



TARGET

Financial Policy for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (Age 16 – 21 or 25 if in Education or Training)

Version 7
February 2019
INTERNAL USE ONLY

this is Redcar & Cleveland

Document Control

Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Change Description	Approved / Quality Checked By & Date	Target Audience / Circulation	Document Review Date
February 2008	Sharon McBride/Rachel Williamson	1	Draft for consultation	CMT 19/03/08	Internal Use Only	February 2010
20/03/08	Sharon McBride/Rachel Williamson	2	Amendments to headers and footers. Addition of impact assessment and retention schedule		Internal Use Only	February 2010
29/07/11	Ali Wheatley/Andrea Laverick	3	Minor amendments	Joanne Stoddart – 4 November 2011	Internal Use Only	August 2012
01/04/12	Ali Wheatley/Andrea Laverick	4	Amendment of allowances			August 2012
01/04/13	Ali Wheatley/Andrea Laverick	5	Amendment of Allowances			April 2013
01/04/14	Ali Wheatley/Alison McKenna	6	Amendment of Policy			01/04/15
1/2/19	Ali Wheatley/ Andrea Hill	7	Reviewed		Internal Use only	1/2/20

Impact Assessment Record

Date	Type of Assessment Conducted (e.g. Environmental, Diversity & Equalities, Human Rights Act 1998, Crime & Disorder Act 1998 & Children Act 2004)	Stage/ Level Completed (Where Applicable)	Summary of Action Taken / Decision Made	Completed By	Impact Assessment Review Date
17/03/08	Equality And Diversity Impact Assessment	Initial Screening Completed	Initial screening completed – no negative impact identified. Document content has no negative impact on gender, race, disabled people, sexual orientation, age or faith groups	C Goodwin/S McBride	Review not required unless significant changes to document content or change to legislation

Document Retention Period *Guideline only, refer to schedule in force at time decision is made to withdraw document from circulation	** Destroy 5 years after administrative use has concluded
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Financial Policy for Looked after Children and Care Leavers (age 16 -21; 25 if in Education or Training)

Definition of a ‘Corporate Parent’

A term used to describe the responsibility of the Local Authority as ‘Corporate Parents’ to all the children and young people who are in the care of the Local Authority. A ‘Corporate Parent’ has a legal responsibility to ensure that the needs of children and young people in their care are prioritised in the same way as any good parent would do for their own child or children. The term covers all the officers of Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and the Elected Members.

Vision of Corporate Parenting in Redcar and Cleveland

Our vision is to ensure that every looked after child and care leaver in Redcar and Cleveland:

- Experiences high quality care and stable relationships
- Is nurtured and grows up with a sense of identity and belonging
- Feels their needs are given the highest priority and that they are valued and cared about not just cared for
- Have opportunities and support to achieve their full potential
- Has a successful transition to adulthood

1.0 Legislation

Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations - Volume 3: Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers (revised January 2015)

Care Leavers Charter

Extending Personal Adviser Support to All Care Leavers to Age 25: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (February 2018)

Applying Corporate Parenting Principles to Looked-after Children and Care Leavers - Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (February 2018)

Local Offer Guidance: Guidance for Local Authorities

1.1 Aims

- This policy aims to promote and support looked after children and care leavers to build financial capacity through effective pathway planning, especially in relation to accommodation, education, employment and training.
- Encourage young people to take responsibility for managing their own financial affairs and develop their financial capability.

1.2 Definitions

Please refer to the Leaving Care Act 2000.

3. Entitlement to Benefits

Eligible and relevant young people are not entitled to claim universal credit until they reach aged 18. The exceptions to this are lone parents and disabled young people who will be eligible for these benefits because of their disability or parental status.

Personal advisors will provide young people with information about their benefit entitlements and support them to complete necessary applications.

4. Personal Allowance

Eligible young people who live independently and relevant young people will be paid a personal allowance to enable them financially support themselves and build financial capacity.

In some exceptional circumstances a young person's personal allowance may be paid in several smaller amounts.

5. Accommodation

Eligible and relevant young people are not entitled to claim universal credit which includes housing benefit and any accommodation costs are paid by TARGET.

6. Setting Up Home Allowance

TARGET Personal Advisors will assess and support eligible, relevant and former relevant young people to have access to a setting up home allowance to purchase items essential for independent living.

TARGET Personal Advisors support qualifying young people to access external funding and if necessary provide financial assistance.

7. Education, Training and Employment and Incentive Payments

When young people are engaged in education, training or employment the Personal Advisor will support them to access any relevant bursaries, grants, bus passes etc. TARGET may also provide support to help purchase interview/work clothing, equipment, books, transport and any other costs this is based on individual assessed need.

7.1 Incentive Payments

For those young people who are engaged in education, training or employment they may receive a financial incentive based on attendance.

8. Apprenticeships

Young people accessing apprenticeships should not be financially disadvantaged and TARGET may pay a contribution towards their accommodation costs.

9. University

For those young people attending university TARGET will pay an allowance, accommodation costs and a bursary while they are completing their studies. Personal advisors will also support young people to access additional funding e.g. bursaries.

11. Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) and other asylum seeking young people

If an unaccompanied asylum-seeking young person becomes a looked after child and meets the relevant criteria they will be supported under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000. Most eligible, relevant and former relevant unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will receive the same entitlements as any other young person. However, there will be some differences in financial entitlement and access to other resources, due to Home Office criteria which will need to be acknowledged in their pathway Plan, alongside their immigration status and contingency planning.

Appendix 1

Summary of Allowances and Payments 1st April 2014

Amount (from 01.02.19)	Allowance or Payment
£60.00	Weekly Personal Allowance
£40.38	Weekly University Personal Allowance
£30.00	Incentive for young people engaged in education, training or employment based on attendance
£2000.00	Setting up Home Allowance – includes contents insurance and television licence (for 1 st year)
Dependent on provider	Staying Put allowance – see staying put policy

Same as in house foster care payments	Supported Lodgings allowance – see supported lodgings policy
Needs assessed	Accommodation costs – to be agreed
£5.00	Birthday allowance young people in care age 16/17
£30.00	Birthday allowance for care leavers age 16,17,19 & 20
£60.00	Birthday allowance for 18 th and 21 st
£50.00	Christmas allowance
£2000.00	University Bursary

Setting Up Home Allowance Checklist

Kitchen

Items	Required Y/N	Cost	Estimated Cost**
Essential			
Fridge/Freezer			£129.99
Washing Machine			£189.99
Cooker			£149.99
Cutlery/Plates/Mugs/Tea Towels			£27.77
Pans			£19.99
Flooring			
Curtains			£12.99
Waste Bin			£5.00
Non- Essential			
Dining Table & Chairs			£40.00
Kettle			£9.99
Toaster			£5.99
Microwave			£31.99

Living Room

Items	Required Y/N	Cost	Estimated Cost**
Essential			
Sofa			£169.99
Flooring			
Curtains			£12.99
Non- Essential			
TV & TV Stand			£149.99
Coffee Table			£29.99
Lamp			£7.12

Bathroom

Items	Required Y/N	Cost	Estimated Cost**
Essential			
Curtains			£12.99
Flooring			
Towels			£9.99
Non- Essential			
Shower Curtain			£4.99
Laundry Basket			£3.99

Bedroom

Items	Required Y/N	Cost	Estimated Cost**
Essential			
Bed			£59.49
Mattress			£67.99
Bedding			£5.19
Curtains			£12.99
Flooring			
Wardrobe			£56.00
Non- Essential			
Drawers			£49.99
Lamp			£8.99 for a set of 2
Bedside Table			£22.49

Other

Items	Required Y/N	Cost	Estimated Cost**
Essential			
TV Licence*			£150.00 per year
Contents Insurance*			£30 per month
Vacuum Cleaner			£49.99
Iron/Ironing Board			£3.79 Iron £9.99 Board
Pegs/Washing Line			£10.00
Non- Essential			
Mop/Bucket			£9.99
Storage Boxes			£14.99 For a set of 5
Clothes Airer (if no outside space)			£9.99

This checklist is for guidance only; each young person will be individually assessed

*TV Licence and Contents Insurance must be purchased from the Setting Up Home Allowance.

** Estimated costs from Argos March 2019