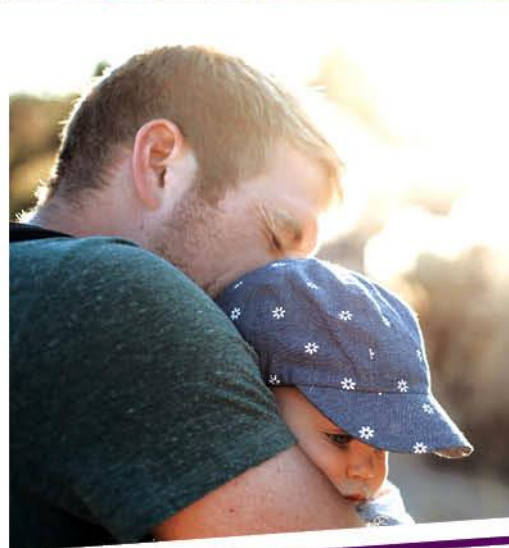


Early Help and Children's Social Care

Leaving care finance policy – quick guide

November 2020

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for children and young people in croydon



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Croydon – Leaving Care Finance Policy.

Section 1 - Eligible and Relevant Young People Aged 16 and 17

Accommodation and Placements	Deposit and Rent in Advance	Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance (LCMA)	LCMA - Semi-Independent and Emergency Accommodation Adjustments	The Provision of Allowances and unused and Uncollected Allowances	Clothing Allowance	Savings	Lone Parents Entitled to Welfare Benefits	Sick or Disabled Young People Entitled to Welfare Benefits	Young People who are Detained – YOI, STC, SCH or Hospital
Provision of a placement or accommodation costs. If moving to private sector, up to level of one-bed LHA rate	Available if no access to social housing, or social housing not suitable. Must be within LHA rates, i.e. 1 month's deposit, 1 month in advance.	LCMA– 2020-2021 - £60.00	Young person provided with utilities = £60.00 Utilities and food = £40.00	In principle all allowances should be paid to young person, if uncollected add to SUHA and/or seek authorisation to withdraw payment.	Equivalent of £5.00 per week, paid twice yearly	See savings policy	Once Universal Credit and Child Benefit in payment the LCMA, clothing and leisure allowance cease.	Once Universal Credit and Child Benefit in payment the LCMA, clothing and leisure allowance cease.	Depends on the rules of the specific institution. See page 13 of policy

Young People Placed with Parents / Living with Parents	Qualifying Children and Young People Aged 16 and Older See Page 15 and Appendix B	Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance Reductions - Young People who are Earning	Initial Clothing Allowance	Birthday Allowances 17 th and 18 th	Christmas and Festival Allowance	Travel and Contact Costs	Social Activities and Leisure	Key Documents	Education, Training, Apprenticeships and Volunteering
See Page 14 and Appendix C of the Finance Policy. Wherever possible and where it is a planned return home, parents should fund.	All allowances and support can be available – subject to an assessment of need, principle is to facilitate access to universal services.	Disposable income over a given threshold = LCMA reduced by 50% or ceasing altogether. See P.15.	Up to £100.00 – subject to an assessment of need.	£100.00 for a gift/gifts and/or for a celebration provided to those living in semi-independent or independent accommodation.	£100.00 for a gift/gifts and/or for a celebration provided to those living in semi-independent or independent accommodation.	Support provided to obtain a 16+ Zip Oyster Card. If living outside of Croydon, provision of the equivalent of a Zip Card or financial allowance (subject to an assessment)	Obtain Croydon Better Pass or local Passport to Leisure (cover cost). Up to £5.00 per week, to undertake at least one leisure activity.	£110.00 – to ensure the young person has a birth certificate and passport. Up to £280.00 for UASC travel document. Up to £1500.00 to support legal process – UASC.	£1,200.00 16 to 19 bursary. £10.00 per week incentive (P.19) £1000.00 apprenticeship bursary. £2,345.00 pupil premium plus.

Education, Training, Apprenticeship and Employment – Related Support	Child Care Costs	Employment	Introduction to Driving	Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Health	Cultural Needs	Religious Needs	Personal Luggage	Consultation with Young People
Up to: • £225.00 grant per year for stationery, educational visits, book, general equipment & i.t. equipment; • £300.00 computer grant (once).	Use the Care to Learn Fund.	See LCMA reductions section - commencing work grant up to £100.00, provided once.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 provisional driving licence; 1 theory test; 5 (1 hour) driving lessons (matched by young person); 1 practical driving test. Young person pays for 5 lessons. 	Explore access to CAMHS and universal services. Young people aged 14 to 25 can access the 'Off The Record Counselling Service'. PA to support access via universal services and GP.	Obtain HC1 (SC) and related exemption certificate – support may be provided subject to an assessment of need.	Support to assist young people to access, funding available subject to an assessment of need – approval via team manager / service delivery manager.	Support to assist young people to access, funding available subject to an assessment of need – approval via team manager / service delivery manager.	£35.00 to ensure all young people have suitable luggage for each accommodation move.	£5.00 per hour. Travel expenses at cost

Emergency Payments	Exceptional Needs Payment
Two £15.00 emergency food parcels in any 6-month period.	Depending on an assessment of need – consideration of one-off exceptional payments.

Croydon – Leaving Care Finance Policy.

Section 2 – Former Relevant Young People Aged 18 to 21/25

Accommodation	Deposits and Rent in Advance	Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance – Failed Asylum Seekers with NRPF	Initial Benefit Claim	Council Tax Exemption / Allowance	Travel	Qualifying Children and Young People Aged 16 and Older See Page 28 and Appendix B	Key Documents	Introduction to Driving
Staying put, Supported accommodation, Social housing. Private sector to LHA local rates; shared £118.87/£103.56, one-bedroom £264.86/£201.37.	Available if no access to social housing, or social housing not suitable. Must be within LHA rates, i.e. 1 month's deposit, 1 month in advance.	£45.00	Young person provided with utilities = £60.00 Utilities and food = £40.00. Provided for 5 weeks whilst UC claim being processed.	Croydon Council exempt young people up to 25 who live locally and will consider paying the Council Tax charges for those living outside of the area - young person must claim Council Tax Support first.	Personal Advisers will support young people to apply for a Zip Oyster Card, or local equivalent. Depending on an assessment of need, financial support will be considered - priority = education, training, employment, health and family contact.	All allowances and support can be available – subject to an assessment of need, principle is to facilitate access to universal services.	£110.00 – to ensure the young person has a birth certificate and passport. Up to £280.00 for UASC travel document. Up to £1500.00 to support legal process – Immigration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 provisional driving licence; 1 theory test; 5 (1 hour) driving lessons (matched by young person); 1 practical driving test.

Personal Luggage	Birthday Allowances	Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Health	Cultural Needs	Religious Needs	Further and Higher Education	Education (FE & HE), Training, Apprenticeships, Employment - Related Support	Further Education	Higher Education
£35.00 to ensure all young people have suitable luggage for each accommodation move.	£50.00 on the 19 th and 20 th birthdays and £100.00 on the 21 st birthday.	Explore access to CMHT and universal services. Young people aged 14 to 25 can access the 'Off The Record Counselling Service'. PA to support access via universal services and GP.	Obtain HC1 and related exemption certificate – support may be provided subject to an assessment of need.	Support to assist young people to access, funding available subject to an assessment of need – approval via team manager / service delivery manager.	Support to assist young people to access, funding available subject to an assessment of need – approval via team manager / service delivery manager.	See pages 32 to 42 of the Finance Policy for an overview.	Up to: £225.00 grant per year for stationery, educational visits, book, general equipment & i.t. equipment; £300.00 computer grant (once); £100.00 commencing work grant (once).	18 - 21-year olds - Universal Credit if undertaking education of over 12 hours week.	See Universal HE Offer, page 38. Fair Access Offer; Tuition fee loan - £9,250.00; Maintenance loan – £9,203.00. (Student Finance)

Croydon - Higher Education Financial Support	Higher Education Payment Process	Post Graduate Courses	Young People Returning to the Local Authority Aged 21 to 25	Consultation with Young People	Exit Interview - Service Evaluation / Questionnaire	Emergency Payments	Exceptional Needs	Setting Up Home Allowance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £2000.00 – HE Bursary - per course; Vacation Accommodation costs, up to the level of hall of residence or one-bedroom LHA rate; Travel grant – 3 return journeys at pre-booked and off-peak rate; Graduation grant - £1000.00 (once). 	See page 39. Completion of learner agreement; Liaison with personal adviser; Authorisation to liaise with higher education establishment;	Assistance to identify financial and practical support.	Support to access universal service. Education & Training support based on an assessment of need, registration fees up to £1000.00 (FT) & £500.00 (PT). See page 32	£5.00 per hour. Travel expenses at cost	£10.00 voucher on completion of a service exit questionnaire.	Emergency food parcel £15.00, two in 6-month period.	Depending on an assessment of need – one-off payments.	£2,000 – total See page 41 & 42.

Appendix A	Appendix B	Appendix C	Appendix D	Appendix E	Appendix F	Appendix G	Appendix H
Categories of Care Leaver	Financial Assessment Form – LCMA Reduction if Earning – see pages 44 & 45.	Young people living or placed with parents – see pages 45 to 52.	CICA Awards and Discretionary Trust Funds – See page 52.	UASC - See pages 53 to 59	Guidance on National Insurance Numbers – See page 66	Standard Benefit Claim Letter – Template – See pages 61 to 64.	Personal Finance Chart & Form for the Pathway Plan – page 65.