



Derby City Council



Stronger Families  
and  
Resilient Children

## Derby City Leaving Care Service

### Post 21 Assessments.

**This assessment should be used for all of those approaching their 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday and those returning for advice and support aged 21 to 24 in line with the requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017.**

#### **Procedure.**

All care leavers should have an assessment undertaken as they approach their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. This should be undertaken by their allocated PA.

Where possible an assessment for a post 21 returner should also be carried out by their previous PA to ensure a level of consistency. If this isn't possible then the assessment will be carried out by the duty worker. We should avoid any delays in completing these assessments.

The purpose of this assessment is to establish the level and type of support they will need once they reach the age of 21 or when they are returning for advice and support.

The assessment should be completed with the young adult in order that we arrive at the agreed correct level of ongoing support.

The assessment should consider the areas that are covered by the Pathway Plan and should also be informed by the young adult's current plan (for young adults approaching 21). This will help to identify specifically what support the young adult requires.

Accommodation/ Independence.

Health/ Mental health and wellbeing.

Education/ training/ employment

Financial (Inc. council tax exemption)

Identity (Inc. access to records)

Family/ relationships.

Once the assessment has been completed it should clearly identify what actions the Leaving Care Service will be taking.

We will then identify one of the following outcomes that best fits with our assessment.

There will be 4 possible outcomes:

**Outcome of assessment.**

1. Case to be closed to Leaving Care Service. (Can return any time until 25 years of age).
2. Case to remain open to Leaving Care Service to meet assessed needs and address actions.
3. Immediate needs met. No further action required.
4. Complex needs. Refer to manager for allocation/discussion.

**Some examples as to why we would keep cases open to the service;**

Young adult still at university (Pathway Plan can continue and focus on what specific support is required).

Young adult's accommodation is unsuitable and we aim to resolve the situation over a given period of time.

Young adult has health/ mental health issues that we need to make sure are being addressed.

Young adult is pregnant / parent and there are ongoing support needs.

This is by no means an exhaustive list and case discussion with manager will also take place.

**Case Closure questions post 21**

If closing the case, the following questions will need to be addressed.

Has young adult been informed that the Leaving Care Service will attempt to make contact with them annually to keep in touch?

Has the young adult been informed that they can come back to the service at any time before turning 25 years of age to request further advice and support?

If 'Yes' is answered to all questions, then the case will effectively be closed to the Leaving Care Service for the time being and no further action will be taken apart from then aforementioned annual contact.

**A copy of the assessment should be placed onto the young adults LCS file in the case summary section.**

**Post 21 annual follow ups.**

To maintain contact with our former Care Leavers, who are currently closed to the team, the Leaving Care Service, will undertake a team exercise annually in and around Care Leavers week in October of each year.

We cannot write to Care Leavers just in case they have moved home, so we will have to utilise the last known telephone number and increasingly utilise social media as long as we are confident that GDPR guidelines are not being breached in any way.

If we re-establish contact, then we should provide a copy of or the link to the Care Leavers local offer for their information.

**In all cases we should consider if an introduction to a Local Area Coordinator would be beneficial.**