

## Additional information supporting the Care Leaver Offer – 18+ Care Leavers Service

Dec 2019

### Care Leaver Offer

#### Section 2 – Your Money

**'Bursaries for Education'** – Bursaries for care leavers in higher education is to be extended to £4000 provided over 4 years, £1,000 per academic year, to support for a further year after successful completion of the degree course. We will provide appropriate financial assistance to help purchase IT equipment for care leavers up to the age of 25yrs who are in higher education.

- *Care Leaver needs to work in partnership with the Local Authority and educational provider to ensure they are supported and receiving all the support required. This will involve taking part in discussions about attendance and progress.*

#### Section 4 – Housing Options

**'University accommodation in holiday periods'** – you will receive a student loan to cover the cost of your student rent and whilst you are at university, we can pay your holiday accommodation rent if there is need. The amount paid will be agreed by the Head of Service.

- *Care Leaver needs to use their accommodation, or they will be at risk of losing it.*

#### Section 8 – Your Education, Training and Employment

**'Virtual College'** – we will provide additional information to support you and your university applications and be on hand if you have concerns or worries.

**'University'** – if you decide to go to university, we will assist you with your housing during holiday periods and provide you with extra financial support. Long-term funding for higher education will be agreed by our management team if necessary. We will support you for a maximum of 4 years of university study:

- You will be eligible to apply for student loan
- We will support you to visit universities prior to acceptance
- We will assist you with initial costs of moving to and from university up to £200

You may also be entitled to additional support from the university who often have additional funds and grants for care leavers.

- *Care Leaver needs to speak to their Personal Adviser or Social Worker about support required and applying for financial support from the Local Authority and Student Finance England*

**'University support for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young Person'** – you may study at university; however, you may not be entitled to pay home fees and you may not be eligible for student finance. Some universities use their discretionary powers to allow you to study as a 'home student'. You may be entitled to university support if you; live in England, you have lived in England for 3 or more, or you have lived in England for 7 years.

- *Care Leaver needs to contact the universities of interest and speak to your Social Worker or Personal Adviser for assistance prior to making applications*

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### Additional Information

<b>Does it matter if I am studying full or part time?</b>	Yes, you would be able to access the Higher Education bursary from Kent County Council. The amount you can access would depend on how many hours you are studying. You would still be entitled up to the £4000 over the length of the programme if you were studying a full higher education level programme. You may receive a pro-rata amount each year if you are studying part time.
<b>I am studying with the Open University, does this count as Higher Education and would I receive the same support?</b>	If you are studying a higher education programme, then yes you would receive support from the Local Authority. However, if you are remaining in your accommodation throughout the programme then the Local Authority would not fund your holiday accommodation.
<b>What happens if I start my degree aged 24yrs, would I get support post 25yrs?</b>	This would be considered on an individual basis. The Local Authority would not look to cease support immediately at 25yrs. A discussion needs to be had with your Personal Adviser who can then discuss this with the Head of Service.
<b>If I go abroad to study, do I still get support?</b>	Yes, if you are studying a Higher Education programme. The Local Authority would look to see what the support needs are.
<b>Am I supported whilst on a placement year?</b>	This would depend on what you are doing during this placement year, for example are you having to pay tuition fees, are you working and being paid, where are you living during this time, are you receiving maintenance money from Student Finance England? Your Personal Adviser would need to discuss this with the Head of Service.
<b>Would I receive support if I was studying at Post-Graduate level course?</b>	This would need to be considered on a case by case basis. Your Personal Adviser would need to discuss this with the Head of Service.
<b>Am I entitled to a laptop if I am studying at a Higher Education level?</b>	The Local Authority would look to see if you had received a Kent Pledge Laptop or support from Virtual School Kent towards a laptop. The Local Authority may then look to contribute towards to cost of a laptop up to the value of £300.
<b>Does the Local Authority help with costs for University open days and interviews?</b>	Yes, this needs to be discussed with your Social Worker or Personal Adviser. Discussions would include looking at using your 'Discretionary Bursary' from your educational provider if eligible.
<b>Where can I find out what universities offer for Care Leavers?</b>	All the universities in Kent and Medway offer additional support for Care Leavers. Other universities outside of the area will also offer support. Visit <a href="https://propel.org.uk/UK/">https://propel.org.uk/UK/</a> to find out more.