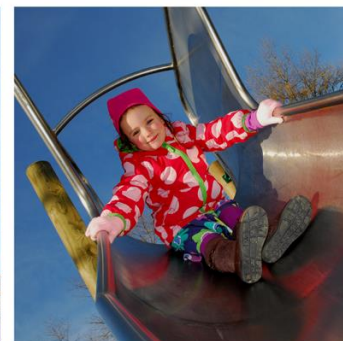
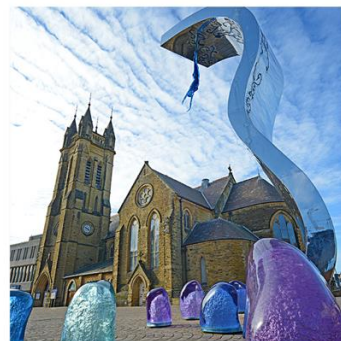


Transition to Adulthood Finance Policy 2023-2024

Blackpool Council



Introduction

The policy covers finances and allowances for the following groups of young people:

- Eligible and Relevant Young People Aged 16 and 17
- Former Relevant Young People Aged 18 to 21, or to the end of the designated education or training programme being undertaken on the young person's 21st birthday
- Former Relevant Young People Aged 21 to 25 who return to the Responsible Authority to resume or undertake education or training
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

As a Local Authority Blackpool are committed to ensuring a smooth transition from child to adult services. In this case being a Looked After Child to a young person Leaving Care. Like any parent, Blackpool wants to make sure that young people have access to opportunities to support the move into adulthood – whether that be further or Higher education, setting up their own home or supporting with Council Tax. Just as any good parent we recognise that preparation for adulthood is key, therefore the Transition to Adulthood Finance Policy is supported by preparation to independence interventions delivered by social workers, personal advisors and carers via ASDAN, key working sessions and life skills.

We have strengthened our links with the Discretionary Support Scheme locally to provide additional support not only for young people who may be in crisis; but also to support them in setting up their own home by purchasing key items.

Blackpool have been working in partnership with the Department of Working Pensions to explore how to ensure there is a streamlined process for Care Leavers applying for Universal Credit. This has included the retention of a Specialist Leaving Care Officer at Job Centre Plus who provides weekly drop-ins for those young people due to turn 18 to ensure that their benefit claim is inputted ready to be processed on their 18th birthday.

As with everything we do, we have listened to Our Children and made appropriate adjustments where they have highlighted an issue. For example – we now provide an additional allowance for carpets/rugs where there are none in the property a young person is moving into. This not only makes a house a home, but supports reduction in heating costs. Their views, opinions and experiences drive the changes that are happening in Children's Services.

All finance related issues should be included in the young person's Pathway Plan so that they are aware of their entitlements and how Blackpool will support them financially to meet their full potential and maximise the use of their income. For the purposes of ease and access the policy covers the cross section of legal status's and at what age various allowances apply.

For more information in relation to the various legal status's of Our Children discussed in this policy please use the following links:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/services-for-children-leaving-care/>
<https://coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/am-i-care-leaver>

Finance for Eligible and Relevant and Former Relevant Young People

Income, Allowances and Benefits

Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance is provided to those young people who are studying, undertaking unpaid training or looking for employment and/or voluntary work. Generally young people in paid training will receive the equivalent of the LCMA or more from their training provider. Young people low paid employment will continue to receive the LCMA until they earn a certain amount; at which point the LCMA will reduce

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance – Supported Accommodation Adjustments	Where a young person is living in semi-independent accommodation. Adjustments will be made depending on the type and level of support and services provided. The reduction in the Local Authority Maintenance Allowance is underpinned by the principle of supporting young people to develop money management skills and become accustomed to making payments.	£42.20 per week yp is living in semi-independent accommodation and is provided with utilities and food	✓	
		£56.20 per week where a young person is living in semi-independent accommodation and is provided with utilities	✓	
		£67.20 per week where then pay for both food and utilities or in emergency accommodation	✓	
Reduction in the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance	<p>Reductions are undertaken from the principle of assisting with the development of money management and budgeting skills.</p> <p>Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance, wages and earnings, Traineeship Allowances, Apprenticeship Allowances and the 16 - 19 Bursary count as income.</p> <p>Young people should be issued with a Reductions Notice setting out the following:</p>		✓	

	<p>They will also be entitled to apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant from the day their baby is born (or up to 11 weeks earlier if in receipt of a qualifying benefit). This includes young people living in foster care and residential care, and includes those who are still in education. The Sure Start Maternity Grant is only available for the oldest or first child. Lone parents should be supported and assisted to claim their full benefit entitlement.</p>			
Universal Credit	<p>Claiming benefits – Where this is required</p> <p>Up to 4 weeks before their 18th birthday, Personal Adviser's will support young people to access welfare benefits advice if needed and to make a claim for benefits according to their specific circumstances.</p> <p>Universal Credit (UC)</p> <p>UC supports you if you are on a low income or out of work. It includes a monthly payment to help with your living costs.</p> <p>When you start work, the amount of UC you get will gradually reduce as you earn more.</p> <p>You're allowed to earn a certain amount before your UC is affected. This amount is called the work allowance. Then for every pound you earn over the work allowance, your UC will be reduced by 63 pence.</p> <p>As a single claimant under the age of 25 you can claim £292.11 every calendar month.</p> <p>Universal Credit Advance</p> <p>If you've made a UC claim but are unable to manage until your first payment, you may be able to get a Universal Credit advance. The amount you can borrow will be the same as your first estimated UC monthly payment. You'll need to pay back your advance a bit at a time from your future UC payments. You'll usually pay your advance back over a 12 month period.</p> <p>Young people leaving care are exempt from the Shared Accommodation Rate up to the age of 25. Therefore they are eligible for the 1 bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate.</p> <p>Staff should utilise the Better off Calculator to encourage yp into work Benefits calculators - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>			✓

Council Tax	<p>The introduction a Council Tax relief for care leavers on a tapering basis up to the age of 21 commenced on the 1st April 2019.</p> <p>Financial expectation for Young People/Person (YP)</p> <p>Tax year in which 18th birthday falls - The LA pay 85% contribution and YP pays 15%</p> <p>Tax year in which 19th birthday falls - The LA pay 70% contribution and YP pays 30%</p> <p>Tax year in which 20th birthday falls - The LA pay 55% contribution and YP pays 45%</p> <p>Tax year in which 21st birthday falls - The LA pay 30% contribution and YP pays 70%</p> <p>Please note: The contribution will be applied after any existing discounts such as single person- 25% discount, low income 27%, discount if not working etc. Where there is more there one person in the property, they are jointly liable, however the % contribution above will remain as above.</p> <p>For those young people who are living in Blackpool and registered with Blackpool Council Tax, the deduction should be automatically paid and the young person will receive an adjusted bill. For young people living outside of Blackpool the PA will have to complete a Discretionary form manually and calculate as above. See PA Council Tax self-help note for more information</p>			✓
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Accommodation

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Moving into private sector accommodation	The rent amount should be within the Local Housing Allowance for Blackpool to ensure affordability for our young people. However, each young person should be treated individually and support provided based on their circumstances, cost of living and the LHA in the area that they reside	One Bedroom Rate (Blackpool): £85.00 Current rates for different areas www.direct.gov.uk	✓	✓
Rent and Deposit	The LA will support young people with their bond and rent in advance The social worker/personal advisor should ensure that images of the property's condition are taken. This should include any items that are included on the inventory. These images should then be sent to the young person, landlord and stored on the young person's file. This will assist in negotiating with the landlord where there are issues with regards to the condition of the property and the return of the deposit when the young person vacates the property.		✓	✓
Temporary Accommodation	In exceptional circumstances where young people are temporarily not able to, or are not claiming benefits, a temporary payment of £5.00 per week for 2 months will be made to ensure they are eligible to claim Local Housing Allowance/Housing Element of Universal Credit income of £5.00 per week.	£5.00 per week		

Education, Training and Employment

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Education	<p>Additionally, young people who are undertaking full time education courses or unpaid training courses (12 hours study/training and contact time) are eligible for the 16-19 bursary Children's Services must inform colleges of a young person's status and eligibility for payment of the bursary which is administered by the college.</p> <p>Those aged between 16 & 19 who are in care, care leavers or claiming Universal Credit or getting both and DLA/PIP will be guaranteed a bursary</p> <p>Other bursaries for care leavers in education are available. Social Workers and Personal Advisers will support applications and offer more intensive support to plan and manage the expenditure of larger sums.</p>	<p>£1,200.00 per year, usually paid for 30 weeks at £40.00 per week</p> <p>£1,200.00 spread over the academic year, for those attending college or sixth form - payments of £40.00 per week over a 30 week teaching year</p>	✓	✓
Apprenticeships Government Bursary	<p>Our young people who are undertaking an apprenticeship will not receive the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance but will be given the equivalent or a higher allowance from their training provider.</p> <p>Our young people who start an apprenticeship aged between 16 and 24 years upto and including 31st of July 2023 the bursary is £1000 for the first year of their apprenticeship paid to their training provider.</p> <p>Apprenticeships stated after the 1 August 2023 the bursary to the employer is £3000</p> <p>Apprenticeship funding from August 2018 - GOV.UK</p>	Government Grant	✓	✓
Extra Tuition	Where it is assessed as being required, Blackpool Children's Services will consider funding extra tuition and travel related expenses	£ - Dependent on the individual need	✓	✓
Commencing Work Grant	Where a young person requires specialist equipment or clothing (including suitable work clothing ie interview wear, protective clothing) for their employment, and the employer does not provide this Children's Services will purchase required equipment and clothing.	£100 - maximum	✓	✓

Interview Clothes	Interview Clothing and Coaching - Care Leaver Covenant (mycovenant.org.uk)	Varied	✓	✓
Child Care Costs	<p>Lone parents, who wish to return to education, start a traineeship/apprenticeship or take up employment opportunities, will be assisted to identify funds to cover or contribute to child care costs. In the first instance the Care to Learn Fund and other universal services should be approached for funding.</p> <p>The Care to Learn Fund provides financial support to assist young parents under the age of 20 to undertake education.</p>	Government Scheme	✓	✓
Accessing Education, Training, Voluntary/Positive Activities	Young people aged 18 to 25 who are undertaking a full time further education, training course or voluntary activity (12 hours education/training/voluntary activity) and who are not entitled to a 16 to 19 Bursary will be entitled to a weekly support from Blackpool Children's Services.	<p>£10.00 incentive – weekly</p> <p>Weekly bus pass</p>		✓
Apprenticeships	Young people who are undertaking an apprenticeship will not receive the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance but will be given the equivalent or a higher allowance from their training provider.	Government Grant	✓	✓
Government Bursary	See page 8			
Further Education	<p>From the age of 18 to the academic year following their 21st birthday, care leavers who are 'estranged from their families' and who are studying full time (12 hours or more of 'guided learning') can Universal Credit on the grounds of being in 'Relevant Education'. Young people can start or change courses at any point up until their 21st birthday.</p> <p>Where young people aged 21 to 25 wish to resume or commence education or training and have ceased to be supported by the Children Looked After and Leaving Care Service the following principles apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people can resume contact via the Duty Officer • Young people will be provided with support and services following an Assessment of Need • The Assessment of Need will consider the young person's motivation for undertaking the chosen education/training activity and the commitment to the activity • The Assessment of Need will consider what resources may be available to the young person and will assist in maximising universal provision, for example college bursaries and learner support funds, welfare benefits and nursery vouchers and child care support • Blackpool Children's Services will consider making individual grants towards the chosen activity in line with a young person's pathway plan. 	Up to £300.00 per year	✓	✓

	<p>Young people aged 21 to 25 who are undertaking courses of less than 16 hours of 'guided learning' (part time) should make a claim for Universal Credit if they have a 'low income'. It is advisable to check with Job Centre Plus regarding the circumstances of individual young people.</p>			
Higher Education	<p>Funding for Higher Education courses is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to the young person's 21st birthday; • or until the completion of the course following the young person's 21st birthday where the course commenced before their 21st birthday; • between the 21st and 25th birthday where a young person wishes to resume or commence education or training between those dates; • Until the education or training course is completed following the 25th birthday where the course commenced prior to the 25th birthday. <p>In the first instance funding for Further and Higher Education courses is available until the completion of the course following a young person's 21st birthday.</p> <p>Funding should be agreed as part of an assessment of need and set out and agreed in the pathway plan.</p> <p>Wherever possible, young people should access universal benefits and welfare benefits these are available to young people studying further education who are deemed to be 'estranged' from their family and undertaking 'relevant education'.</p>			✓
Student Finance	<p>The level of fees, loans, grants, and bursaries for higher education student's change each academic year. The most accurate and up to date information is available via the following links: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance http://www.gov.uk/studentfinancesteps</p> <p>Children's Services must provide care leavers with a letter confirming that the young person was under the care of their LA, have now left the care of the LA and are a care leaver as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.</p> <p>Care leavers may be able to get financial support, for example fee waivers or cash awards, from their university or college. They should speak to their university or college to find out what support is available, this information is set out in each Universities Fair Access Offer.</p>			✓

	<p>Students can access support from their university or college's advice centre or student union. There are also organisations that provide support for care leavers and students who are estranged from their families.</p> <p>Stand Alone – www.standalone.org.uk</p> <p>Propel – www.propel.org.uk</p> <p>National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) – www.nnecl.org</p> <p>Support from Universities</p> <p>At the point of considering University the social worker/personal advisor should support the young person to check with the universities that they want to apply. This is to gather information in relation to the universities to understand what support they offer to care leavers. This information will support any decisions made when applying.</p> <p><u>Maintenance Loans</u></p> <p>The maintenance loan is provided by Student Finance England and is paid directly to the student, normally in three instalments and is provided to help with living costs such as rent, food, bills and equipment and books.</p> <p><u>Loan Repayment</u></p> <p>Graduates repay the combined tuition fee and maintenance loan when they have finished studying and are earning over £25,000.00 per year. The monthly repayments are linked to the person's income. After a certain amount of time (30 years), any outstanding loans will be written off, if the money has not been repaid.</p> <p>Many universities are now accredited under the Buttle Trust Quality Mark Award Scheme. The Quality Mark acknowledges and highlights additional support that establishments provide to young people leaving public care. http://www.buttletrust.org/quality_mark</p> <p>Information about additional support to care leavers can be found via the Fair Access Agreements that each institution is required to have. Information can be found on the web site of each institution or via: http://www.offa.org.uk</p> <p><u>Welfare Benefits</u></p> <p>The majority of young people who undertake higher education courses are ineligible for welfare benefits. Certain limited groups of young people who undertake higher education courses such</p>			
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	<p>as lone parents and sick and disabled young people may remain, or be eligible for welfare benefits whilst studying.</p> <p>Lone Parents and Sick and Disabled Students who are in receipt of Welfare Benefits should check with the Department for Work and Pensions regarding the rules about student finance. Being in receipt of student finances may cause disqualification for welfare benefits. Generally, lone parents and sick and disabled young people will be assumed by the DWP to have taken out Student Loans and apply for the Special Support Grant. Their level of welfare benefit will be calculated by taking into account the loans and grants.</p> <p>Grants Available</p> <p>Lone Parents (and certain couples with children) may be eligible for the Government's Childcare Grant Childcare Grant: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Parents' Learning Allowance Parents' Learning Allowance: What you'll get - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Students who have adult dependents may be eligible for an Adult Dependents' Grant (ADG) Adult Dependents' Grant: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Child Tax Credit Child Tax Credit: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Extra money to pay for university Extra money to pay for university: University and college hardship funds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Funding from charitable trusts</p> <p>Use Turn2Us to check whether young people qualify for funding from a charitable trust Turn2us Grants Search</p>			
Higher Education Bursary	The higher education bursary is provided as a minimum grant through the length of the whole course. The full amount is divided by length of the course i.e. 2 years/3 years/4 years and paid as a lump sum at the beginning of the academic year.	£2000.00		✓
Accommodation Grant	This grant is variable depending on the cost of the accommodation linked to the university. In year 1 the grant can be used to cover the cost of halls of residence during term time and the	£0.00 - variable		✓

	cost of independent accommodation out of term time. In years 2+if halls are not available the grant can be used to cover the cost of independent accommodation. All universities have a limited amount of 52 weeks per academic year			
Open University	For young people who are undertaking higher education via The Open University we will finance a module at a time.			✓
Other available finances for HE	Higher Education Living Expenses and Travel Grant	£50.00 per week (start of the academic year and for 4 weeks after the completion of the final year)		✓
Graduation Grant	This is paid once and is paid on graduation in order to assist young people make the transition to employment. Careful consideration should be given to the timing of the access to this money to ensure it is paid at the best possible time for the young person.	£1000.00		✓
Post Graduate Grant	<p>Blackpool Children's Service's will assist young people to identify financial support and resources to undertake post graduate courses. Generally, vocational post graduate courses are funded by secondment from an employer, or by individual universities providing a bursary to cover course/tuition fees and expenses.</p> <p>The Grant is provided as a single amount regardless of the type, or length of the post graduate course (MA, MSc, and MPhil, PhD). Payment is dependent on young people remaining in touch with Blackpool Children's Services and providing personal contact details and course contact details. In the first instance the Grant should be used to cover fees, if fees have been provided the Grant should be used for equipment and/or living expenses. If used for fees the Grant will be paid to the course provider. If used for equipment, payment will be made following agreement on the course equipment requirements. If used for living expenses the grant will be paid in instalments over the length of the course. All arrangements should be based on an assessment of need and be set out in the pathway plan.</p>	Up to £3,500		✓
Aged 21-25 and returning to the Local Authority	Young people are entitled to resume or continue a leaving care service from the age of 21 to 25 on request. The primary purpose of the support from age 21 to 25 is to provide continuity and on-going practical support and guidance. Where young people require financial support personal advisers will assist the young person to identify universal sources of financial support to enable young people to be self-sustaining. In very exceptional circumstances and following an assessment of need, a request for financial support will be considered. The assessment and request will be considered by a Team Manager where the SOD allows. If not then the Service Manager should authorise	£ Variable		✓

Other Financial Support linked to ETE	Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Social Care may provide assistance for specific grants and one off payments to young people who are studying.		✓	✓
Equipment	<p>Young people who are undertaking further education courses are entitled to:</p> <p>Stationary Grant Educational Visits Grant Books and Equipment/IT Equipment Grant – where they are not provided</p> <p>The Grant is per academic year, is not transferable</p> <p>One off Computer Grant is available to young people who are continuing with full time further education at level 2 or above or ESOL/Higher Education. For all other requested please speak to a Team Manager</p>	<p>Up to £25.00 Up to £100.00 Up to £150.00</p> <p>£325.00 (Net of VAT)</p>	✓	✓
Education to Employment Transitions	<p>To assist a young person with making a successful transition to employment and managing their wages a reduction will not be applied until they have completed six weeks of employment.</p> <p>A young person will need to provide proof of income in order that his/her social worker/personal adviser can calculate incentive opportunities and reductions. If proof is not forthcoming it will be assumed that earnings are exceeding £150.00 net per week. In these circumstances the allowance will cease on a temporary basis until proof of income is provided. Food Parcels/Vouchers can be provided where the young person is working to provide proof of income.</p>	<p>£42.20 – Semi-independent with food and utilities</p> <p>£56.20 – Semi-independent provided with utilities</p> <p>£67.20 semi-independent/independent where they are responsible for food and utilities</p>	✓	✓
Child Care Costs	<p>Lone parents, who wish to return to education, start a traineeship/apprenticeship or take up employment opportunities, will be assisted to identify funds to cover or contribute to child care costs. In the first instance the Care to Learn Fund and other universal services should be approached for funding.</p> <p>The Care to Learn Fund provides financial support to assist young parents under the age of 20 to undertake education.</p>	Government Scheme	✓	✓

Support for Health

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to access counselling and/or therapeutic services via CAMHS or universal health services. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services will provide funding for counselling and/or therapeutic services if other suitable routes/pathways/services are not available. - This requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.	£ - Determined on an individual basis	✓	
Health	<p>Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services to meet their health and developmental needs via our children's health provision and via universal health services.</p> <p>Social workers or personal advisors should complete form HC1 (SC) for those who are working. The HC1 (SC) form enables young people to obtain an NHS low income exemption certificate. This will provide free or reduced cost dental, optician and prescription services. In situations where young people require specific health items these will be considered following an assessment of need.</p> <p>In situations where young people require glasses and receive an NHS Voucher, Blackpool Children's Service's will match the value of the voucher. There are 10 vouchers in total the value of which changes depending on the need. Use this link to see the values NHS voucher values for glasses and lenses - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services may provide funds to secure additional health services. Funding above £100.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.</p>	<p>Maximum of £100.00 per Year</p> <p>Various depending on voucher</p> <p>£250.00 per annum</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
Hospitalisation Grant	Young people who have a hospital stay of over one week, or are anticipated to have such a stay, will be provided with a Hospital Pack containing slippers, night wear, a dressing gown and phone credit.	£50.00	✓	✓
Healthy Start Voucher	<p>Our young people who qualify for Healthy Start vouchers will receive the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £4.25 each week of their pregnancy from the 10th week £8.50 each week for children aged 0-1 year old 		✓	✓

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old <p>Being in receipt of universal credit is a pre-requisite to receiving the vouchers</p> <p>This support stops when the child turns 4 or the young person stops claiming benefits</p>			
Detained Hospital	Young people who are detained in hospital will be provided with a weekly allowance as well as the standard clothing allowance	£15.00 per week £40.00 per month	✓	✓

Family Time and Travel Arrangements

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Bus Passes	<p>All young people aged 16 and 17 where needed can access a bus pass to assist with to access education, training and employment opportunities where this is not provided by the educational establishment/employer. It will also facilitate family contact and contact with the leaving care team and enable access to leisure and cultural activities.</p> <p>Where young people live outside of the Blackpool area they will be provided with a local area travel card.</p> <p>Young people who are required to attend court appearances will be provide with travel warrants.</p>	<p>£ 11.70 per week for online voucher</p> <p>£15.00 per week for a paper ticket</p>		
Family Time/Time with significant people and associated Travel Costs	<p>Where young people have family members who live outside of the Blackpool area (more than a short bus/train journey), telephone and travel costs may be provided following an assessment of need. Wherever possible travel arrangements should be booked in advance.</p> <p>The use of the allowance and frequency of travel should be set out in the pathway plan.</p> <p>Where young people have family who live outside of the Blackpool area and travel costs may exceed £150.00 per year. Authorisation to exceed the limit must be obtained from the Service Manager.</p>	£150.00 Max per year	✓	

Celebration of Birthday's, Religious and Cultural Festivals

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
17 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£100.00	✓	
18 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£100.00		✓
19 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
20 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
21 st Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£100.00		✓
22 nd Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
23 rd Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
24 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
25 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person	£25.00		✓
Celebratory Meal	<p>In circumstance where there is a planned birthday meal/celebration where the social worker/PA participates the total cost for the meal for the young person will be provided. Social Workers and PA's can claim their expenses back</p> <p>Birthday presents and celebratory meals should only be provided where the young person is in contact with their social worker and/or personal advisor.</p>	£20.00	✓	✓
Religious Festivals	<p>Young people will be given a choice as to when they spend their Religious Festival Allowance. Where they do not stipulate a preference, the allowance should be made available at Christmas to ensure they receive their entitlement.</p> <p>They should also be offered the option of being able to split the allowance to allow a percentage for a Religious Festival and a percentage for Christmas.</p>		✓ £100.00	✓ £25.00
Cultural/Social Activities	<p>Blackpool Children's Services will provide support for a major cultural or social activity once per year. The activity should be undertaken with a leaving care personal adviser, ex foster care or other key individual. The activity could range from a visit to the theatre, sporting event, art gallery or a day trip to a city to visit several museums etc.</p> <p>The allowance is dependent on an assessment of need, an assessment of the suitability of the activity.</p> <p>Depending on an assessment of need and an assessment of the suitability of the activities the allowance could be provided as two payments totalling the full amount for this area.</p>	130.00 Max	✓	✓

	The allowance should be used to fund the activity and refreshments for the young person. Travel costs and refreshments for the social worker/personal adviser/foster carer should be claimed via the staff travel budget.			
Cultural Needs	Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services aimed at meeting their cultural needs. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services will fund services aimed at meeting identified needs i.e. skin and hair care, dietary requirements. Funding above £100.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager	£100.00 max per annum	✓	
Religious Needs	Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services aimed at meeting their religious needs. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services will fund services aimed at meeting identified religious needs. Funding above £100.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.	£100 Max per annum	✓	
Health and Social Activities	<p>Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, the Blackpool Children's Services will pay for the membership of a hobby or leisure club and contribute towards the cost of equipment or special clothing/fees or contribute towards the cost of a social activity. This could include the cost of trial sessions and a contribution to travel costs. Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to obtain a Blackpool Leisure Card. Young people should be encouraged and assisted to explore the leisure facilities that accept the Blackpool Leisure Card.</p> <p>Financial assistance provided to pursue hobbies, leisure interests and social activities should be governed by the principle that these activities can be afforded by the young person at the age of eighteen, when they take over financial responsibility for their own affairs.</p> <p>Where young people live outside of the Blackpool area young people will be assisted to access the same offer in their local area</p> <p>Young people should have access to at least one leisure/hobby/sports activity per week to ensure social inclusion.</p>	Maximum of £10.00 per Week up to £520.00 per Year	✓	
Health and Social Activities	All young people have access to the Passport to Leisure to support them in accessing sports and other leisure activities. Where the young person lives outside of Blackpool they will be provided with the equivalent in the area they live	Varied	✓	✓

Clothing Allowance

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Initial Clothing Allowance	<p>In circumstances where young people become looked after and are placed into semi-independent or independent accommodation they will be provided with an Initial Clothing Allowance.</p> <p>The Initial Clothing Allowance is paid in situations where young people become looked after with insufficient clothing for everyday needs. When a young person is first looked after the social worker should make a list of the clothing that the young person has and another list setting out what clothing is required and the cost. The list and costing should be submitted to a manager for approval.</p>	£200.00 Max	✓	
Clothing Allowance	The clothing allowance can be paid weekly, monthly or quarterly and can be paid directly to the young person or spent by the social worker or support worker with the young person. The arrangements for providing and spending the clothing allowance should be set out in the young person's pathway plan and should be dependent on an assessment of need.	£10.00 per week	✓	

Key Life Events and Identity

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Introduction to Driving	<p>Blackpool Children's Service's will provide the funding for one provisional driving licence, one theory test, one practical test and the cost of 5 (1 hour) driving lessons. This offer is condition on the basis that the young person matches the cost of the 5 car driving lessons provided by the Blackpool Children's Social Care. This will enable the young person to have 10 trial lessons.</p> <p>This is only available to young people who have been engaged in education, training or employment for 3 months or are actively seeking training or employment with management oversight; and do not have any driving convictions. Young people must pay the cost of the 5 lessons to their social worker/personal adviser who will then book the 10 lessons. In general, by paying for 10 lessons in a block, driving schools provide an extra lesson free.</p> <p>Young people must provide their contribution before the overall package is provided. Young people can use their birthday or Christmas/festival allowance to pay for their five lessons. No other allowances are transferable for this purpose.</p> <p>Depending on an assessment of need which must be linked to the need to travel to an education, training or employment opportunity the driving package can be used to fund a moped/motor bike training programme. Young people must attend a CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) programme prior to driving on public roads.</p>	£ - Varied depending on provider	✓	✓
Passport	Blackpool Children's Services will purchase a passport (including the check and send facility)	£82.50 online £93 paper form	✓	✓
Birth Certificate	<p>Blackpool Children's Services will purchase 1 birth certificate where they do not have the original (Arrive in 4 working days)</p> <p>If you do not have a GRO index reference number, you'll have to pay £3 extra for each search. Certificates are sent 15 working days after you apply.</p> <p>If you need the certificate sooner, you can use the priority service for £35. It'll be sent the next working day if you order by 4pm. Extra copies are the same price.</p>	£11.00 £35.00	✓	✓

Changing of name via Deed Poll	<p>Changing Name via Deed Poll: There are 2 ways to get a deed poll. Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make an 'unenrolled' deed poll • apply for an 'enrolled' deed poll <p>Ask the Organisation you're dealing with (for example your bank) which type of deed poll they'll accept as proof of your new name.</p> <p>'Enrolling' a deed poll means that the young person's new name will be placed on public record. You can only do this if you're 18 or over.</p> <p>They must apply to the Royal Courts of Justice to get an 'enrolled' deed poll using the deed poll process.</p>	£36.00		✓
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Additional Support

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount		
Luggage	All young people moving to independence or between placements must have appropriate personal luggage. There are Madlug bags available for our young people to support moving. We can also purchase at least two items of appropriate personal luggage.	£50.00	✓	✓
Co-production with Young People	<p>Payments to young people who undertake consultation exercises should always be paid in the form of vouchers.</p> <p>Expenses related to enabling young people to participate in consultation exercise will be provided following an assessment of need.</p>	£10.00 per consultation	✓	✓
Emergency Payments	In emergency situations Blackpool Children's Services staff will refer the young person to the Discretionary Scheme in the first instance by supporting with an online application. This should also be completed where a young person states that they have no food as food parcels are available. Where this is not successful Blackpool Children's Services will support financially and this is inclusive of food/ utilities/toiletries etc. Where the Team Manager agrees to support financially in an emergency the young person should be supported to purchase any agreed items required.	£15.00 (max)	✓	✓

	Where a higher amount is required young people must have completed money management and budgeting sessions before the Service Manager will authorise.			
Subsistence	<p>Following an assessment of need the social worker or personal advisor can purchase refreshments to enable a structured Key Working Session. Other council premises with café facilities should be considered for these sessions.</p> <p>Alternatively social workers and/or personal advisors can purchase ingredients and prepare a meal with the young person as part of key work sessions and preparation for independence support.</p>	£6.00 for young person	✓	✓
Exceptional Needs payments	Where appropriate and following an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services may provide funds for exceptional needs as a one off payment. These payment have to be agreed be a Service Manager.	£0.00		

Setting up Home Allowance

Blackpool Children's Services will provide each young person who is *Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant Children Aged 16 to 25*, with £3000.00 (where they turned 18 on or after April 2023) to spend on making their first independent accommodation a home. This allowance will be spent in stages; initially on semi-independent setting needs (where required) and subsequently, on independent accommodation needs. The allowance will always be spent collaboratively between the personal adviser, positive transitions worker and the young person. Photocopies or original receipts should be retained by the personal adviser for audit purposes, reclaiming VAT and in case defective items need to be returned.

Where a young person is stepped down after 21 or reaches the age of 25 they will be supported to spend the remainder of their allowance to support them in living independently. This should be recorded in their final pathway plan and agreed at the relevant level in accordance to the scheme of delegation. Please note this is for the Setting Up Home Allowance (also known as Leaving Care Allowance or Grant) which includes: £1550.00 Leaving Care Grant and £530.50 Setup costs to support with TV Licence, Removal/Transport, Contents Insurance plus White Goods connection (please see supplementary comms below re Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers who turn 18 years old between 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2025).

This is not in relation to Carpets. As you will be aware carpets can be approved, up to the value of £700 where a young person moves into a property that has no carpets and they are not supported by the Positive Transitions Model. This case by case basis and requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.

The Pathway Plan should set out a timescale for obtaining the items and this information should be noted in the Step Down letter that is sent to the young person if they no longer require a service. The Setting Up Home Allowance can only be accessed after the young person's 25th birthday if there is a specific reason for this, it is included in the pathway plan and there is a clear time scale for it to be accessed. If a young person returns to the authority between the ages of 21 and 25 and wish to access the remainder of their Setting up Home Allowance, they are entitled to do so without having to be engaged in training or education.

The Setting Up Home Allowance should always be used to purchase household items and the initial spending should be for the young person's first permanent home or for items that are transferable (ie furniture/white goods). Young people must be supported by staff to purchase items via guided spending utilising refurbished and reconditioned items where they come with a warranty. VAT must be reclaimed on all purchases. Photocopies or original receipts must be kept by personal advisors.

Qualifying Young People

Young People Deemed Qualifying Children and Young People Over 16

- Young people aged 16 & 17 who are subject to a Special Guardianship Order
- Young people aged 18 to 21, or up to 25 who were previously subject to a Special Guardianship Order.
- The young person must have been looked after immediately prior to the making of the Special Guardianship Order.
- Young people who were privately fostered
- Young people who were looked after for less than 13 weeks between their 14th and 18th birthdays, but for at least 24 hours aged 16 or 17.
- Young people who returned home and are subject to a Section 31 Care Order and were looked after for a minimum of 13 weeks (age 14 or 15) become an 'Eligible' child on reaching their 16th birthday (if still looked after). If they live at home successfully for 6 months or more and their care order is revoked they become Qualifying on the revocation of their order.
- If the arrangement at home breaks down before the age of 18, they automatically become 'Relevant' children.
- Young people aged 16 or 17 who are deemed 'Eligible' and are accommodated under Section 20 cease to be looked after and become 'Relevant' children on returning to parents or those with parental responsibility. After a stable and settled six month period as 'Relevant' children this group become Qualifying.
- If the arrangement at home breaks down before the age of 18, they automatically revert to being 'Relevant' children.
- Young people subject to respite care arrangements do not become Eligible or Relevant even where their period of being looked after exceeds 13 weeks between their 14th and 18th birthday. The respite periods must all be planned periods with no individual period exceeding 4 weeks. **This group are deemed Qualifying.**

Statutorily the local authority has a duty to provide the following in terms of financial support to those young people deemed as qualifying

- Vacation accommodation for those young people how are in full time further and higher education where term time accommodation is not available

However, in Blackpool we will work with young people based on their individual needs. Where a young person is qualifying but has needs that require financial support a personal advisor will assess these and provide the Team Manager and Service Manager with a rationale as to what financial support is required. Where the qualifying young person has a pathway plan the financial support should be outlined in the pathway plan. In those cases where there is a need but a pathway plan is not required case notes and management oversight will be added to the young person's file. Below is the statutory guidance that should be applied:

Advise and befriend them and offer relevant support led by a Needs Assessment. The assistance provided may be as a short intervention, targeted support, signposting to other agencies and supporting with initial appointments or more intensive support.

Where there are expenses incurred by the local authority under Section 24A (Advice and Assistance) or Section 24B (Employment, Education and Training) Section 17 subsections (7) to (9) apply

7) Assistance may be unconditional or subject to conditions as to the repayment of the assistance or of its value (in whole or in part).

(8)Before giving any assistance or imposing any conditions, a local authority shall have regard to the means of the child concerned and of each of his parents.

(9)No person shall be liable to make any repayment of assistance or of its value at any time when he is in receipt [F8of universal credit (except in such circumstances as may be prescribed),] of income support [F9under][F10 Part VII of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992,][F11 of any element of child tax credit other than the family element, of working tax credit][F12, of an income-based jobseeker's allowance or of an income-related employment and support allowance].

Section 24 B - Education, Training and Employment

- Contributing to expenses incurred by the person living near the place where they or will be receiving education or training OR
- Making a grant to enable him to meet expenses connected with their education or training.
- This applies to a person who is under the age of 24 and;
- Qualifies for advice and assistance undersection 24 (2)(a) or would have done if they were under 21. If assistance is being provided in this circumstance then the LA must disregard any interruption to attendance if they resume as soon as it practicable
- Where a young person attends further or higher education and needs accommodation during the vacation periods as their term time accommodation is not available the LA will provide this accommodation or provide them with funds to be able to secure the accommodation themselves

Young People who are in Custody

Where Eligible or Relevant Children and young people are detained in hospital or custody Blackpool Children's Services have made provisions to ensure some financial support to this vulnerable group. For more detailed information in relation to legal status and how this changes when a young person is detained please refer to Blackpool's Safeguarding Children in Custody Policy and Procedures. https://blackpoolchildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_lac_yp_youth.html

When a young person is in custody the majority of their financial allowances are suspended. Where a young person is detained in Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) there may be establishment rules in relation to finances and best practice would see the social worker/personal advisor establishing what these are at the point of sentence or remand. As a general rule, where young people engage in education, training and employment they are provided with 'pocket money' for example in Wetherby YOI Blackpool's main establishment children receive up to £15.00 per week

Adult Prisoners taking part in work or education are paid a weekly amount which varies according to the job or course they are doing. This, any money that they had with them on arrival to prison, and money they have been sent by family and friends, is held by the prison in a personal account. The amount they can spend weekly varies according to their privilege and if they are convicted or on remand. The standard weekly allowance for a convicted prisoner is £15. Personal Advisors will utilise the pay a prisoner scheme in order to ensure that money is transferred and accessible whilst in custody.

The links below are helpful websites to visit to learn more.

<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount	16 & 17	18+
Clothing Allowance	Most establishments provide clothing to prisoners. In those facilities that house adult prisoners they may be able to take clothing with them. Where there is an identified need for clothing (i.e. they are serving a long sentence) the Team Manager will make a decision as to whether this is appropriate and authorise the required amount and the period that this is can be spent over.	Maximum spend per month £40.00	✓	✓
Weekly Allowance	Where, in exceptional circumstances, there is no education, training or work opportunities and no pocket money or remuneration scheme exists young people will be provided with finances.	£10.00 per week	✓	✓
Birthdays and Religious Festivals	This allowance will continue to be paid and depending on the rules of the establishment it will either go into the young person's account or be retained until their release. This allowance can only be authorised by a Service Manager when provided with a rationale for either option.	See relevant page of this document		
Exceptional Needs Payment	Where a young person has been detained for 6 months or more an exceptional needs payment should be considered for clothing as part of their resettlement plan. This will need Service Manager authorisation when provided with a rationale.	Up to £200.00	✓	✓
Qualifying Children	On being sentenced Qualifying young people will only be in receipt of allowance outlined above following an assessment of need, parental situation as well as the remuneration issues laid out above. This will require Service Manager authorisation	£ - Variable		✓
Support for Family Visits	Where, a young person is in custody the Personal Advisor should encourage visits from parents and other key family members in order to support with re-settlement. This will be particularly important where a young person is to return to live with their family.	£ - cost of rail travel to establishment	✓	✓

Young People who are sick, disabled or have a special educational need

Area	Commentary and Criteria	Amount
Local Authority Maintenance Allowance	Sick and disabled young people are able to claim means tested benefits and therefore they do not receive the majority of the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance as their welfare benefits are providing to cover these areas. LCMA, Clothing Allowance and Leisure Allowance will cease for this group of young people.	
Welfare Benefits	<p>Young people (looked after and care leavers) aged 16 and 17, either Section 31 (Care Order) or Section 20 (Accommodated) who are incapable of work due to ill-health (deemed Sick and Disabled by the DWP) are eligible to claim Employment & Support Allowance from their 16th birthday. This includes young people living in foster care and residential care. It can also include those aged 16 and above who are undertaking education. Being in receipt of a Disability Living Allowance/ Personal Independence Payment at the higher rate makes claiming E&SA more straight forward.</p> <p>Young people should be supported and assisted to claim their full benefit entitlement.</p> <p>Due to having an entitlement to welfare benefits and when the young person is in receipt of these benefits the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance and Clothing Allowance will cease. All other allowances remain.</p>	
Travel	Depending on an assessment of need sick and disabled young people may be exempt from the three month in education, training or employment condition. See Page 16	
Special Needs Costs	<p>Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services to meet their special needs and depending on the outcome, may assist in providing resources to address an identified need.</p> <p>Funding above £100.00 will require authorisation from the Service Manager.</p>	
Disabled Student's Allowances	<p>Disabled Students' Allowances are grants to help meet the extra course costs students can face as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. They are aimed at helping disabled students to study on an equal basis with other students. Full-time, part-time and postgraduate students can apply for Disabled Students' Allowances. The amount awarded is not dependent on household income. Disabled Students' Allowances are paid on top of the standard student finance package, and do not have to be paid back.</p> <p>What they are for - Disabled Students' Allowances can help with:</p>	

	<p>Specialist equipment needed for studying – e.g., computer software A non-medical helper, such as a note-taker or reader Extra travel costs because of a disability Other costs - for example, tapes or Braille paper</p> <p>Eligibility Young people with a disability can apply if they are doing: A full-time course that lasts at least one year (including a distance-learning course) A part-time course that lasts at least one year and doesn't take more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course (can include an Open University or other distance-learning course)</p> <p>Checking if eligibility for student finance: To apply for financial help through Disabled Students' Allowances, both the young person and their course must be eligible. It's worth checking this before application. Information is available at: https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview</p>	
Welfare Benefits for Lone Parents & sick and disabled young people in further education over 21	<p>The majority of young people over the age of 21 who undertake full time further education courses are ineligible for welfare benefits such as Income Support and Housing Benefit. Certain limited groups of young people over the age of 21 such as lone parents and sick and disabled young people, who undertake further education courses, may remain eligible for welfare benefits. If a young person is entitled to welfare benefits (Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits) he/she is not eligible for Blackpool's further education support as this is intended to replicate family and/or welfare benefit support. Young people will be able to access one-off fees and equipment grants.</p>	

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

Care leavers who are also unaccompanied asylum seeking children are entitled to the same allowances as any other care leaver. Allowances to this group of young people may be affected and limited, however, because of their immigration status. When developing Pathway Plans with Eligible and Relevant (UASC) particular attention must be paid to their immigration status and contingency plans developed which take account of their possible status options at the of age eighteen.

Department for Education guidance highlights that pathway planning for the majority of UASC who do not have permanent immigration status should initially take a dual or triple planning perspective, which, over time should be refined as the young person's immigration status is resolved.

Planning may be based on:

- a transitional plan during the period of uncertainty when the young person is in the United Kingdom without permanent immigration status;
- longer term perspective plan in the United Kingdom should the young person be granted long term permission to stay (for example through the grant of Refugee Status); or
- a return to their country of origin at any appropriate point or at the end of the immigration consideration process, should that be necessary because the young person decides to leave the UK or is required to do so.

Area	Commentary	Amount
Family Contact	Following an assessment of need Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children may be provided with a weekly phone card/allowance.	£5.00
Travel Documents	<p>Children's Services will purchase a travel document for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children dependent on an assessment of need. For children under 18 applying to be a Citizen including costs please follow: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fees-for-citizenship-applications/fees-for-citizenship-applications-and-the-right-of-abode-from-6-april-2018</p> <p>Children's Services will contribute 50% of the cost; and the young person will be expected to contribute the remaining 50% (depending on an assessment of need). In addition, young people will need to undertake a B1 English Test, a Life in the UK Test and pay 'Document Checking Fee. Children's Services will contribute 50% of the cost; and the young person will be expected to contribute the remaining 50% depending on an assessment of need. For up to date amounts please follow: https://www.britishcitizenship.org/british-naturalisation-fees-costs/</p>	£ - varied

Child Care Costs	The majority of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who have applied for asylum and have an initial decision such as Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave can apply for a Care to Learn Fund grant.	Government Scheme
Higher Education Grant	Blackpool Children's Services will provide a Higher Education Grant to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people only if all of the following circumstances are met: a) they have been offered a higher education place b) Student Finance England have award them a loan and/or grant c) they are classified as a home student.	Please see page 9
Welfare Benefits	Young people must apply to extend their leave to remain at least two months before their immigration leave status expires. If this task is completed by a young person's eighteenth birthday and they have proof that the Home Office has received their application the young person is eligible to apply for benefits. Personal Advisors should obtain a letter from the young person's solicitor that includes details of the young person's immigration status; the date of the application to extend the leave to remain was submitted. The solicitor submits the renewal/extension by recorded post. The recorded post item will have a tracking number that can be used to verify that the Home Officer received the application. The letter from the solicitor and a print out of the post office tracking statement should be submitted with the young person's benefit claim.	

For more information in relation to migrant children and their eligibility for support please see:

<https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/resources/leaving-care-support-fact-sheet/>

Failed Asylum Claims aged 18 to 21/25

Former Relevant Children

Where young people have an immigration status that means they have permission to work and/or have recourse to public funds they will be expected to be working or claiming benefits like other Former Relevant Children. Additionally, Blackpool Children's Services will apply all aspects of the Former Relevant Children section of the leaving care financial policy with some exceptions to the Higher Education and Further Education sub-section.

Where young people have:

- Limited leave to remain;
- Exceptional leave to remain;
- All Rights Exhausted (ARE);

They are only eligible for the Higher Education Grant for higher education courses that finish in the academic year prior to their status expiring.

Blackpool Children's Service's will provide a Higher Education Grant to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people only if all of the following circumstances are met:

- a) They have been offered a higher education place
- b) Student Finance England have awarded them a loan and/or grant
- c) They are classified as a home student.

Blackpool Children's Service's will work with education establishments and training providers to ensure that young people who have limited leave to remain have access to purposeful activities such as short education courses, training opportunities and courses and voluntary activities.

Where asylum seeking young people:

- have made an asylum application, but do not have an initial decision;
- have no recourse to public funds;
- All rights exhausted;

They will not be eligible for higher education funding.

Consideration will be given to supporting young people with short term universal access courses that provide enhanced education and training skills.

Young people who have exhausted all 'avenues and rights' regarding appealing an adverse asylum decision, and/or are unable to extend their exceptional leave to remain, and/or lose access to public funds and the right to work are deemed 'end of line cases' or 'all appeal rights exhausted' cases (at this point the young person will usually receive a removal directions notice).

Where young people lose access to welfare benefits and are deemed 'end of line cases' or 'all appeal rights exhausted' Blackpool Children's Services will provide an allowance commensurate with benefits following the completion of a Human Rights Assessment. This allowance can continue to be paid until the removal date or the young person's 21st birthday (or the end of their education course following their 21st birthday) whichever comes first. In addition, the provision of an allowance and accommodation is dependent on the young person remaining in contact with their personal adviser and actively engaging in the pathway planning process.

(See London Borough of Barking and Dagenham [2010] EWCA Civ 1101 - Case Law)

Also see – Children's Asylum Claims and Funding to Local Authorities Financial Year 2019/20:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650514/children_s-asylum-claims-v2_0.pdf
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806813/UASC_funding_instructions_to_local_authorities_2019_to_2020.pdf

Criminal Injuries Compensation Award Payments

The rules on Criminal Injuries Compensation Award (C.I.C.A.) payments allow a young person a 52 week 'grace period' regarding eligibility for means tested benefits after receipt of the award. The following guidance should still be followed.

Universal Credit legislation sets out that a C.I.C.A. payment is disregarded in terms of calculating benefit entitlement for the first 52 weeks after receipt of the award.

Young people who receive a C.I.C.A. payment should be assisted to seek independent financial advice regarding establishing a Discretionary Trust Fund. Additionally, young people should be made aware of the implications of the C.I.C.A. payment for any benefit claim they may make after the 52 week disregard period. Young people should visit the Citizen's Advice Bureau and choose an independent solicitor and financial adviser to explore opportunities to use their award in a positive manner.

Generally, young people will receive their C.I.C.A. payment on their eighteenth birthday. If young people establish a 'Discretionary Trust Fund' prior to, or within 52 weeks of receiving their payment they continue to be eligible for benefits. Establishing a 'Discretionary Trust Fund' results in their award payment being 'tied up' until they reach the age of 21.

If a C.I.C.A. award has not been placed in a Trust Fund, or used after 52 weeks the following will apply; if the award was less than £6000.00 it will not affect a claim for benefit. If the award is between £6000.00 and £16,000.00, it will result in a reduced benefit payment and an award of over £16,000.00 will disqualify a young person from benefit. Strict benefit rules apply in regard to spending the award after the 52 week disregard period, consideration should be given to the DWP rules on the inappropriate disposal of 'capital'. It is important that young people are given independent advice regarding C.I.C.A. payments and that social workers/personal advisers are not responsible for choosing who gives advice.

Where a young person has been awarded a sum in compensation for a criminal injury, Children, Schools and Families is required to disregard that capital entirely. See page 62 para 4 - Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 Guidance

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Approved By:

Name	Title	Signature	Date
Sara McCartan	Head of Adolescent Service		

