



BY RIAN B

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

Support to Care Leavers July 2017

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VERSION
OF THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
LOCAL OFFER TO CARE LEAVERS

Approved
by the
CiCC
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www.northlincs.gov.uk

1. What is this booklet about?

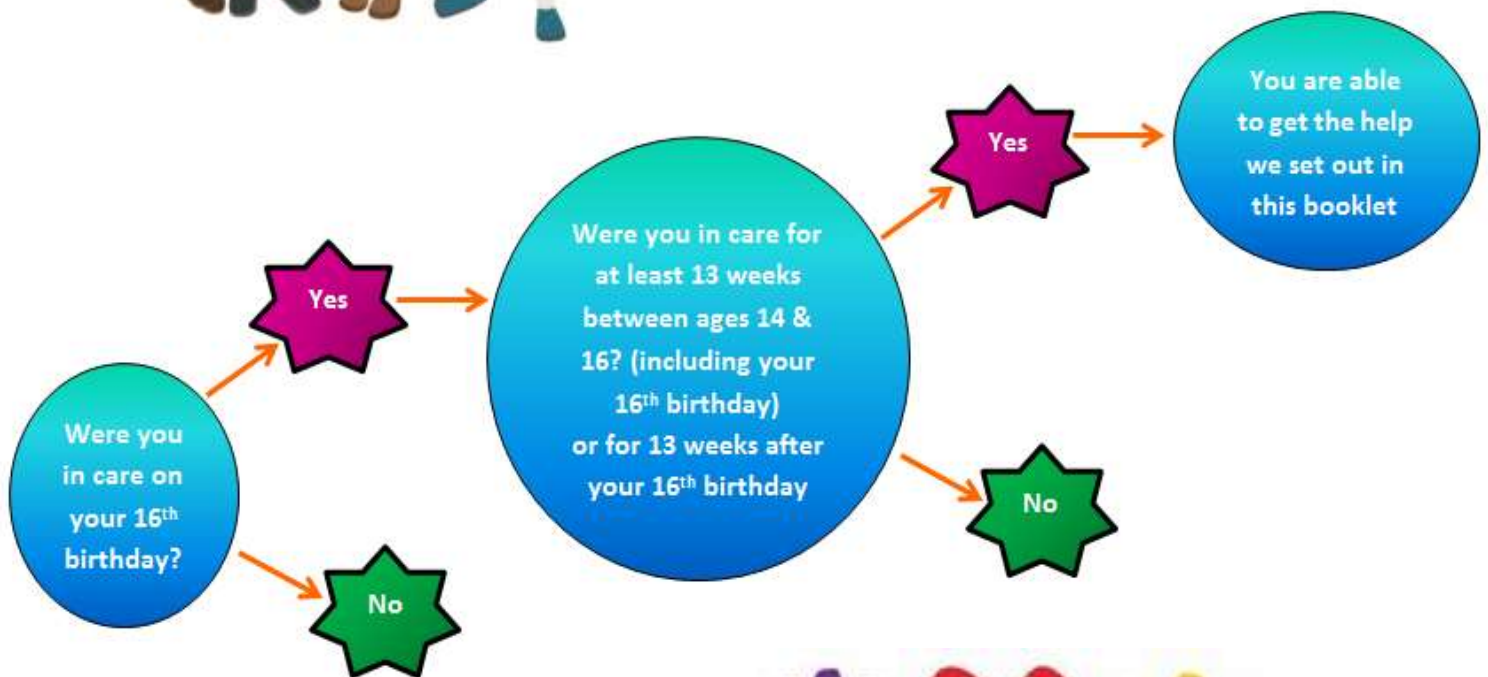
This booklet tells you about the help you can get when you become a **care leaver**.

It makes sure that you know where and who to go to for advice and help.



The diagram below says **who** is able to get the help in this booklet, or you can ask your **social worker** or **personal adviser**, if you're not sure if you are counted as a **care leaver**.

(Some children who are in care for short periods, or who go back home before they are teenagers, are not counted as care leavers.)



There is a longer version of this Booklet for the adults to read, or anyone who wants to see more details.....

You can also find this info on the [North Lincolnshire Council website](#).

2. Who are Corporate Parents and what do they do for children in care and care leavers?

When you are in care and looked after by North Lincolnshire Council, it means you have a lot of people looking out for you.

They are called **Corporate Parents**.



BY TINA N

Corporate Parents are people like the Councillors, Directors, senior managers and officers in the Council, and people who work closely with us, like Health Services, Education and Police; everyone who has a role in making sure you are well looked after and getting on well...all acting like any good parent would.

Corporate parents for Children in Care and Care Leavers in North Lincolnshire have **promised** to:

- + Ask your views, listen to what you say and act on it
- + Support you and give you the information you need to lead a healthy lifestyle
- + Support you to feel safe
- + Support you to have contact with your family and friends
- + Support you to get the education and training you need
- + Support you to achieve your goals and be the best you can be
- + Provide opportunities for training and work experience and support you to find employment
- + Celebrate your successes and achievements
- + Provide an open door for support and advice, whatever your age

3. Support that North Lincolnshire Council and our partners provide for care leavers:

3a. Somewhere to live (Accommodation)

How we do this:

Age 16 / 17

We will make sure that you have a suitable place to live in, such as with a foster carer or in a children's home.



Over 18

We will give you advice and support so that you can live in suitable accommodation with the help that you need.

As part of this, PHASE works with North Lincolnshire Council.

PHASE is one of our partners.

It offers services for young people, including training, life skills and different accommodation suitable for young people.

Some of the kinds of accommodation we have are:

- + Remaining with your foster carers
- + Supported Lodgings (staying with a helpful family - being a lodger is the next step away from being in foster care)
- + Shared accommodation (with other young people)
- + Self-contained accommodation (like your own flat or bedsit, where you have your own front door)
- + Support to get social housing (social housing is low rent housing that people can afford, from housing agencies)
- + Vacation (holiday) accommodation for care leavers who live away from home at University during term time.

How we can help you in your accommodation: Working alongside PHASE we will:

- ✚ make sure you can get any **benefits** (payments) you need, to help with living expenses
- ✚ Offer other accommodation if things go wrong



- ✚ See if you can take up the **Staying Put or Staying Close** offer. (staying with your foster carers until 21, if you both agree – or living close by your children's home and still getting support from the staff)

- ✚ Provide a **Leaving Care Grant** - money that can be used to buy furniture and things you need for your first property



- ✚ Give practical help moving in, looking after your home, including decorating, minor repairs and cleaning advice

- ✚ Give advice about paying rent and bills regularly.



- ✚ Give advice about your **tenancy** (the official agreement or contract between you and your landlord that lets you live in a property as long as you pay rent and follow the rules)



3b Education, Training and Employment

Work, and Work Experience

✚ We provide information about work and we hold **Aspirations Days** to look at various different kinds of work and work experience opportunities. (Your aspirations are your ambitions or your goals)
These days out help you understand the career opportunities available and how you can be supported to achieve them.



Aspirations Days

- Give you a chance to spend time with local employers, training providers and advisers, to have a taste of what they do.
- Young people tell us that it increases their knowledge and confidence about the world of work and it helps them plan for their future.
- You will have the opportunity to talk about anything you wish about your future plans. You can discuss your training needs and any support you need to achieve your aspirations.
- It will help you to plan for your future and help you gain employment.
- Sometimes a large group of young people attend, or it can be just a few or one at a time. You will be supported to attend by your worker.



✚ We also work with our partners to offer work place opportunities, including work taster sessions, work experience apprenticeships and job opportunities for **care leavers**

✚ We will help you to get careers information and advice – this can be either through your **Personal Adviser**, the colleges and/or the **Education Inclusion Service**.

✚ We will help with transport costs when travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews.

✚ If you have special educational needs we will make sure that you receive any additional help you need.

Further and Higher Education (College and University)

- ✚ You will get help if you attend college, including a **Further Education Bursary (a small income for you while you are learning)** and individual guidance or help when you need it.
- ✚ We provide help in getting the equipment, essential clothing, and books you need for education training and employment.
- ✚ We encourage you to go to university and help you choose which one and where.
- ✚ If you attend university, we will give you a **bursary of £2000** This is on top of any other bursaries you might be able to get, from the university or from other organisations that help care leavers.
- ✚ We help you sort out tuition fees and student loans; and we give you travelling costs to get to and from University at the start and end of term.
- ✚ We make sure you have somewhere to live during the holidays – this may be with your foster carer, in your own accommodation or in supported accommodation
- ✚ We hold regular events to celebrate the achievements of children in care and care leavers. These are supported by Corporate Parents from all agencies.



- ✚ When you achieve educational success we celebrate your achievements - for example take you out for a meal when you finish your A-levels.

4. Health and Wellbeing

We will support and encourage you to be healthy and provide the help you need to achieve this. This includes:



- ✚ Providing a **health passport** as you reach 18 – this is a summary of all your health information.
- ✚ Helping you to **register** (sign up) at a doctor's surgery and at other health services when you move home.
- ✚ Help you to manage your **emotional well-being** – this may include CAMHS services or supporting you to get services as an adult. CAMHS provide support until you reach 18. They offer support for a wide variety of emotional health needs.



- ✚ Help you to attend hospital or doctors' appointments.
- ✚ Provide help and support if you are a **parent** – your personal adviser will help or the **PASTURE**, a special support service for young parents which offers advice, help and sometimes accommodation.
- ✚ Free access to the North Lincolnshire **leisure centres**, to help you enjoy regular exercise.



5. Finances (money)

We provide **financial support** to help you prepare for living independently and manage your money. To do this we will:

- ✚ Make sure that you have the advice you need to learn to manage your money and that this is written out in your Pathway Plan.
- ✚ Help you to open your own **bank account**.



- ✚ Help you to get **identification documents**, (important pieces of paper about you) such as a passport, birth certificate and provisional driving licence

- ✚ Help you to get your **National Insurance Number** (every adult in the country has their own NI number, so that records about their benefits, taxes and pensions are kept) Your worker might write a letter or help you fill in a form to apply for it before you leave care.

- ✚ Provide additional money if you need it in an emergency.

6. Other Help and Support

- ✚ If you have **special educational needs** there is a **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Local Offer** that tells you about the extra help you can get.

This includes things like **benefits, travel** and social worker support – we will make sure that someone explains it all and you are given help to get this support.

There is a lot of further information on the **North Lincolnshire Council website**.

- ✚ We will make sure that young people who are **unaccompanied asylum seekers** have the support they need. They get the same sort of services as a **care leaver** and this is recorded in their Pathway Plan.

- ✚ We will support you to gain additional skills such as first aid or getting a driving licence.



- ✚ We will offer **incentives**, which are rewards that you can earn, by doing well or achieving an agreed target, like keeping your flat clean and tidy, or passing exams. We will agree these together and they will be in your Pathway Plan. Incentives can include driving lessons extras for your home or other things like equipment for hobbies, or treats.



- ✚ **Advocacy** support into adulthood, if you need to talk to someone



- ✚ We will help you to **take part** in events and activities such as the Talent Show, Awesome Kidz Awards, art shows and other events

- ✚ We will help you to share your views and be involved in improving the way we support you, by listening to your views in meetings and by surveys. Or you could be part of the **Children in Care Council**, **interview staff and carers**; and comment on services You could also be part of the **Youth Council**,





7. Statutory entitlements – what the law says you must be given.

✚ **Personal advisers** for each care leaver until you are at least 21. And up to 25 if you wish.

Personal advisers support you after you leave care and keep your Pathway Plan up to date with you.

✚ **A Pathway Plan which** will set out how we will help you. It starts around your 16th birthday and is written by you and your personal adviser

8. Care leavers' rights

✚ to be involved in all decisions about when you leave care and your plans for leaving care.

✚ to talk to the **Children's Advocate** at any time including if you want to challenge decisions about your care and support. You can contact the Advocate on **01724 296639**.

✚ to **see the information we have about you**, in the files kept about you when you were in care. You can see your files at any age, as long as we think you can understand them and cope with what they say. We will help you if you have difficulty reading, or if you need support.

✚ to **'stay put'** in your home until at least 18. But, if you choose to leave care before this, you will have suitable accommodation and support

9. Who can help?

Key contacts for Care Leavers: (see also the North Lincolnshire Council website for more details)

✚ Leaving Care Service / Personal Advisers – tel 01724 296500

- + Housing Advice Team – tel [01724 296500](tel:01724296500)
- + Complaints and Representations – tel [01724 296426](tel:01724296426)
- + Local authority leadership including the Director of Children’s Services and Lead Member – tel [01724 296296](tel:01724296296)
- + Fostering Services Team – [01724 297024](tel:01724297024)
- + Education Inclusion Careers and Progression Team – [01724 298554](tel:01724298554)
- + North Lincolnshire Careers and Progression team – tel [01724 298554](tel:01724298554)
- + PHASE accommodation and support service – tel [01724 298374](tel:01724298374)
- + Children’s Participation Team (including the Children in Care Council) – tel [01724297240](tel:01724297240)
- + Mentoring and advocacy support - Children’s Advocate – tel [01724 296639](tel:01724296639)

Other services providing support for Care Leavers in North Lincolnshire include:

- + The children in care Health Team
- + CAMHS – [01724 408460](tel:01724408460) (CIC and CL can self-refer between ages of 13-18. Schools and GPs can also refer.)
- + VirginHealth (sexual health advice and support) - Call [0300 330 1122](tel:03003301122)
- + DELTA substance use support service – tel [01724 298528](tel:01724298528)
- + North Lindsey College - tel [01724 281111](tel:01724281111) info@northlindsey.ac.uk
- + John Leggott College – tel [01724 282998](tel:01724282998)
- + Humberside Police, Early Intervention Team (offer help, advice and support) – tel [07464 649292](tel:07464649292) james.mckellarmain@humberside.pnn.police.uk

Other places you can go to for help or advice include:

- + Citizens Advice Bureau – tel [01724 870941](tel:01724870941)
- + Humberside Fire and Rescue – tel [01724 295920](tel:01724295920)
- + Action Station – tel [01724 296969](tel:01724296969)
- + North Lincolnshire Youth Council – tel [01724 298440](tel:01724298440)
young.voice@northlincs.gov.uk
- + Care Leavers’ Foundation – [01678 540598](tel:01678540598)
- + Youth Information and Counselling Unit (YPs aged 13-25) – [01724 281824](tel:01724281824)
[/297972](tel:01724297972)
- + CRUSE Bereavement Care (self-referral) – [01724 281178](tel:01724281178)
- + Life Central website and app – www.life-central.org (Emotional wellbeing and health support for children and young people, parents, carers and professionals)
- + Talking Shop – 19 Market Hill, Scunthorpe, [01724 867297](tel:01724867297) (Drop in or call for advice and psychological therapy for young adults aged 18+.
- + Options Recovery College – Sandfield House, 297 Ashby High Street, Ashby, [01724 275959](tel:01724275959), optionsrecoverycollege@rdash.nhs.uk
(Free educational courses for young adults 18+ that support people in managing everyday mental health issues including stress, low mood, anxiety, low self-confidence and difficulties with sleep. Prospectus available at www.rdash.nhs.uk/optionsrecoverycollege)