

Leaving Care in Gloucestershire:

Your Rights & Other Useful Stuff



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Youth Support Team

You have a right to:

Have a Leaving Care worker

You will have a worker allocated to you to help you plan your future.

Setting Up Home Grant (leaving home grant)

You may be entitled to a setting up home grant to help you with your move to independence. Up to £2,000 is available depending on your situation.

Higher Education and Summer Residential within Further Education

You may be entitled to a Higher Education Bursary to help you gain a higher education qualification. We will also help you with accommodation during your summer vacation.

Staying Put

You are entitled to request to remain in your foster carer placement up to the age of 21 under a staying put arrangement subject to agreement by your foster carer.

For further information on all the above please talk to your social worker/leaving care worker.

Access to your Personal Records

As a Care Leaver you may wish to access your personal case records. The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) has given UK care leavers extra rights to view their child care records. So, in most cases, you are allowed to view your records.

If you wish to see the records we keep on you then talk to your Social Worker/ Leaving Care Worker. They will explain to you what you need to do and assist you if required to complete the right forms. Or you can contact the Information Management Service by email foi@gloucestershire.gov.uk or call **01452 426837**.

Useful links: • www.careleavers.com/accesstorecords



Access to Health Records

Your health records include your NHS or private health records held by a GP, optician or dentist, or by a hospital. You should be able to ask to see them during a consultation, or by phoning your GP surgery, dentist or hospital to arrange a time to see your records.

Talk to your Social Worker/Leaving Care Worker. They will explain to you what you need to do and assist you, to submit your request in writing to the relevant healthcare professional.

Useful links: • www.glos-care.nhs.uk/our-services

Advocacy Services

As a care leaver you are entitled to support from an Advocate. An Advocate is there to listen and can help you when you have a specific problem or complaint or if there is going to be a child protection conference about you and you need support. The Advocate is independent of the Post 16 team and Gloucestershire County Council. To contact an Advocate talk to your social worker/leaving care worker or contact Barnardo's directly on

Useful links: • Tel: 01452 526693

Complaints Procedures

We aim to provide you with the best services. But services can always be improved and sometimes we get things wrong. If you have a comment, suggestion, concern or complaint you should write or speak to a member of staff or the team manager.

If things have gone wrong and you want to make a formal complaint we want to put things right so have tried to make it easy for you.

You can use our online complaints form by visiting

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk and going to complaints and feedback.

Useful links: • cypfeedback@gloucestershire.gov.uk
• or call 01452 427032

Post 16 Forum

We are interested in you being actively engaged in shaping services that we deliver to children in care and care leavers. We hold a regular Post 16 Forum in Cheltenham and Gloucester where you will meet with staff, managers and Gloucestershire County Council Councillors. We also support you to be involved in developing national policy for care leavers via the National Young Peoples Benchmarking Forum. If you want to get involved speak to your social worker/ leaving care worker or email below.

Useful links: • yourvoice16+@gloucestershire.gov.uk

If you have left the service and would like to access any of your records please contact Windsor House and ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker.

Contacts

For more information, contact your Leaving Care worker at your nearest office:

**Youth Support Centre, Grosvenor Hall, Grosvenor Street
Cheltenham, GL52 2SG Tel: 01242 242203**

**Youth Support Centre, 48 London Road, Gloucester, GL1 3NZ
Tel: 01452 547540**

**Youth Support Centre, Windsor House, 40 Brunswick Road
Gloucester, GL1 1HG Tel: 01452 551276**

YST Post 16 Team Email: yourvoice16+@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Soon to go live — www.whatnowglos/leavingcare.co.uk

Working in partnership



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