked to education/training
- Support with equipment or clothing needed for education /training
- Books / stationary needed for education / training
- Celebratory voucher / money given on completion of course (amounts may vary dependent on level of qualification gained or celebratory meal)
- Monetary support to re-take Maths / English GCSE
- Private tuition support to re-take Maths /English GCSE
- Opportunity to undertake LA run health & safety course if relevant to education /training
- Support to attend open days for education / training courses
- Pay registration / exam fees

We do not offer a monetary incentive for attending education or training or towards housing costs.

We have the Education, Employment and Training (EET) Fund which young people can apply for financial support towards the cost of transport to education, equipment or clothing needed, books or stationary needed for and also for additional tutoring or re-taking English or Maths GCSEs.

We have organised an annual trip to the Careers Fare at the NEC which a number of young people attend to explore their future options. Young people can be supported financially through the Tiffin Club, Barradell and EET fund to attend specific trips which are linked to their subject area for education or training.

Travel costs are paid for when young people attend University Open Days and when requested PAs will attend to support the young person. Our Careers Advisor has also supported young people to attend University open days.

An Education bursary is offered up to £1200 when young people start attending college up to the age of 18. We currently provide a gift to young people who complete higher education at their graduation of up to £100 (either a watch or a satchel).

We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:

- All Care Leavers receive a bursary from the college for attendance annually from 16. If you start your course before you turn 19 it will continue for the duration of the course.
- We will fund tuition and retakes in Maths and English
- That you can apply to the Education, Employment and Training Fund for anything related to education, employment or training including registration and exam costs and this will be given due consideration.
- That a worker can attend a University Open Day with you for support and advice.

Education and Training

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

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Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
extra Support at University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specified bursary (above statutory level) - Travel costs to / from University at start and end of term - Support with initial costs of moving belongings to Uni - Graduation costs (usually 2 tickets, gown hire, photograph) - Pay costs towards rent if keep home in LA but move away to Uni - Set payment on graduation (e.g. for post graduate study or to help pay student loan/debt) - Liaise with Uni tutor / support services 	<p>We currently offer a bursary of £1000 a year if you attend University for a total of 3 years (the accommodation deposit is to come out of this).</p> <p>We currently pay for travel costs to and from University at the start and end of term.</p> <p>We pay graduation costs which covers the cost to rent a graduation gown.</p> <p>We pay a contribution towards accommodation during holiday time while you are attending University.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer and state that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We increase the age that a young person can claim a university bursary of £1000 up to the age of 25 years. • We will offer to help you move to University on your first day • We develop the Careers Advisor posts to include liaising with the Universities where our care leavers attend
other ideas for extra support for education and training		
<p>How do your care leavers and partners know about this?</p> <p>What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?</p>		



Idea from YPBMF: Have a specialist member of staff to help young people with higher education

Employment

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhangal Caitlin Burrows
		Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future		
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers		Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?		
additional financial support with employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support costs associated with uniform, interview clothes, tools - Support transport costs to interview and work (e.g. for first month till get paid; e.g. 100 travel journeys; support towards cost of bus / train pass) - Child care costs (exceptional circumstances) - Support gaining industry accreditation or vehicle licenses needed for work (e.g. CITB – Construction Industry Training Board tested) - Financial personal allowance (to make sure is financial benefit to working) 		<p>Applications can be made to the EET fund for costs associated with uniform, interview clothes and tools.</p> <p>We offer financial support for transport to interviews and to work for the first month until the young person gets paid.</p> <p>We offer support in paying for child care costs for young parents in education and employment and this is on a case by case basis.</p> <p>Financial support in gaining industry accreditation can be accessed through the EET fund.</p> <p>We do not offer a financial personal allowance however we support care leavers to ensure they are accessing all the correct benefits and financial support.</p>	We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support with employment.		

Employment

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

apprenticeships

- Local authority run apprenticeship scheme for care leavers (i.e. ring-fenced opportunities)
- Support to apply for apprenticeships in business community (sometimes care leavers have prior notification of opportunities)
- Guaranteed interview for care leaver applicants
- Apprenticeship champion (linked to leaving care service)
- Financial assistance for apprenticeships (e.g. contribute to living costs)
- Supported program to work towards apprenticeship (e.g.

Prior to the local offer, the local authority already guaranteed care leavers an interview for apprenticeships within Warwickshire County Council. Our local offer brought in 5 apprenticeship opportunities which were ringfenced for care leavers.

Warwickshire County Council pay national minimum wage for our apprenticeships and offer a £1000 bursary from the Apprenticeship Hub and EET fund. We also pay an additional £200 at the beginning of employment to provide financial support for the first month.

We are running a workshop in February for care leavers to learn about what apprenticeship opportunities we have in Warwickshire County Council.

Our Careers Advisor supports care leavers to find apprenticeships in the business community and shares any new opportunities on our Facebook page for Care Leavers. We would like to promote our work with the business community with a Care Leaver Covenant in Warwickshire.

For financial contributions to living costs young people can apply to the Barradell and Tiffin Club Panel for funding. We have approved funding for additional financial support over this time.

We offer pre-apprenticeship support including work experience however there is no specific programme to support work towards apprenticeship.

We have now employed two of our care leaver apprentices on a full time contract within the Participation Team with the aim that they will be able to promote our apprenticeships for other care leavers.

We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support for care leaver apprenticeships within Warwickshire County Council including:

- A Peer or Grandmentor for every apprentice
- Regular Group supervision for all apprentices
- Regular supervision with line manager

We propose that we run a bi-annual event to showcase apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers within Warwickshire County Council and what an apprenticeship entails.

Employment

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet writ'/(ten in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
other employment related support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview practice, help with CV writing & personal statement, support when applying for jobs - Support to travel to work (until feel confident getting their alone) 	<p>Our Careers Advisor offers practical support with interview practice, help with CV writing and job applications during our weekly NEET Drop In sessions.</p> <p>Our Careers Advisor runs three weekly NEET Drop Ins across the county for young people seeking education, employment or training.</p>	We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support with employment and promote mentors for support with this as well as our Careers Advisor.
Specialist employment project or worker (for care leavers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ETE worker /Careers /employment / work-readiness adviser available in leaving care service (may be age limits) - Arrangements to refer care leaver for support from other teams/organisations (e.g. LA employment support team; voluntary org) - 'Opportunity broker' to specific opportunities in line with what care leavers says interests them - Priority access to support from employment support organisation - Designated contact at Job Centre - Drop in session with Job Centre contact at leaving care base - Intensive training programme offered (related to getting into employment) - Groups aimed at supporting young people with 'getting ready for work' 	<p>Careers advice options are different depending on young people's age. For young people in school (aged 14-16 years) careers advisors are available in school.</p> <p>The Careers service Prospects supports young people aged 16-18 years old and the Careers Advisor within the Leaving Care Team supports young people aged 18-25 years old.</p> <p>Referrals to any of these services can be made by the worker.</p> <p>The Employment Support services in Warwickshire are for over 18s with a learning disability or autism.</p> <p>We have a designated contact at the Job Centre for the Leaving Care Team.</p> <p>NEET Drop In happens weekly at Portland House, Myton Park and The Foyer (Coventry), the job centre contact has not attended this but the plan is for them to attend in the near future. This Drop In provides an opportunity for our Careers Advisor to support young people 'getting ready for work'.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our Local Offer with regards to where our NEET groups meet and what is offered during these times.</p> <p>Given the success for the current careers advisor this service is extended with the recruitment of a further careers advisor to support young people 18-25 in accessing education, employment or training.</p>

Employment**Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers**

other ideas for extra support for employment

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?

What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?

Accommodation

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhangal Caitlin Burrows
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	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
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council tax exemption or discount <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care leavers are exempt (age restriction e.g. up to age 21; up to age 25) - Care leavers are exempt even when live outside of LA - Care leavers exempt conditionality (e.g. if in education; type of accommodation live in) - 'Sliding scale' in place to prepare care leavers for time when have to pay - Discount (not exemption) for care leavers 	<p>Due to Warwickshire having a number of district councils we are not able to ensure Care Leavers are exempt from Council Tax however we reimburse young people's council tax for any 3 years between the ages of 18-21 years.</p> <p>As we are reimbursing Care Leavers with their Council Tax we can reimburse it when young people live out of county.</p> <p>We do not currently use a 'sliding scale' or discount as we cover the full cost.</p>	We propose that we extend the Council Tax to cover any 3 years for young people between the ages of 18 and 25 years old. The young person can choose which three years they wish to access this.

additional financial or practical support with accommodation (on top of setting up home allowance)

- Cost of deposit, retainer or agency admin fee paid
- One month rent paid
- Someone available to help you move / costs associated with moving home
- Make sure have suitcase so don't have to use bin bags
- Starter pack payment (e.g. for utilities, food, cleaning)
- Cost towards first week shopping
- Pay for first TV license
- Practical support with paint & decorating / access to maintenance service to help with DIY
- Health & safety equipment or check from Fire service (e.g. smoke detector; carbon dioxide monitor; door lock; fire blanket; first aid kit)
- Apply to local scheme for finance towards white goods
- Pay one year home contents insurance

We support young people when they turn 18 to bridge the gap before receiving benefits.

Young People are supported by their workers when moving house.

When children and young people come into care the Children's Team purchases a suitcase for those who don't have one. If young people don't have a suitcase when they move house the Leaving Care Team will purchase a suitcase for them.

Our Care Leaver Home Furnishing Grant includes:

- First week shopping
- First TV license
- Health and Safety equipment (fire extinguisher, first aid kit, Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide alarms)
- Household insurance for the first year
- Starter pack of £15-20 for essentials

The Warwickshire Welfare Scheme provides White Goods for Care Leavers.

We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support with moving home.

We propose that we continue to liaise with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to provide a health and safety check and fitting of smoke detectors for Care Leavers.

Accommodation

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
Priority Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority with housing department (e.g. 'high priority'; band B; Gold status) - Priority with housing department if return to live in area after University - Support in housing crisis - second chance if first move to independent housing not work - No care leaver who working with service be found intentionally homeless - LA will act as rent guarantor 	<p>We ensure Care Leavers have priority housing with the local housing departments.</p> <p>The Leaving Care Team has a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Initiative Worker who works alongside PA's to ensure Care Leavers have advice, information and support with regards to housing crisis and avoid homelessness.</p> <p>The Local Authority has acted as a rent guarantor in the past however this is managed on a case by case basis.</p>	We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support with accommodation from our Housing Officer.
Specialist Housing project or worker (for care leavers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation for independence course / pre-tenancy course (e.g. designed and delivered by care leavers; accredited) - Preparation for independence / independent living skills group or forum - Preparation for independence work before leave care (e.g. with your foster carers; using Getting ready for adult life resource; passport to independence checklist) - Opportunity to spend time in training flat - Drop in session on housing at leaving care base - Housing worker in leaving care team - Housing worker linked to accommodation (e.g. floating support; including weekend and evening) 	<p>Doorway and House Project do an independence training, but this is not led by young people and the House Project training is ring fenced for their cohort of 12 young people.</p> <p>Preparation for independence is required of supported accommodation & foster carers and this is monitored by Social Workers and within the Looked After Reviews.</p> <p>Warwickshire does not have a training flat however the drop in locations can be used to support with cooking and washing training.</p> <p>We have two workers working with homelessness prevention within the Asylum and Leaving Care Team.</p> <p>A Housing drop in session runs on the first Tuesday of every month in central Nuneaton for young people at risk of homelessness. From the data</p>	We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with regards to support with accommodation and include the Drop Ins.

	<p>collated in the first 3 quarters of 2019-2020 it was apparent that Nuneaton had the highest number of referrals for working with our Homelessness Worker.</p> <p>The NEET Drop In sessions are also proving the opportunity for young people to meet professionals and discuss accommodation issues.</p> <p>St Basil's are a service which provide floating support out of hours for care leavers in supported accommodation within Warwickshire.</p>	
other ideas for extra support for accommodation		We propose that we provide a winter fuel payment of £100 payable in November of each year for Care Leavers.

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?
What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?



Idea from YPBMF: Training Care Leavers in Painting & Decorating skills so they can help others when they move

Participation in Society

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
celebration of achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awards events (annual; education focused; care leavers help organise) - Individual celebration of milestone such as gaining qualification (e.g. go out for meal) - Support to celebrate religious festivals 	<p>We put on multiple events throughout the year to recognize the achievements and celebrate our young people. We had a celebration event for National Care Leavers Week, an event for National Refugee Week with awards for our Asylum Seeking Young People, we have Virtual School Awards for education and we have Star Awards which recognise care experienced apprentices.</p> <p>We arrange parties and celebrations for both Christmas and Eid, we send out gift hampers or vouchers for both. Care leavers also get £50 for your birthday and for Christmas or an alternative festival of your choice.</p>	We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with a calendar of events.
fun activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial support (e.g. set amount for hobbies, cultural outing etc.) - Support to find clubs / hobbies - Duke of Edinburgh award offered to care leavers - Organise fun activities (e.g. trips; outdoor activities) 	<p>Applications can be made from the Tiffin Club and Barradell Fund for financial support towards hobbies and clubs.</p> <p>We offer support with accessing National Citizenship Service.</p> <p>The activities we put on for our young people are wide and varied. We have weekly groups plus events and activities in the half term.</p>	<p>This calendar year we are currently exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick Castle Trip • Jump In trampolining trip • Hike up Mount Snowdon • A 10K organized race • Trip to the seaside • Talent contest • Circus skills workshop • Summer BBQ for all previous Warwickshire Care Leavers • 5 day residential trips to Marle Hall
Dedicated care leaver space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Space available for advice - Space available to 'chill out' - Space available for activities 	We have a drop in at the North and South. There are cooking and laundry facilities in the south and cooking and computer facilities in the North. This area is open for young people during office opening hours and is a	We propose that we continue to develop the use of our Drop Ins and promote this for our Care Leavers.

- Facilities available (e.g. cooking; laundry; computer	space for them to come together.	
Support with learning to drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Driving and CBT motorcycle training included in offer - Match funding scheme (e.g. care leaver pay for 5 lessons & leaving care service pay for 5 lessons; maximum number of lessons; conditional on being linked to education or training) - Costs towards theory test, practical test and provisional driving licence (50% of cost) 	<p>We currently pay for 10 lessons and a provisional license.</p> <p>An application can be made to the Rees Foundation for driving lessons up to a budget of £700.00 per young person. The Rees Foundation offer to pay for 3 lessons for every 1 lesson the young person pays for.</p>	<p>We propose that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We continue to work closely with the Rees Foundation particularly around the driving lessons and promote this clearly in our local offer. • We promote The Rees Foundation offer in conjunction with our offer and therefore The Rees Foundation will pay for 3 lessons for every lesson the young person pays for – however the young person could use one of the lessons we pay for as this contribution. • We make it clear that the 10 driving lessons can be used for a car or CBT motorcycle training
volunteering opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering opportunities - Training offered re: interviewing staff (voucher paid for time) - Young people can be paid for time when consulted - Help access volunteering opportunities 	<p>Warwickshire County Council have offered volunteering in the past. Our careers advisor supports young people with identifying volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>We ensure our young people are paid for their time when they are supporting workers to develop services such as consultations and interviews.</p>	
out of hours support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At weekend (e.g. Sunday lunch club) - In evening 	<p>We offer emergency support out of hours through the Emergency Duty Team. Their number is clearly displayed in the Care Leaver Offer.</p> <p>We also offer groups to support young people out of hours including weekly Sunday morning football and weekday evenings with Chill n' Grill, Bike Project and Children in Care Council.</p>	<p>We propose that we are clearer within our local offer with a calendar of events.</p>

Participation in Society

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

	Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
care leaver forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frequency (e.g. every 2 weeks; monthly) - Timing (e.g. in evening) - Purpose (e.g. have voice heard; make positive change & shape service delivery; meet senior managers; have fun; meet other young people; have food together) - Other type of group (e.g. media group; young inspectors; National young people leaving care benchmarking forum) - Young people can be paid for time when consulted 	<p>We currently hold a monthly evening meetings for Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum from 6.15-8.15pm at Shire Hall, Warwick. These meetings aim to ensure our young people have their voices heard, make positive change and shape the service delivery. They have the opportunity to meet senior managers and other young people, get food and have fun together.</p> <p>Our Care Leaver apprentices in participation attend SLT meetings bi-monthly.</p> <p>We have Young Inspectors for accommodation.</p> <p>We have young people participate in National Young people Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum.</p> <p>We offer incentives for consultation outside of CiCC/Care Leaver Forum.</p>	We propose that we continue to develop our Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum and promote this across the County.
Digital support / social media use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital support / social media use - App designed with young people for information - App for young people to communicate with service / worker (e.g. Mind of My Own) - Care leaver website (e.g. resources/info) - Facebook page (e.g. info about activities) - Wi-Fi available at leaving care service 	<p>The Leaving Care Team has a website however this is no young person friendly. Website Here</p> <p>The young people do not access the website but prefer to use social media now. The Leaving Care Team have a Facebook account which young people use daily to contact their worker and the duty worker when they need support. We also use this to publicise the events we have and to gather feedback.</p> <p>The Leaving Care Team also have a Twitter Account which is used to spread the news of the good work our young</p>	We propose that we continue to develop our Facebook page to ensure the information is getting to as many young people as possible.

	<p>people do.</p> <p>We have previously consulted young people on an app they would like 3-4 years ago and considered Mind Of My Own however this did not progress within Warwickshire.</p> <p>The Children and Family Service have a feedback app is promoted with young people to offer feedback.</p> <p>WiFi is available for all young people at our Drop Ins in the North and the South.</p>	
<p>Identity documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial support with ID documents (e.g. national insurance number; passport; birth certificate; provisional driving licence & photos if needed) - Keep copy of ID documents - Support with British citizenship / naturalisation - Support to open bank account - Help to join electoral register 	<p>Every young person who is Looked after should have a copy of their birth certificate, and a passport or ID document. We will pay the cost of provisional driving license or to get a passport should they not already have this.</p> <p>Support is offered within Asylum for seeking British Citizenship.</p> <p>The young person's worker will be available to offer support when opening a bank account.</p> <p>In the run up to the General Election 2019 we publicised across social media and sent reminder emails to workers to support young people understand their rights and to encourage them to register to vote.</p>	<p>We propose that we continue to offer this support and share regular updates on our social media.</p>
<p>other ideas for extra support for participation and society</p>	<p>Young people are encouraged to join in a range of social activities and residentials.</p> <p>Young people volunteer to work alongside the universities in the locality.</p> <p>Young people are financially supported with a bus pass to ensure they are able to travel around the county. Young people are also funded their transport to any of our events and activities.</p>	

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?
 What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?



Idea from YPBMF: **Pen Pals to reduce loneliness**
 Discounted or free travel passes

Finance

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhargal Caitlin Burrows
		Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future		
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers		Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?		
Specialist finance project or worker (for care leavers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Money management / budgeting training at leaving care service - Benefit and finance adviser available via leaving care team - Finance handbook/entitlements information for care leavers (updated annually) - Peer to peer financial mentoring - Job Centre care leaver single point of contact - Drop in session at leaving care base (e.g. with DWP representative) - Assistance to make an 'advance claim' prior to 18th birthday 		<p>The House Project Other than HP we don't have any specific checklist or programme for money management.</p> <p>We do not currently have a benefit and finance advisor within the Leaving Care Team however workers can provide support to access this specialist advice through the CAB.</p> <p>Entitlements information is available within our Care Leaver Local Offer which is updated annually.</p> <p>We have created our Peer to Peer mentoring programme and have Grandmentors which could involve a level of financial advice and mentoring</p> <p>We have a single point of contact for care leavers at the Job Centre.</p> <p>We do have arrangements for an 'Advance claim' prior to 18th birthday - not clear in CLO</p>	We propose that we continue to develop our Drop Ins and invite professionals from CAB, DWP and the Job Centre to attend and provide budgeting and financial advice.		

Savings

- Help to access Junior ISA
- Help to open bank account
- Contingency arrangement if young person not have bank account (e.g. LA card that can load money on to)

We do offer support to access Junior ISA and to open a bank account.

We have a contingency for when a young person doesn't have a bank account, something that is a regular occurrence for our Asylum young people. We use a PCFS card which we can put money on similar to a cash card.

We propose that we continue to support our young people to work towards financial independence.

Finance

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

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Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers	Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?
financial crisis support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Job Centre in advance of benefit sanction - Support during sanction period (e.g. food, heating, transport pass but no money) - Support during benefit delay or waiting period (e.g. help to apply for government loan; cash allowance; food vouchers) - Financial help in emergencies (e.g. in 'exceptional circumstances'; set amount on pre-paid card; money may be treated as a loan & young person need to pay back; money deducted from setting up home allowance) - Signpost or refer to voluntary organisation e.g. food bank; community furniture stores 	<p>We have a joint protocol in place with DWP to prevent care leavers from being sanctioned with regards to benefits.</p> <p>We do support young people during benefit delay, a waiting period or for any other financial emergency – this is managed on a case by case basis. We provide supermarket gift cards for young people to purchase essentials.</p> <p>We can give out food bank vouchers and support our young people to access this. We also signpost young people to several other voluntary organisations, these are different across the county.</p>	<p>We propose that we continue to develop our Drop Ins and invite professionals from CAB, DWP and the Job Centre to attend and provide budgeting and financial advice.</p> <p>We propose that we form a list of voluntary organisations for young people to access via social media or our website.</p>
Personal finance allowance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birthday money (amount specified by age; age cut off point) - Festival / Christmas money - Christmas hamper - Clothing allowed (amount specified; age cut off point) 	<p>Each of our young people gets birthday money and either Christmas or an alternative festival of choice money.</p> <p>We also work closely with a volunteer who sets up Christmas hampers for any young person who would like one.</p>	
other ideas for extra support for finance		

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?
What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?



Idea from YPBMF: Increasing Setting up home grant

"Groups' of Care Leavers

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

Date completed	January 2020	Name of local authority	Warwickshire	Details of who completed audit tool	Shinderpaul Bhangal Caitlin Burrows
		Your Care leaver local offer now	Your Care leaver local offer in the future		
Examples of extra support NLCBF members have included in their care leaver local offers		Record here what you currently offer in relation to each of the extra support areas listed Looking at the examples – are there things you are <u>already</u> doing that you have <u>not</u> yet written in your local offer?	Looking at the extra support examples can we offer this? If you are going to make changes to your local offer - what needs to happen, who needs to do it and by when?		
IGBTQ - LGBTQ (general support & social group not care leaver specific)		There are a number of LGBTQ+ groups within Warwickshire however we do not have a specific Care Leavers group.	We propose that we add details of these groups to our Local Offer.		

care leavers who are parents

- Additional financial support detailed (e.g. maternity allowance; e.g. for expectant fathers)
- Option of parenting classes
- One to one parenting support (focus on practical; emotional demands; help access community support)
- Mum and Dad groups & activities (offer support and social opportunity)
- Mentor scheme for new parents
- Parenting emotional well-being worker & alternative therapies for parents whose children no longer living with them / in care proceedings (available via leaving care team)
- Help with child care costs if in education (criteria to be met)

We link with Family Nurse Partnership which would offer one to one parenting support for young people who are pregnant under the age of 18.

We are developing a young parents and toddler group for care leavers. This will be run by a member of the Leaving Care Service.

There are a number of local parenting classes for young parents across Warwickshire however these are not specific for care leavers.

The Mentor schemes are running and young parents could be involved to support each other. New parents can be offered a mentor.

Birth Family Support offer alternative therapies for parents whose children are no longer living with them and have a care plan of adoption.

We help with child care costs for care leavers who are in education or employment - this is managed on a case by case basis.

We propose that we provide a New Baby Hamper to any care leaver open to the Leaving Care service aged 16-25 who which would include essential baby items such as nappies, wipes, babygrows etc up to the cost of £70.

We propose that we make a £200 payment to purchase a large item such as cot, buggy, car seat for any care leaver open to the Leaving Care Service aged 16-25 who is having a baby.

'Groups' of Care Leavers

Examples of additional support in care leaver local offers

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Unaccompanied asylum seeking young people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emotional support (e.g. from professionals who understand challenges faced in coming to UK) - Immunisation (if needed) 	<p>We have a dedicated Asylum team and peer to peer mentoring programme. We also run a Sunday football session and a weekly evening group called 'Chill n' Grill' which is mainly for our Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking young people. This provides them with a safe space to relax and feel emotionally supported.</p> <p>We also have an unaccompanied asylum seeking young person who now has permanent leave to remain in the UK as a care leaver apprentice. He provides emotional support and advice for any new arrival and our current asylum seeking young people.</p> <p>Each young person who arrives seeking asylum has a health check when they arrive. Health check when they arrive.</p>	We propose that we promote our activities and groups in the Local Offer and through the calendar of events.
care leavers in custody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial allowance for care leavers in custody (e.g. £20 per month) - Leaving care team offer training to prison 	We provide a financial allowance for care leavers who are in custody.	
Disabled care leavers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Easy read version of local offer available 	The Local Offer is in an easy to read format and all of our workers are able to share this information with their young person in the most appropriate way.	
other ideas for extra support for 'groups' of care leavers		

How do your care leavers and partners know about this?

What evidence is there that it is known and understood by care leavers, and what more can be done to keep it as accessible for ALL care leavers and partners?



Idea from YBMF: LGBTQ Workshops and awareness for staff and young people

Notes



The printed toolkit comprises of:

- **Guide and Key Messages** – describes the background of the project, summarises key findings and recommendations
- **Survey Findings Summary** – details members' views and experiences of developing their local offer
- **Audit tool** – based on a systematic mapping of a sample of 20 members' local offers. This tool helps local authorities (with young people) review and improve their local

If you are an NLCBF member, you can access the full care leaver local offer Toolkit here: www.leavingcare.org or contact nlcbf@catch-22.org.uk

offer **this document is the Audit tool**

NICBF The National Leaving care Benchmarking forum is a national network of over 100 local authorities promoting the development of quality leaving care services with member authorities and partner organisations through a process of benchmarking and shared learning on a national scale. our aim is to achieve the best outcomes for young people making the transition from care to adulthood.

Catch22 is a social business, a not for profit business with a social mission. For over 200 years we have designed and delivered services that build resilience and aspiration in people and communities.

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