**Appendix 5 - Standard Benefit Claim Letter - Young Person Previously in Foster Care**

Standard Benefit Claim Letter - Young Person Previously in Foster Care

Young Person’s Name:

Date of Birth:

Current Address:

National Insurance Number:

Type of Accommodation and Tenancy:

Previous Foster Care Placement (“Staying Put” Arrangement) – Excluded Licence

Name of Landlord Foster Carer/Staying Put Carer:

Agent for the Landlord Gateshead Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is provided to verify the identity of the above named young person and to confirm and clarify his/her circumstances.

The above named young person was previously placed in foster care at the above address. As the young person has now reached the age of eighteen (he/she) is no longer in foster care and (he/she) is remaining with (his/her) previous foster carers under a “Staying Put” arrangement.

The young person is now deemed ‘independent in (his/her) own right’ and is liable for accommodation costs of £70.00 per week, excluding meals, utility and support charges. The information provided below sets out (his/her) legal status and financial circumstances.

I can confirm that (Add Full Name) was previously an (Eligible’ / ‘Relevant) young person and became a ‘Former Relevant’ young person on (Add Date) as defined by the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations and Guidance 2010 and Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010.

A. I can also confirm that (Add Full Name) was previously ‘Looked After’ by Gateshead Council and was ‘Accommodated’ under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989.

B. I can also confirm that (Add Full Name) was previously ‘Looked After’ by Gateshead Council and was subject to a Section 31 Care Order under the terms of the Children Act 1989.

(Add Full Name) ceased to be ‘Looked After’ on (Add Date) and will continue to receive practical support and, in specific circumstances, financial help from Gateshead Council under Section 24 of the Children Act 1989 or Section 23C of the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010. Section 23C and Section 24 payments must be declared when claiming benefits but are not be counted as income for welfare benefit purposes. Whilst (Add Full Name) is establishing his/her welfare benefit claim he/she will be provided with a £??.?? allowance under these powers.

1. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child and ceased to be ‘Looked After’, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim Jobseekers Allowance at the rate of £??.?? per week and full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

2. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child, has ceased to be ‘Looked After’ and is engaged on a traineeship at the rate of £??.?? per week, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

3. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child, has ceased to be ‘Looked After’, remains estranged from his/her parents and is covered by the relevant education criteria, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim Income Support at the rate of £56.80 per week and full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

4. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child, has ceased to be ‘Looked After’, remains estranged from his/her parents and has been given a ‘Fit Note’ by his/her Doctor, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim Employment & Support Allowance and full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

5. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child, has ceased to be ‘Looked After’ and is earning a low income, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support. Please find attached relevant wage slips/prove of income.

6. As (Add Full Name) has now become a ‘Former Relevant’ child, has ceased to be ‘Looked After’ and is temporarily unable to submit a claim for means tested benefits, Gateshead Council will provide a £5.00 allowance under Section 23C of the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010. As this payment will constitute a low income, I believe he/she will be entitled to claim Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

As (Full Name) was ‘Looked After’ on/or after his/her sixteenth birthday he/she is exempt from the single room rent restriction.

As (Add Full Name) was previously ‘Looked After’ and remains vulnerable I would request that the Housing Benefit is paid directly to Gateshead Care, Wellbeing and Learning as an agent of the landlord. Gateshead Care, Wellbeing and Learning will continue to pay the landlord the combined accommodation and support cost to avoid any disruption to the landlord’s payments. The payment should be made to Gateshead Council. If you require any further information regarding payments please contact:

Senior Operational Support Coordinator, Gateshead Council.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

\* Please complete, or delete, either section A or B, complete the sections in brackets and the relevant sections 1 to 6. All other sections must be completed.