

Guide to supporting young people and adults (over 16) with health costs

Guidance and legislation stipulates the corporate parenting responsibilities of local authorities to Children Looked After and Care Experienced Adults. This includes the promotion of the child or young adult's physical health. Local authorities have a role as corporate parent to support them in a way that is consistent with the way in which birth parents support their own children as they grow up and transition to independent life. Parents want their children to have the best start in life, to be healthy and happy and to reach their full potential. As corporate parents we have the same high aspirations to ensure they receive the care and support they need in order to thrive. In particular, care experienced adults may need guidance and support with certain benefits and forms to ensure they receive this entitlement.

Guidance for 16+ Children Looked After and Care Experienced Adults as follows (use alongside flow chart on reverse):

Aged under 18

Available help with costs:

- All dental costs
- Free eye test
- Optical Voucher
- Free prescriptions (if in fulltime education)

Aged under 18 and not in full time education or working

Available help with costs:

- NHS Low Income Scheme

Aged under 18 and not in full time education but working on low income (under £16,000 per annum)

Available help with costs:

- Complete Financial Request Form to be approved by ATM or TM (Discretionary Finance)*

Aged 18-25 and pregnant (or had a baby in last 12 months)

Available help with costs:

- Dental costs
- Free prescriptions

Aged 18-25 and working on low income (under £16,000 per annum)

Available help with costs:

- NHS Low Income Scheme

Aged 18-25 and in qualifying full time education (under 19 only)

Available help with costs:

- Free eye test & Optical Voucher
- Free prescriptions
- Free dental care

Aged 18-25 and unemployed

Available help with costs:

- Universal Credits

Aged 18-25 (with none of the above criteria)

Available help with costs:

- Complete Financial Request Form to be approved by ATM or TM (Discretionary Finance)*

Helpful online resources:

<https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/check-for-help-paying-nhs-costs/result>

<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/dental-health/who-is-entitled-to-free-nhs-dental-treatment-in-england/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/free-nhs-eye-tests-and-optical-vouchers/>

*All options must have been explored before Discretionary Finance can be considered (see flow chart on reverse).

SBC is unable to help with health costs for Qualifying Care Leavers.

If the cost of a treatment is greater than £500.00, the limit a TM can agree, a request will be made to Care Panel.

