

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Moving Forward: Your Future, Your Choice Post-18 Pathways for Care Leavers in Gloucestershire

Welcome to Your Post-18 Options Toolkit

This guide is designed to help care leavers explore education, apprenticeships, training, employment, funding opportunities and support services after 18.

Need Help?

Talk to your teachers, support workers, carers, Leaving Care PAs, Youth Support Team or your Virtual School Education Adviser for additional advice and guidance.

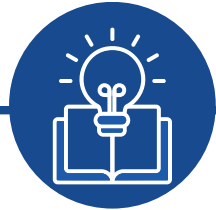
What's Next?

Leaving Care Personal Advisers & Social Workers can refer young people to the Youth Support Team (YSTinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk), who provide a wide range of support, especially around apprenticeships.



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VIRTUAL SCHOOL CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO **Higher Education**

Higher Education offers degrees and qualifications that open career doors. Care leavers can access bursaries, year-round accommodation, and tailored support. This section covers applying, finance, and extra help.



PROPEL/BECOME

Propel is brought to you by 'Become', the charity for children in care and young care leavers.

Propel will provide you with information on care leaver support for every university and college across the UK



UCAS- APPLYING TO UNI

UCAS Care-Experienced Students

Get tailored guidance on applying to university if you've been in care. This resource explains the application process, financial support options, and the extra help available for accommodation and wellbeing.



UNI OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE CARE LEAVER SUPPORT

Find out about bursaries, year-round accommodation, and dedicated advice for care leavers at the **University of Gloucestershire**.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT OFFER

Compare universities, courses, and support in the South West and beyond. Includes tips on applying, finance, and care leaver help.

Care Leaver Uni Support List SW CiC & Care Leavers HE Support



COMPLETE UNIVERSITY GUIDE

Applying to Uni as a Care Leaver
Find out what support universities offer, how to apply, and tips for getting extra help with finance and accommodation.

Applying to Uni as a Care Leaver



THIS IS US PODCAST

Hear real stories and experiences from care-experienced young people. Inspiring conversations about education, life after care, and finding your path.

This Is Us Podcast



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VIRTUAL SCHOOL

CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO

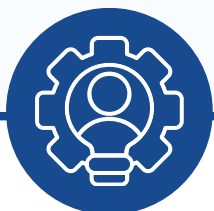
Apprenticeships

Earn while you learn with paid work and training. Care leavers may be eligible for a bursary and extra support. This section explains how to find, apply, and succeed in apprenticeships.

SUPPORT FOR APPRENTICES

Learn about extra financial help, mentoring, and guidance available for care-experienced young people starting an apprenticeship.

[Support for care experienced apprentices](#)



CARE LEAVER GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

Step-by-step advice on finding, applying for, and succeeding in apprenticeships, plus details on financial support and your rights as a care leaver.

[Apprenticeship Guide](#)
[The Moving On Up Apprenticeship Buddy](#)
[Your go-to resource for apprenticeship support](#)



UCAS APPRENTICESHIP CARE LEAVER SUPPORT

Find guidance on applying for apprenticeships, financial help, and extra support available for care-experienced people.

[Support for care experienced people taking apprenticeships](#)



APPRENTICESHIP CARE LEAVERS' BURSARY

A simple visual guide showing how to access the £3,000 Care Leaver Bursary for apprenticeships and what steps to take.

[Apprenticeship Bursary Flowchart](#)

CARE LEAVERS APPRENTICESHIP FACT SHEET

A practical 6-page guide with examples of how apprenticeship salary, Universal Credit, and housing benefit might be calculated. Great for understanding your finances.

[View the guide](#)



SOUTH WEST APPRENTICESHIP COMPANY

The SWAC Apprentices helps you gain qualifications while you search and apply for current vacancies.

It includes useful resources such as; Writing a Winning Application, CV Guide, Apprentice Handbook & Interview Tips

[South West Apprenticeship Company](#)



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VIRTUAL SCHOOL

CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO

Employment

Start work and gain independence. This section includes job search tips, CV and interview guidance, and links to employers and programs supporting care leavers.



PROPEL YOURSELF INTO WORK (BECOME)

Practical advice and resources to help care-experienced young people find jobs, build skills, and prepare for employment.

[Explore the guide](#)
[Applying for jobs](#)



APPLYING FOR JOBS

Help Applying for Jobs and Apprenticeships (Become)
Step-by-step tips for writing CVs, completing applications, and preparing for interviews—designed for care-experienced young people.

[Read more](#)



CARE LEAVER COVENANT

Connect with employers, training providers, and universities offering opportunities and support for care-experienced young people.

[Visit Care Leaver Covenant](#)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE JOBS & OPPORTUNITIES

Browse local job vacancies, training programs, and opportunities for care-experienced young people in Gloucestershire.

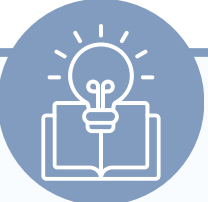
[Explore jobs](#)



SKILLS PORTAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A one-stop hub for training, courses, and career advice. Find local opportunities to build skills, gain qualifications, and explore employment pathways.

[Learn More](#)



CAREER OPTIONS (GROWS)

Explore different career paths, job sectors, and progression routes to help you plan your future after education or training.

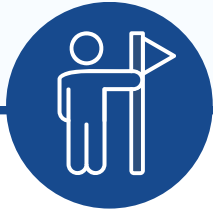
[Discover career options](#)



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL VIRTUAL SCHOOL CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO **Further Study & Training**

Gain new skills or qualifications without committing to a degree or employment. Options include college courses, vocational training, internships and traineeships. This section highlights local providers and support.

FE & HE PROVIDERS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE



Explore **local colleges and universities** offering courses and training: [Gloucestershire College](#), [Prospect Training](#), [Bridge Training](#), [SGS](#), [Hartpury](#), [Cirencester College](#) and [University of Gloucestershire](#)

STEP FORWARDS



A program helping care leavers and children in care move into paid work, apprenticeships, or traineeships. Offers 1:1 support, financial help for work-related costs, housing benefit assistance, and ongoing in-work support tailored to your needs.

[Step Forwards](#)

CIVIL SERVICE CARE LEAVERS INTERNSHIP SCHEME



Paid internships for care-experienced young people, offering work experience, training, and career development within the Civil Service.

[Learn more](#)

THE KING'S TRUST

Support for young people through training, mentoring, and programs to build skills and confidence for work or further study.

[Visit The King's Trust](#)



ADULT EDUCATION IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Offers flexible courses for post-18 learners, including English, maths, digital skills, and vocational training. Many courses are free or low-cost.

[Learn More](#)



CAREER PLANNING & EMPLOYABILITY (IMO)

Access tools and advice to help you plan your career, build employability skills, and explore future opportunities.

[View resources](#)



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CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO

Finance and Funding

Care leavers can access bursaries, scholarships, and grants for education, training, and living costs. This section lists funding opportunities and how to apply.



CARE LEAVER SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

The Scholarship Hub lists the best funding options for care leavers, including grants, bursaries, and scholarships to support your education and training.

[Education Grants](#)

[Explore funding opportunities](#)



FUNDING FAQs

Become provides guidance on grants, bursaries, and financial support available to care leavers for education, training, and living costs.

[Find funding help](#)



UCAS - FINANCE & FUNDING FOR CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS

Information on scholarships, grants & bursaries available to care-experienced students, helping you access financial support for higher education.

[Learn more](#)

ESTRANGED AND CARE EXPERIENCED STUDENTS (EACES)

This page helps you find extra financial support by listing grants, scholarships, bursaries, and charities that you can apply to that can support your education and living costs.

[Learn more](#)

UNITE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Unite Foundation offers free university accommodation for care leavers and estranged students, helping reduce living costs while studying.

[Find out more](#)

UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE - CARE LEAVERS SCHOLARSHIP

The University of Gloucestershire offers a scholarship for care leavers to support their studies, helping with financial costs during higher education.

[Learn more](#)



GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
VIRTUAL SCHOOL
CARE LEAVERS GUIDE TO
Factsheets

Get clear, practical advice on the things that matter most:

- **Finances** – Understand your money and what you’re entitled to.
- **Who’s Who** – Know the key people who can support you.
- **Pathway Plans** – Learn how to plan for your future and get the help you need.

ALL ABOUT THE MONEY

A Guide to Financial Support for Care Leavers Aged 18+

Find out what financial help you may be entitled to or can apply for as a care leaver aged 18 and over.

THE NAME GAME

A Guide to Key People in Children's Services

Learn about the roles you're likely to meet if you're in care or a care leaver and how they can support you.

PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Your **Pathway Plan** is a plan you create with your Personal Advisor that sets out your goals, the steps you'll take, and the support you'll get as you move towards independence.

It covers key areas of your life: like education, work, health, money and where you live and is reviewed together.

