

Derbyshire Leaving Care Service

Our Local Offer to you, our care experienced young people.





Our commitment to support you by always being here.

- As a Derbyshire care experienced young person, we always treat you with respect, we will listen to you and support you to be the best you can be, so you can reach your goals and aspirations.
- We pride ourselves on building relationships with our children in care and care experienced young people and their families and 'never giving up' when things get tough.

Am I a Care Leaver?

To receive the support set out in this leaflet, you must be a Care Experienced young person and meet the criteria below:

Eligible Person

(Young people aged 16 or 17 who have been in care for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and were in care on their 16th birthday and who are still in care).

- A Personal Advisor.
- A needs assessment.
- A pathway plan.
- All the care and support they normally receive until they leave care.

Relevant Young Person

(Young people aged 16 or 17 who have been in care for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who have left care).

- A Personal Advisor.
- A needs assessment.
- A pathway plan.
- Suitable accommodation and maintenance.
- Financial support to meet education, employment, and training needs. (See Financial Policy of care leavers).

Former Relevant Young Person

(Young people aged 18 - 25 who have been 'Eligible' or 'Relevant' young people).

- A Personal Advisor.
- A needs assessment.
- A pathway plan.
- Assistance with education, employment, and training.
- Suitable accommodation. Help with living costs. (See the Financial Policy for care leavers).

Qualifying Young Person

(Any young person aged between 16 and 25 who has left care but who was in care on or after their 16th birthday and spent less than 13 weeks in care since the age of 14).

- Advice and support if needed.

For further information, please call us directly or alternatively look at the following helpful websites:

[CoramVoice – Am I a care leaver?](#)

[Coram Child law advice – Services for Children leaving care](#)

Relationships, Identity and feeling connected:



- We aim to build a positive and long-lasting relationship with you so you can help us understand your journey and support your wellbeing.
- We will work with you on your plans and future goals to help you achieve these. You will have a Pathway Plan until you are at least 21.
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- When you leave care, you will have all your relevant ID documents – driving licence, passport, birth certificate.
- We will help you to understand your past and your journey and access to your records if you request this.
- We will help you maintain your key relationship links and relationships with people important to you.
- We will support you with travel up to £100 per year for staying in touch with safe people who are close to you. We will need to mutually agree this.
- We will listen to you and help promote your voice and vision for the service, through Derbyshire's care leaver council 'Next Generation' which takes place every other month.
- We also make sure that we have care leavers on all our job interview panels, are represented in our service design and big meetings about our service.
- You can join and use any Derbyshire District Council leisure centre for free to keep fit and healthy.
- You will receive up to £50 on your birthday and at Christmas (or key cultural festivity) until you are 21. For your 18th and 21st birthdays, your Leaving Care Worker will take you out to celebrate.
- We will ensure you have a laptop if you need this and access to the internet (as long as it is safe). This will be agreed based on your individual circumstances.
- If you live in semi-supported accommodation as a Child in Care, we will support you with a weekly allowance which is equivalent to Universal Credit rate for a single person. If you pay a service charge, as a child in care, you can be entitled to £500 per year cultural fund to help support your cultural needs or hobbies; your social worker will assist you with this. From the age of 18-21 years, this is £100 per year and will be agreed by the Leaving Care Service.



Money Matters to you:



- If you live in Derbyshire, Derbyshire Borough Councils support you with a 100% discount on your Council Tax Bill until you are 25. If you live outside of Derbyshire, Leaving Care pay your council tax (after the usual discounts have been applied).
- We will practically help you set up your home and support you with a £3000.00 Setting Up Home Allowance to help towards a deposit, white goods and furniture costs.
- We advise you take out contents insurance when moving to your permanent home.
- We can support you to use your Setting Up Home Allowance to purchase your Contents Insurance and TV Licence for your home until you are 21.
- You can get 70% off your water bill if you live in an area covered by Severn Trent Water.
- We will fund up to 6 weeks equivalent (UC) payments for a single person if you apply for Universal Credit, as long as you are working with us and DWP.
- If you are on Universal Credit, you can get 6 months free Wi-Fi with EE.
- We support with accommodation costs if you decide to go to University up to the age of 25. You can receive up to £5,000 towards your accommodation costs per year if studying outside of London. This is raised to £7,500 if studying in London or Greater London.
- If you are in employment and living in supported accommodation, we will ensure that you are better off than if you were claiming benefits.
- We offer you help to manage your money with budgeting sessions and careful money management.
- We support you using the 'Resettlement Passport' to learn to manage your tenancy and bills.
- We will help you access to your Junior ISA at 18, as all children in care get this. An ISA can be used to save money for your future.



Health and Wellbeing:

You have shared with us that access to the right health support at the right time is important to you:

- **Both of our Leaving Care Bases operate an open-door policy in office hours – we will always have food and facilities available to you.**
- **You will receive a Health History Summary when you leave care (unless there are specific circumstances).**
- **We support you to access community health teams, GPs, adult social care, adult support services, and agencies like Trent PTS, or counselling services.**
- **We work closely with Derbyshire Recovery Partnership who have a wide support service for young people who may be struggling with alcohol or substance misuse.**
- **We help you have access to your health information from birth from your social care records or current GP.**
- **We do regular events and trips out, (seaside visits, events at our bases). Ask your worker for details or check out our Facebook/Twitter page.**
- **With your consent we can work with ‘Action for Children.’ They can help us provide the best support for you, giving us advice when we need it.**
- **We can support you with access to LGBT groups across Derbyshire and outside of the County.**
- **Leaving Care Service football groups take place in Chesterfield and Long Eaton – you can join in these too!**

Our Care Experienced Parents:

- **We will support our care experienced parents with giving their little ones the best start possible, through access to health services, family nurse partnership, parenting courses, early years support and grants available.**
- **We will support all of our care experienced young people with access to young parent/parent to be groups from May 2023.**
- **We will support you and talk through the challenges you may face as a parent.**
- **We will offer starter packs from Baby Basics.**
- **We want to celebrate your family and it growing and the changes that come with this.**
- **We will help you plan for your family’s future, gaining knowledge, parenting skills, sign posting you to early years groups, sourcing equipment you may need, including support with access to appropriate housing and finances.**





Accommodation and living in the community:

- If you feel settled at 18 within your foster family we can support you to remain there for longer, under our staying put scheme. If you feel ready to move on at 18, to something a little more independent then Supported Lodgings may work better for you, giving you a real sense of adult life but within a home environment.
- **Step Up:** We have our own accommodation for care experienced young people: semi-independent accommodation for children 16+ across Derbyshire.
- As a Derbyshire care experienced young person you will be seen by all the Derbyshire Housing Boroughs as having a housing priority to assist and support you with your housing move on arrangements.
- In Derbyshire, No Intentionally homeless decision will be made without Housing consulting with the Leaving Care Service.
- We will support you to live in a home that you can make homely and feel safe and happy in.
- We have close relationships with Adult Social Care, Health and Housing services to support you with access to them if needed.
- As a Derbyshire Care Leaver, you have a housing priority anywhere in Derbyshire. You can apply anywhere in Derbyshire not just the district council you live in Until you are 21 or beyond if you are in education or training specified in your pathway plan.
- We can help you with signposting to financial support through the Household Support Fund, Discretionary Housing Applications and Welfare Rights.
- We support you with costs of accommodation when attending university up to 25.
- Leaving care will help you set up your home, we will support and advise you with how best to sustain your tenancy even when things become difficult.
- We will provide an air fryer when you move to your permanent home after 18.
- Local groups take place in leaving care settings across Derbyshire; for young parents and for people keen to learn further independence and cooking skills. Speak with your Leaving Care Worker or check our Facebook page for more details.



Education, Training and Employment (EET):



- We will help you explore, apply and access Colleges, Schools, FE and HE provision alongside our Adult Education Hubs and Youth Hubs across Derbyshire to access employment and training opportunities and gain qualifications.
- We will support you to have work-based trials with Derbyshire County Council.
- We support you to gain Qualifications, Level 2 Maths and English and access courses to support your progression.
- We can help you apply for relevant licences, checks that you may need for employment or training, for example CSCS card and DBS.
- We can signpost and offer you 'Information, Advice and Guidance' (IAG) careers advice – through our Careers Service and our own EET workers.
- We hold our own and have access too many other work ready preparation courses, in addition to life skills courses.
- We can support with accommodation costs if you choose to go to University up to the age of 25. (Further information can be found in our Financial Entitlement Guidance).
- Derbyshire has an EET fund to support and maintain your education or employment, including ensuring you are better off in work.
- As part of this, we can support you to learn to drive to work, or college by contributing the cost of 10 driving lessons when you pay for your first 10. This can start when you are a child in care.
- We can support you to access employment or training through our Derbyshire Wheels to Work scheme.
- We signpost and support you to return to employment, education, or training after having children.
- We can support you with guaranteed interviews for apprenticeships within Derbyshire County Council, Chesterfield Hospital, Joined Up Careers Derbyshire, and we are working with partners to increase this offer.
- Derbyshire Leaving Care Service have great relationships with employers across the county including Seven Trent and East Midlands Airport Academies (partner with Job Centre Plus) so we can support with bespoke work-based trials and training.
- We will support and fund apprenticeships with private employers if we all think it is an appropriate option for you.
- Your health will be closely supported and monitored. We will fund some health supplements (e.g., Vitamin D) until you are 21.

University School Esol Asdan Degrees BHons Apprenticeships

Work Work Placements Diplomas Trade Employment



Care Leavers in Custody:

- **If you are in custody, we will still see you regularly and make sure you keep your identity. We will work with your family and friends to support with visits to you.**
- **You can use your Setting Up Home Allowance to purchase clothes, but this will be agreed individually to ensure you have the best use of this money.**
- **If you are on remand or serving a custodial sentence you can receive £20 per month to support phone contact with family and friends.**
- **We have an agreement with Derbyshire Probation Service about how we work jointly together.**
- **We will work to ensure you have safe accommodation when you are released, and we will work with the Department for Work and Pensions to make sure you have your benefits in place at the point of release.**
- **We know who all the prison care experienced leads are, and we will make contact with them to ask for extra support, help and care for you.**
- **In Nottingham prison, we run monthly drop-in sessions for care experienced young people.**



Former Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children:

- If your home was previously in another country and you are now living in the UK as an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Child. We will support you with your asylum claim, access to accommodation and support you with your cultural needs including access to our cultural fund.
- Your children in care Social Worker will still be your lead worker after 18 if you have not yet received a positive asylum claim decision. We have a specialist, highly trained and skilled UASC Social Work team in the Leaving Care Service.
- You will get the best legal advice available to support and speed up your asylum claim.
- Your Pathway Plan will set out how your asylum claim impacts on your life in the UK.
- We will contribute to a citizenship application, but also encourage you to use any savings for this.
- Your health will be closely supported and monitored. We will fund some health supplements (e.g., Vitamin D) until you are 21.



If you are a Derbyshire Care Experienced young person with Different Needs:

We will work to support and celebrate your specific needs. Often, your adult social worker will be the lead and so we might agree a specific way of working with you and your family to best meet your needs.

- With agreements, you can use your Setting Up Home Allowance to help improve your life in other ways.
- We are disability aware and promote interdependence and support for all of our Derbyshire Care Experienced young people who need it.
- We will support, advocate and challenge on your behalf. See our specific offer outlining what support may look like for you on our website.

'25+ Keeping in Touch'.

When you turn 25, you won't have a specific worker, but you can always return to us to seek advice, practical support or to celebrate your successes with us.

Please ask your leaving care worker to see the Keep in Touch guide.

Find more on our website:

Visit the [Leaving Care Service page](#) on the Derbyshire County Council website, for further guidance documents and information.

Alternatively, take a look at [our Facebook Page](#), to see the things we are doing, info sharing, support available and what you could be getting involved in.



Complaints and Compliments

If you are unhappy about something or the service we have offered, we want to try and resolve this with you. Please speak with your Leaving Care worker, Team manager, messages us on Facebook, ring the office, visit, whichever works best for you.

Contact details for us are all are on the last page of this document, but if you do wish to formally complain, please visit the [Derbyshire County Council website](#). You can also request, or we may suggest that you access and Independent Advocate to help support or challenge something important to you.

You will know who your Leaving Care Worker' manager is, so you can contact them at any time. The manager of the team will also make sure they speak with you and meet you.



Scan me for
more
information.

Organisation	Telephone	Email/Website
North Base: Chesterfield and High Peak Team, UASC Team The Pod, Hunloke Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2NT	Freephone number for young people. 08081 961750 01629 532755 (office)	The Derbyshire County Council Leaving Care Service
North Base: North East & Amber Valley Team The Pod, Hunloke Avenue, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 2NT	Freephone number for young people. 0808 1755005 01629 532755 (office)	
South Base: South Derbyshire and Erewash Team 46-47 Bloomsgrrove, Bloomsgrrove Road, Ilkeston DE7 8DQ	Freephone number for young people. 08081 961751 01629 532706 (office)	

For Out of hours support:

Children and Adults - Call Derbyshire Samaritans	01629 533190	Call Derbyshire
NHS England	116 123 (Freephone)	Contact a Samaritan
Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing support	111	NHS England
Free Mental Health Text Messaging Service	0800 028 0077	Derby and Derbyshire Emotional Health and Wellbeing
Police (non-emergency)	shout 85258	Shout 85258
	101	Police.uk

For all out of hours emergency homeless cases call:	0808 1692 333	P3 – People, Potential, Possibilities
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Citizens Advice Lines

Derbyshire Districts (Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales & Erewash)	0300 456 8390	Citizens advice – Derbyshire Districts
Chesterfield & North East (Bolsover, Chesterfield & North East)	0300 456 8437	Citizens advice – North East Derbyshire
Mid Mercia (South Derbyshire)	0300 330 9002	Citizens advice – Mid Mercia

Housing Teams:

Amber Valley Borough Council	01773 570222	housing.solutions@ambervalley.gov.uk
Bolsover District Council	01246 242424	enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk
Chesterfield Borough Council	01246 345825	homelessness.prevention@chesterfield.gov.uk
Derbyshire Dales District Council	01629 761287	homelessness@derbyshiredales.gov.uk
Erewash	0115 9729874	enquiries@erewash.gov.uk
High Peak Borough Council	0345 129 7777 / 01298 2840	High Peak Borough Council – Homeless
North East Derbyshire District Council	01246 231111	connectne@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk
South Derbyshire District Council	01283 595795	customer.services@southderbyshire.gov.uk
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	0115 9072244	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council