

Care Leavers Offer 2025

Overview of statutory or discretionary key financial entitlements for young people aged 18 - 25 leaving care



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

General entitlements

Overview of general entitlements for young people aged 18 - 25 leaving care*

Young people on remand or serving a custodial sentence will receive £20 per month to support phone contact with family and friends.

Young people will receive help to obtain key documents including Passport, Birth Certificate and provisional driving licence.

Young people can access support to pay for their first driving theory test.

Young people can access support to pay for their first practical driving test.

Young people can get assistance with travel costs on public transport to keep in contact with members of their family when they are living out of county.

Young people can have access to an independent advocate if needed.

Young people can receive incentive payments of £50 up to a maximum of 4 times if linked to achievements in their Pathway Plan.

Young people will receive 2 weeks personal allowance when they have made a claim for Universal Credit by their 18th Birthday.

Young people may receive some financial assistance to attend significant family events, for example weddings, birthdays, or funerals.

*The young people who are eligible for these entitlements are young people defined as 'former relevant' 18-25



Young people can access £300 grant towards driving lessons, (an assessment of their ability to continue lessons will be made)

Young people who pay for prescriptions will be able to access free prescriptions up to the age of 25. This offer includes care leavers from other local authorities who live in Gloucestershire.

Free eyesight tests and the cost of glasses or contact lenses, in line with the standard NHS tariff prices.

Access to free dental care . This will include the cost of seeing a dentist and paying for any treatment you may need such as x-rays or fillings. If required, this scheme would also fund braces. Braces are only covered by this scheme if this is a medical need identified by the dentist.

Young people can ask for emergency assistance, this will be considered for food, toiletries or utilities where evidence of need, emergency assistance will only be given up to a maximum of 4 times in any rolling six month period.

Young people can access some assistance to help with the purchase of glasses up to a maximum of £100 in any 2-year period in addition to the standard NHS tariff.

Young people who have frequent health appointments can receive some help with transport costs.

Young people can get assistance with clothing in some circumstances, for example, when pregnant, for a special occasion such as wedding, funeral, job interview or if clothing has been lost due to fire or flooding.

Young people who have the legal right to stay in the UK will be financially supported to gain British Citizenship up to the age of 25.



Accommodation entitlements

Help with housing for young people aged 18 - 25 leaving care



Young people can access their first month's rent in advance when moving to their first independent accommodation.

Young people aged 18 – 25 who are in full, or part time employment can claim council tax exemption. This offer includes care leavers from other local authorities who live in Gloucestershire.

Young people can apply for a grant of £300 towards the cost of broadband when living independently.

Young people living in supported accommodation who are also in employment can apply for support with paying their rent, this will initially be for 3 months and may be extended if clear this will support a move to affordable accommodation.

Young people can access a Setting up Home grant when they are moving to independent accommodation of up to £3,000. This can be accessed up to age of 25.

Support to stay put with your foster carer until the age of 21.

Support to stay close to your accommodation provider and important networks until the age of 21.

Where a young person in Higher or Further Education cannot remain in their term time accommodation during vacations, financial and practical support will be given to find suitable alternative accommodation.



Education, Employment & Training Related Entitlements

Help with work and learning for young people aged 18 - 25 leaving care

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Young people going to university or studying at a Higher Education level will receive a bursary and financial support to assist with living costs. Based on a 3-year degree they will receive a combined amount of £4,600 per year. If studying over a longer period the same overall amount is available but will be calculated to support the entire course.

Young people who successfully complete a degree will receive an achievement award of £2,000.

Young people on an apprenticeship should be receiving the equivalent to a minimum wage, where this is not happening, we will pay a top up to this amount.

Young people who wish to progress with post graduate studies for example to complete a Master will receive a one off bursary of £2,000.

Young people engaging in education, training or employment will receive help with travel costs. Alternatively young people can be provided with a push bike and safety equipment.

Young people in further education or on training courses can receive financial support for specialist clothing or equipment needed for their course.



Celebration related entitlements

Help for young people aged 18 - 25 leaving care

Children of a care leaver up to age of 25 will receive Christmas gift to the value of £20 when living with the care leaver.

Young people will receive a Birthday present and card up to the age of 21, for their 18th and 21st Birthday this will be up to the value of £80 and up to £35 for other Birthdays.

Young people who are parents living with their children will receive a Christmas gift for their child up to the value of £20.



Young people up to the age of 21 can go out for a meal with their personal adviser up to the value of £60 for their 18th and 21st Birthday or £40 for other Birthdays. Young people can request funding for an activity if they prefer not to go for a meal.

Young people will receive a gift for Christmas or other religious celebrations up to the age of 21 to the value of £35.

Other assistance may be offered on a discretionary basis where need is evidenced, more detail on the financial offer is available in the Financial procedures for young people leaving care which can be accessed via [Gloucestershire Children's Social Care Procedures Manual](http://proceduresonline.com/Gloucestershire-Childrens-Social-Care-Procedures-Manual) (proceduresonline.com)

Your important contacts

Useful web site addresses for help and support

16+ Leaving Care Service

Personal Advisers are based in three different offices in Gloucestershire. Your worker will let you know where they are based.

Cheltenham Leaving Care Team 5 & 6

Grosvenor Hall, Grosvenor Street, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 2SG

Tel: 01452 426090

leavingcareteam5@gloucestershire.gov.uk

leavingcareteam5@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Gloucester Leaving Care Team 1 & 2 & Staying Close Team

Shire Hall, Gloucester. GL1 2TG Tel: 01452 426325

leavingcareteam1@gloucestershire.gov.uk

leavingcareteam2@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Stroud Leaving Care Team 3 & 4

Redwood House, Beeches Green, Stroud. GL5 4EA

Tel: 01452 426528

leavingcareteam3@gloucestershire.gov.uk

leavingcareteam4@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Peer Mentor Co-ordinator Tel: 07876 390658

cypvoice@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Local Offer Inquiries

careleaversoffer@gloucestershire.gov.uk

District Councils

Gloucestershire County Council: Tel: 01452 425000

Cotswolds District Council: Tel: 01285 623300

housingadvice@cotswold.gov.uk

Stroud District Council: Tel: 01453 766321

housing.advice@stroud.gov.uk

Forest of Dean District Council: Tel: 01594 810000

housing.advice@fdean.gov.uk

Tewkesbury Borough Council: Tel: 01684 295010

housingadvice@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Gloucester City Council: Tel: 01452 396396

homeseeker@gloucester.gov.uk

Cheltenham Borough Council: Tel: 01242 387615

housingoptions@cbh.org

Other services

Reconstruct – Advocacy for Children and Young People

Advocacy.gloucester@reconstruct.co.uk Tel: 0800 0209 858

Become www.becomecharity.org.uk Tel: 0800 0232033

Care Leavers' Foundation

www.thecareleaversfoundation.org Tel: 01678 540598

Citizens Advice Bureau: Tel: 0345 404 0506

Coram Voice – Always Heard

Freephone 0808 800 5792 or WhatsApp +44 (0)7758 670369 to find out about your rights or to get support, or to be listened to.

Crisis Team NHS Together Trust Tel: 0800 1690398

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital Tel: 0300 422 2222

Job Centre Plus Tel: 0345 604 3719

Let's Talk - Are you stressed, anxious or depressed? Tel: 0800 073 2200
NHS: 111

Police (non emergency): 101

Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Gloucestershire Tel: 01452 526770

Samaritans: 116 123

Shelter (for housing support): Tel: 0808 800 4444

Talk to Frank (for support with substance misuse): Tel: 0300 123 6600

Teens in Crisis www.ticplus.org.uk Tel: 01594 372777

The Rees Foundation Helping care experienced people thrive

Tel: 0330 094 5645 www.reesfoundation.org

Young Gloucestershire www.youngglos.org.uk Tel: 01452 501008

National Leaving Care Benchmarking Forum www.leavingcare.org

Care Leaver Covenant www.mycovenant.org.uk Tel: 0800 077 3557



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