

Wandsworth's Local Offer for Care Leavers



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Hello and welcome to our Local Offer for Care Experienced young people!

What is the Local Offer?

Our Leaving Care Service (known as Future First) is here to support you to achieve your goals as you build the independent adulthood that is right for you. To do that, there is a set of offers and entitlements that we offer all Care Experienced young people- those are called 'Our Local Offer'.

When we Look After young people in our Care, we take on the role of being their 'Corporate Parent'. Like any good parent, we want to support all young people that we have Looked After to achieve their goals.

Of course, everyone has different needs and goals- your Pathway Plan is the tool to use to identify any extra support that you need (from us or other services) to achieve your own unique goals and dreams.

We often let young people know about events and opportunities via our Social Media accounts, through your Personal Advisor who will send you Whatsapp and email messages as well as speaking to you directly, through our TV screens at the office or posting out flyers. Please do follow both ClickPlus and Future First on Social Media and also make sure that your Personal Advisor always has your up-to-date number so that you don't miss out on opportunities!

Our social media accounts are:

Instagram @FutureFirstWandsworth

X (formerly Twitter) @WBC_FutureFirst

As your Corporate Parents, we never stop wanting to support you. Although a lot of the things in our Local Offer only go up to ages 21 or 25, we want our Care Experienced young people to know that the door is always open and that if you need help or advice after the age of 25, we are still there for you. Being your Corporate Parent doesn't end on your 25th Birthday- if you need our advice or support, please do contact us, pop into our daily drop in or send us an email. We also love to hear how you are getting on!

Please take the time to read this carefully and talk it through with the people who support you. We want to put your future, first- this Local Offer is just part of the way that we do this!

All the very best

**Future First and
Wandsworth Borough Council Children's Social Care**

The Big Question: Am I a Care Leaver?

The support young people are entitled to as care leavers is different depending on when you came into care and how long you have been or were in care. The law separates out care leavers into four different groups and gives each group a name. These names are sometimes described as your 'leaving care status'.

It's important for you to know which status you are, to be eligible for Future First (Wandsworth Council's Leaving Care Service).

To be eligible for the Local Offer, you must have one of the following four statuses.

- 1 An 'Eligible child'** Someone who has been in Care for more than 13 weeks since they turned 14 and who is now 16 or 17 years old and still in care.
- 2 'Relevant child'** Someone who is 16-17 and used to be an 'Eligible Child' but who has now left care
- 3 Former relevant child'** Someone aged between 18 and up to 25 who used to be an 'Eligible Child' or 'Relevant Child'
- 4. 'Qualifying care leaver'** is someone aged between 16 and up to 25 who was in care for less than 13 weeks after their 14th Birthday, including a period when they were aged 16 or 17. They can also be somebody who was placed on a Special Guardianship Order and had been in Care right up until the order was made. They can also be somebody who was a 'Relevant Child' but who went home to live with somebody who had parental responsibility for them for more than 6 months when they were aged 16 or 17.



If you are unsure of what care leaving status you are, please ask your Personal Advisor. Or you can visit: [coramvoice.org.uk/
myrights/my-rights-when-i-am-leaving-care/am-i-a-care-
leaver](http://coramvoice.org.uk/myrights/my-rights-when-i-am-leaving-care/am-i-a-care-leaver) or scan the QR and answer this really great 'Am I a care leaver' quiz.

A quick Guide to some of the language we use:

A Personal Adviser (PA)

You should be allocated a Future First Personal Advisor (known as your PA) at age 16. Your PA helps you to prepare for moving onto adulthood and they spend the two years before you turn 18 getting to know you really well and learning about what is important to you.

As you move towards independence, they will become one of your biggest supporters! From 18-25, your PA is the person who offers you any advice, support, help and guidance that you need to achieve the independent life that you want for yourself. They become your champions and as the law says, they are there to "advise, assist and befriend" you.

While you are still in Care, they will visit you and attend your Child Looked After review meetings to make sure that you are getting all of the right advice and guidance about the process of becoming more independent.

When you are still in Care, your PA will meet with you every eight to twelve weeks, or more frequently if you would like extra support. Your Social worker and your PA will work with you to decide which time is right for your PA to take over as your main contact person. This does not necessarily need to be your 18th Birthday- it can be a while after that if you would like to have the ongoing support from your Social Worker. Nobody should have to move or experience big changes on the day of their 18th Birthday- that day is for celebration!

When you have left Care, your Personal Advisor will visit you at least every 8 weeks. Their role is to help you achieve the targets and goals that you have set for yourself in your Pathway Plan. They work alongside you to teach you new skills, learn how to be a successfully independent adult and they offer you a friendly face and somebody that you can build a really positive relationship with. Your PA is there to help you succeed.

My Pathway Plan

Your Pathway Plan maps out how you, your PA and the other people that support you are going to help you achieve your goals!

It's IMPORTANT that you lead your Pathway Plan, and that it is YOUR plan with YOUR voice. Use it to explain your needs, views and future goals, and in return, your PA and their Manager should use it to explain exactly what support they will provide you with. We always do reviews of your plan face to face as it's so important that your views are accurately recorded.

This plan is reviewed every 6 months or whenever something important happens in your life. You and your PA will review the targets you've set yourself for your journey to successful independence and decide on next steps. Your PA then supports you, over the next 6 months to achieve the goals you have set for yourself. You should always sign your plan after it's agreed and your PA should always give you a copy to keep.

In your plan, your PA and Future First will consider with you what extra support you may need because of your own, individual circumstances.



Identity:

Supporting the things that make you who you are!

Your experiences, your Care journey and your plans and dreams are all uniquely yours. Here at Future First, one of our most important goals is to make sure that as you move into your independent adult life, you do it fully understanding your past and feeling really proud of who you are and what you have achieved.

- You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care. When you are close to your 18th Birthday, your Social Worker should make sure that you have your folder of key information, including your health records and the records of your CLA Review meetings from the past.
- Young People are also able to request access to all of the records and information that Children's Social Care have about them. This is often called 'Accessing your records' or 'Subject Access Request'. At Future First, we believe that every young person who accesses their records should be offered the right support to make sure that they understand the information and can ask questions. Your Pathway Plan should outline the support that you want and need, if you are accessing your records. For more information on accessing your files you can email: sarw@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk or phone 020 8831 6328
- You can get support to help you understand who you are and your journey in care. Your PA and your Social Worker can help you to do this. Before you turn 18, your social worker will help you to get important identification documents, such as a birth certificate, passport and/or provisional driving licence and national insurance number. If you are 18 and above, and do not

have these important identification documents, your PA will assist you in getting these. Use your Pathway plan to organise this.

- We know that family connections and support networks are a big part of somebody's identity. We can refer all young people to our Lifelong Links service, who can contact and help you meet with people from your life who are important to you. We can also organise a Family Meeting at any point that you want one, to help you strengthen your relationships with your family or your support network.
- Sometimes, to access or apply for certain funding or bursaries or to get specific help and support from College, Uni's, Housing departments and employers, you might need a letter confirming that you are a Care Leaver. We will always provide you with letters if you need or ask for them.
- We will provide support or signpost you to organisations that can provide support around any issues important to your identity such as: LGBTQ+, religion, political beliefs, gender, asylum or immigration experience or your culture. Both ClickPlus and Future First hold events and refer young people for support to a wide range of organisations- please use your Pathway Plan to let us know how we can support you to be you!
- We run events through the year to celebrate different cultures, identities and achievements including Black History Week, International Women's Day, Pride, Christmas/Eid/Lunar New Year and many others.
- We will financially support any young person with Immigration and Asylum issues who has not yet had a decision from the Home Office about their claim.
- We will fund the cost of 1 'Life in the UK Test' for any young person who needs to take it.
- Future First will pay 50% of the British Citizenship fee for anyone under 21 who is working with their PA and their Pathway Plan. Those young people aged 21-25 can get a £200 contribution to the cost from Future First.
- We celebrate National Care Leaver's Week and we hold an annual Celebration event called the 'Glow Awards' where we celebrate everyone's individual achievements. All Care Experienced young people are invited to it!

- Future First provide you with a £25 gift and a £50 food voucher which you can use to celebrate a festival of your choice to support your religious or cultural identity.
- We also provide you with £50 Birthday allowances when you turn 18, £25 on your 19th and 20th Birthdays and £75 on your 21st Birthday to help you celebrate.
- We provide groups and activities where Care Experienced young people can socialise and make friendships with people who share their identity as 'Care Leavers'. We refer young people to national Care Leaver organisations and Charities and we encourage young people to explore their identity as a Care Leaver.
- We have Care Leaver Influencers who support the Managers and Politicians to understand what it is like to be a Care Leaver and how to make support services better. Any young person who has a PA can apply to be an Influencer! Influencers are paid for their time.
- We have lots of opportunities for you to become involved with Events, Activities and celebrations specifically for Care Experienced young people and we believe that every Care Experienced young person should be proud to be a Care Leaver.
- We offer all young people aged 18-21 a £20 per month Wellbeing Allowance which you can use for any positive hobby or wellbeing activity- this could be the gym, a class, hobby costs or memberships and we pay this provided you request it in your Pathway Plan and provide evidence of expenditure.
- For young parents who are Care Experienced, we run a weekly group called 'Future Tots' where parents can come together, play, learn and support each other.
- For young people who have come to the UK as Asylum Seeking young people, the Virtual School and Future First provide groups where those young people who are UASC can meet up to socialise, learn and support each other.



Contributing to Society

Supporting you to thrive!

Care Experienced young people have the power to build, shape and change the communities they live in and we want to support you to do this! Being actively involved in your community brings a sense of belonging and wellbeing that we want everyone to enjoy.

- Future First are based in a building close to Clapham Junction Station which offers a daily drop in as well as evening groups and activities. This space is available for all Care Experienced young people to use and in the building we promote local activities and community events. You can hang out, use the wifi and the computers, chat to staff, do your laundry, have a hot shower, grab a drink and a snack/meal or just get some college work done! It's your space to use. Our TV Screens display information about our service and are updated weekly with the latest opportunities.
- Up until the age of 21, we can provide a £20 per month Wellbeing contribution to any club, sports team, gym, hobby or membership that promotes your involvement in the community
- To help you get around your community, we can support you by paying for a provisional license, learning to drive (car, motorbike or moped) or by buying a cycle. Each young person up to the age of 21 can claim the cost of 5 one hour driving/motorbike lessons PLUS the cost of 1 test (theory or practical) from us. You need to pass your theory test before we pay for the

lessons though. Alternatively, we will provide you with funding which is equivalent to that offer, to use to buy a cycle, helmet, locks etc OR to pay for a subscription to a bike hire scheme. It's up to you!

- Through the year, ClickPlus, the Virtual School, Future First and other parts of the Department offer free celebratory events, fun activities and trips that you can get involved in. We promote them through social media, your PA and flyers around the office.
- We will refer young people to community services that support young people such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Volunteering Matters and a wide range of charities and organisations.
- We will make sure that you know how to register to Vote and will encourage you to register because we want to help you shape your communities by voting. We hold voter registration workshops every year at Falcon Grove
- We share any great ideas or new initiatives that we find with our young people via our social media accounts
- We will promote volunteering opportunities through our social media, information at our office and through your PA who will share information with you.
- Our Setting Up Home Grant for Relevant and Former Relevant young people includes money for installing wifi in your settled home and we support you to access all digital connectivity offers from the DWP and other agencies.
- We will tell you about our awards ceremonies, schemes and competitions, in line with your talents and interests
- We can help you to share your views and be involved in improving how we support you – such as being part of CLICKPLUS, becoming a Care Leaver Influencer or helping you to be part of wider contributions to decision making such as the Corporate Parenting Panel, recruitment of staff and carers and commissioning of services. You can access CLICK PLUS up to the age of 25. There is a feedback box at our office which you can also use to share your views.
- There may also be regional and national opportunities that you might like to get involved with, such as the Pan London Children in Care Council, National Young People's Bench Marking forum and A National Voice with Coram Voice. Our Social Media and your PA will promote these opportunities

- We have a website for Wandsworth Care Leavers where you can find useful information about what we offer, including opportunities **Future First - Leaving Care Service**
- We know that life is 24/7. Our PAs and our office are available to support you during office hours Monday-Friday but in the evenings and at weekends, we also have a support offer. Wandsworth's Out of Hours service can be contacted in the evenings or at weekends if you have any problems or need the sort of help that you would normally use your PA for. **Their number is 020 8871 6000**
- We also encourage all young people to get involved in the groups and activities run by organisations such as Princes Trust, the Refugee Council, Rees Foundation, Catch 22 and many others.
- If you are in custody and are aged under 21, we will provide you with £15 per month for phone credit and essential items so that you can stay in touch with people. You can also access the £20 per month Wellbeing allowance if you want to purchase hobby materials whilst you are in prison. We will also allow you to use some of your Setting Up Home Grant to buy basic household items like kettles if you need them.
- We also provide you with £50 Birthday allowances when you turn 18, £25 on your 19th and 20th Birthdays and £75 on your 21st Birthday to help you celebrate.
- Future First provide you with a £25 gift and a £50 food voucher which you can use to celebrate a festival of your choice to support your religious or cultural identity.
- Every year until your 21st Birthday, you can access a £150 Positive Experiences Grant. This is to buy tickets and travel to enable you to attend an event or experience that you really want to experience. You can save this money over the 3 years and spend it all on one big event (like a festival or some travel) but it is up to you! You need to outline your plans in your Pathway Plan.
- Our Hub is a place where you can cook and access free food, you can use our free laundry, you can have a hot shower, hang out, watch TV, use the computers and get support, advice and a friendly welcome. If things are tough or if you need a hand, just pop in Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm.



Your right to Participate: How are we doing?



You have a right to be involved in all decisions about your plans for leaving care. **CLICKPLUS** is a group of care experienced young people that come together to share their experiences to influence services. For more information please contact click@wandsworth.gov.uk or follow us on instagram [@wandsworth_click](https://www.instagram.com/wandsworth_click)

The Care Leaver Influencers have been working hard to make real changes to the way that the service supports young people. Please contact us if you would like to get involved with the work of the Care Leaver Influencers.



You can make a complaint about any part of Children's Services through the Complaints Team. More information about making a complaint with **Children's Services** is available on Wandsworth's website.



You have the right to an independent advocate, who can inform you about your rights and help you be heard. At Wandsworth, this service is provided Advocacy People Wandsworth (theadvocacypeople.org.uk)



Accommodation

Accommodation issues are often the biggest challenges and area of concern for young people Leaving Care. Here in Wandsworth, our 'So what about Accommodation?' booklet, available at our office or online, provides Care Experienced young people with a guide to the Accommodation offer we make and the processes for accessing this.

This leaflet covers our Accommodation offer and we encourage you to read this. If you need a copy, please check out our website and ask your PA. Our offer includes loads of supported accommodation, a small number of training flats, affordable accommodation specifically for young people who work as well as emergency accommodation and support for when things go wrong.

- We have a Housing Team in Future First- they're called Future House! They are specialist workers who support you and your PA to plan the best Housing and Accommodation options for you.
- Whilst you are still in Care, Children's Social Care will ensure that you have a suitable care place to live, such as with a foster carer or in a residential home or semi-independent accommodation

- We help you to develop independence skills through our Life Skills programme. This is to help you get ready to live independently and is in Modules. We run this in groups throughout the year so your PA or your Social Worker will talk to you about it!
- We believe that, where possible, young people should remain in Care until they are 18. However, if you choose to leave care before this, we will ensure that you have suitable accommodation and support and will make sure you have enough money to pay your bills and manage independently.
- As you move towards leaving care, Future First, partnership with the Housing Department in the Council where you live and alongside advice from our Future House Housing Officers and other agencies, will provide advice and support so that you can access safe and suitable accommodation with the support you are assessed to need. Your Personal Advisor is there to offer you accurate information about your options and to make sure that when there are choices to be made, you are making them with a clear understanding of your rights and responsibilities. We will also encourage all young people to understand their local Council's Housing Policy, like **Wandsworth's**.



- For young parents, we have a number of Parent and Child accommodation projects that can offer both tenancy support and parenting support. These are fantastic places to build up your tenancy skills whilst you prepare for your settled accommodation.
- Former Relevant Care Experienced young people from Wandsworth are eligible to join the priority Housing Waiting list within Wandsworth Council Housing Department known as the 'Social Care Queue'. Future First get a certain number of properties every year offered to Care Experienced young people and to get on the waiting list, you have to apply via a Panel, that is held every month. To get approved by the Panel, you have to demonstrate that you have the skills to manage a tenancy independently.
- Part of this proof is that you have to have completed our Life Skills Course- either by attending the workshops or by completing the Booklet with your PA.

- You have the right to attend the Panel yourself (with your PA's support) to talk about why you feel ready for your independent tenancy.
- If you are moving into supported accommodation, a tenancy or are moving away to university, you can ask for a 'Starter Pack' to get you started. This will come in useful holdalls and will include items such as bedding, towels, kitchen equipment, toiletries etc. Please ask your PA for more information. Remember, you only get this Starter Pack once so look after it- it's worth over £250!
- Former Relevant Care Experienced young people from Wandsworth can also access our Guarantor scheme via the same Housing panel. This Guarantor scheme supports young people who demonstrate really strong tenant skills, to access privately rented accommodation in whichever area of the country they wish to live.
- Future First will always make sure that if you have lived in a different area for at least 2 years, including a period before you turned 16 and you wish to stay in that area, that you are placed in the Housing Waiting List in that area as you will have 'local links'
- To take some of the financial pressures off you, if you are a Former Relevant Care Leaver up to the age of 21, we will pay your Council Tax bill in whichever area you live. You will need to bring your council tax bill to your PA.
- When you move into a new accommodation where you have to pay Utility Bills, we give you a £20 Grant to help put credit on your accounts.
- We will always help you to claim housing benefit/universal credit or make sure that an appropriate person is supporting you with this.
- Relevant and Former Relevant young people who had a Pathway Plan with Future First at 1/04/24 have a £3159 Setting Up Home Grant to spend on essential items to set up their home. Those who were aged 21+ at 1/04/21 and who are returning to service after that date are entitled to a £2500.00 Grant.

- In the first winter that you live in your settled home if you move in after the 1/4/24, you will get £15 per week (£390 in total) to help with fuel bills for the period 1/10 until 31/3.
- We currently provide a floating support service from DePaul, who can provide additional help to young people to manage their tenancies. Anyone can be referred- just ask your PA!
- Your PA will support you to apply for as many extra sources of funding as they can, if you need help to buy things for your home or get support with managing expenses related to your tenancy. This might include emergency grants from the Council or an application to a charity or a community group, Our PAs will always support you to maximise your income.
- We provide continuing advice about maintaining a tenancy, including paying rent, council tax and bills regularly.
- We will support you to access Debt Advice and help you to set up payment plans if you face any sort of debt or arrears.
- Future House is a regular online drop in on Zoom for young people to bring or raise any housing queries or concerns.
- Future First work really closely with Housing Colleagues to support young people. We meet with Housing Managers at least monthly to address issues that come up for young people's housing journeys and to also make sure that every young person has the best opportunity to achieve settled accommodation at a time that's right for them.



Education, training and employment Matters

As Corporate Parents, we want you to succeed in your education, training and employment. We will ask you how you are doing and be ready to celebrate your achievements with you. We track your goals and targets through your Pathway Plan and our PAs will support you to achieve those within an appropriate timescale.

- Whilst you are still Looked After, our Virtual School alongside your social worker have corporate parenting responsibility to ensure we do everything a good parent would to help you to succeed in education. If you are in Year 12 or 13, you will have a dedicated Virtual School Advisory Teacher with responsibility for helping you to work towards your career goals as well as leading on your Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting.
- Our Virtual School provides three dedicated Education, Employment and Training (EET) Officers who support Care Experienced young people aged 18+ +(Year 14+ up to 21 years) to achieve their education, employment and training goals. They are experts in tailoring our offer to meet your needs.
- The Virtual School offer weekly EETs drop-in sessions and workshops on a variety of topics offering a variety of opportunities. These are promoted via the socials, the TV screens at Falcon and your PA. For our unaccompanied asylum seeking young people aged 16-21 years, the Virtual School also host a weekly study club here at Falcon Grove which is great fun!

- We provide care leavers with access to high quality information, advice and guidance to help you with education, training or employment. Your PA and/or Virtual School worker will forward you opportunities, through our EET Leaflet via social media, leaflets and info screens at our office and via emails and mailshots.
- We work with local and national organisations who offer young people education, employment and training opportunities that are right for them!
- The Virtual School also offer all care experienced young people aged 14-21 years the opportunity to have work experience through the Full Potential project led by Lifelong Learning.
- We have developed an SSA Care Leaver Apprenticeship and job project which encourages council employers to develop opportunities for care leavers
- We can provide young people in education with a £200 per year grant for stationary, books, IT equipment and trips
- We can provide a laptop up to the cost of £360 (net VAT) if you have not had one given to you before
- We can provide up to £200 for prom activity and/or graduation items like gown hire or photos.
- We support all college students to claim the maximum 16-19 Bursary at their college and we also support them to claim the maximum financial support available to them from the DfE or their college/institution of learning.
- We encourage all students (in both higher and further education) to have weekend/part-time employment to provide them with valuable work experience and to also increase their income.
- Students at University can access 13 weeks' Vacation accommodation costs at an approved weekly rate (usually the local Housing Allowance for that area) and they can also access the £2,000 Bursary provided by Future First. If you need help identifying vacation accommodation, this should be addressed in your Pathway plan and Future First can help you with this.

- We pay the 1st month's public transport travel to work/education for anyone starting a new job or course. This can only be claimed once per year.
- We pay a termly incentive to young people under the age of 21 who are studying at college, training or who are doing regular unpaid voluntary work. This is paid termly in arrears and is to support the costs for the next term. This is £10 per week if you study/volunteer for 12+ hours a week, and £5 per week for less than 12 hours per week.
- We will support you to choose the right courses and opportunities for you and help you to plan your accommodation, budget and daily routine to support you in your EET activities.
- We will use your Pathway Plan to highlight any additional funding that you would like to request to support your training and employment. The decision to grant these requests is then made by Managers or a resource panel, where appropriate
- For Former Relevant young people, up to £75 Commencing Work grant for interview clothes and/or work clothing. This has to be documented/ requested in your Pathway Plan
- Young People in their first year of an apprenticeship will be supported to claim the maximum bursaries and grants to support their income.



Health and wellbeing Matters

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

- We provide a health summary before you turn 18, which is a summary of your health information
- We help you to register at health services when you move home, e.g. GP, dentist and optician
- We support you to move into Adult's Services from whichever Children's health services you might have been receiving.
- We can offer practical support to help you attend hospital or doctor's appointments. We do not automatically pay transport costs but your PA can go with you if you are nervous or unsure. We will also help you speak to the Hospital about any travel issues.

 • We will help you to apply for all the financial support for Health-related costs that you are eligible for, including discounted prescriptions, travel costs and other expenses through the NHS

'Help With Health Costs' schemes

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/help-with-health-costs

- We will also pay £120 for an annual prescription pass for any Care Experienced young person who has regular prescription charges and can pay one off prescription costs for any care leaver who has fees to pay.
- We offer substance misuse and emotional wellbeing support through our Future First counsellors which all Care Experienced young people can access
- We offer to purchase a £60 annual 'Ask Jan' membership from the Rees Foundation, using 3 x months of your £20 wellbeing grant money, if you wish
- We support young people to access the Care Leaver discount scheme from Places Leisure for cheap, discounted (and sometimes free!) access to leisure centres in Wandsworth.
- Our Life Skills support helps you to access nutritious recipes and tips for keeping healthy and well!
- We provide help and support if you are a parent. We will take an interest in your children and support you to do the best for them. We will help you arrange childcare, if this is what you want. For young parents, there is a regular Future Tot's group that you can attend with your baby or toddler. Please contact your PA for more information.
- We give you information about and support you to access local sexual health services, available at local GP surgeries, pharmacies or sexual health clinics.
- Former Relevant and Relevant young people can claim a £20 per month contribution towards any sports, hobbies or wellbeing club/membership that they wish to access.
- We have specialist Mental Health and Parenting PAs who can support you and your PA to offer you the right support to manage your health and wellbeing.
- Throughout the year we offer wellbeing workshops in partnership with agencies like Talk Wandsworth to support your emotional wellbeing.



Relationships Matter

Your relationships with the people in your life who love and care about you, are things we work hard to support you with. As well as support from a Personal Advisor, we may be able to offer you additional practical and emotional support, such as:

- A PA who meets with you as regularly as you need and builds a positive relationship with you
- Where appropriate, continuing to support contact with the 'Independent Visitor' or Mentor you had while you were in care;
- Helping you to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers or social workers.
- Lifelong Links is for Wandsworth Care experienced young people. It helps find and bring together people who care about you. This can be people you know well, people you have not seen for a while (like a former worker or carer) and even relatives who you have not yet met. For more information please speak to your PA.
- Help you to form and keep healthy relationships with your friends and family

- We will help you to access support if you have a child, such as parenting groups and early years support. Where you have experienced difficulties in your relationships, we will refer you to the right support service. This could be mediation, Strengthening Families Groups, support for people who have experienced Domestic Abuse, Talking Therapies and many others
- Our Future First Counsellors can offer you sessions that allow you to work through some of the issues you have faced/face with relationships.
- Our support to Care Experienced young people does not end. We believe that if you need advice and support from us, we should be there to offer it. Future First makes an ongoing offer to those young people aged 25+, for them to continue to use the advice and support of the daily duty system, if they need any help.
- Former Relevant and Relevant young people can claim a £20 per month contribution towards any sports, hobbies or wellbeing club/membership that they wish to access. This might include social groups or activities that are important to you.



Finances:

Because Money Matters

You can see all the financial support we provide in the areas of – Accommodation – Education, Employment and Training – and Health – in other parts of this booklet.

We will:



- Make sure you know what financial support you are entitled to from us. Our Young People's Guide to our finance policy AND the longer policy document itself are both on our Website at [Future First - Leaving Care Service](#)
- Make sure that you have the advice you need to learn to manage your money and that this is detailed in your **Pathway Plan budgeting section**.
- Help you with independence and budgeting skills through the Life Skills Programme.
- Help with managing money will be available at the Life Skills sessions and sometimes we have other sessions delivered by partners.

- Help you access your savings from your time in care.
- Help you to open a bank account or if you cannot do this, find you the right advice and support to look at alternatives.
- Help you to get your National Insurance number
- Help you to access the right emergency financial support if you need it. This might include referrals to charities and community organisations and other sources of financial OR practical support.
- Use our EET offer to make sure that you can access Employment or Training to maximise your income.
- We will work with your Job Coach and the DWP to address any issues that you might have with Benefits claims. We are always building stronger relationships with our Local Job Centre Plus to help us to do this
- We will work with your social worker and your carers to make sure that if you need to claim Benefits when you turn 18, that you make a claim for these before your 18th Birthday.
- Our Hub is a place where you can cook and access free food, you can use our free laundry, you can have a hot shower, hang out, watch TV, use the computers and get support, advice and a friendly welcome. If things are tough or if you need a hand, just pop in Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm
- If you are claiming Asylum and you need legal advice, we will support you to make applications for Legal Aid in a timely way www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid



[check-legal-aid](http://www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid). We do not automatically pay for any legal advice for young people and we expect all young people to claim legal aid to support them. We will also support young people to access Legal Advice from agencies such as Citizen's Advice Bureau.

- We will let you know through social media, your PA or information at our building about opportunities to earn and claim money from new initiatives, organisations, offers and legislation that relates directly to Care Experienced young people or your own personal circumstances.

Access for All:

We believe everyone in Wandsworth should have the chance to experience the incredible events and opportunities our borough has to offer.



Our ambitious Access for All scheme aims to break down barriers and make sure you can access local opportunities, with discounts and offers on sports and leisure, education, great days out and other essential services.

What offers are included?



Some of the key offers include:

- Free off-peak gym and swim, and peak sessions for just £5 (£2.50 for under 18s)
- **Free baby box for all first-time parents**
- Free birth certificates for new births registered at Wandsworth Town Hall
- £3 tickets to events as part of Wandsworth's year as London Borough of Culture
- 50% off any course offered by Putney School of Art and Design, including sculpture, pottery, etching, and life drawing classes
- 50% off weddings and civil partnerships for ceremonies at Wandsworth Town Hall
- 50% discount with Forest Bikes, Lime and Voi rentals.
- Half price activities in **Wandsworth leisure centres** including use of squash courts, table-tennis, badminton and volleyball sessions
- 50% off an annual membership of a Wandsworth bikehangar
- 25% off all borrowing at **Wandsworth Library of Things** in Southside by selecting 'save money with a concession membership'
- 15% discount at **Go Ape Battersea**, valid Sunday to Friday.
- Digital skills – half price **European Computer Driving Licence and BCS courses** through Wandsworth libraries

We encourage you to sign up for your free membership card today **Access for All - Wandsworth Borough Council**

Other places you can go for help and advice



Being a Care Leaver

- Coram Voice provide all Care Experienced young people with advice, guidance and free advocacy



[visit: coramvoice.org.uk](http://coramvoice.org.uk)

- The Rees Foundation website provides an excellent link to a number of support services for Care Experienced young people:
[visit: www.reesfoundation.org/useful-links.html](http://www.reesfoundation.org/useful-links.html)



- The Care Leavers' Association provides a wide range of support, including supporting you to access your records
[visit: careleavers.com](http://careleavers.com)



Become is the National Leaving Care Charity and they provide wide ranging advice and campaigns to support Care



Experienced young people
[visit: becomecharity.org.uk](http://becomecharity.org.uk)

Education Employment and Advice

- UCAS can offer information about courses available nationally and help



with applying for Uni
facebook.com/ucasonline



visit: ucas.com

- Government website gives advice about financial support available to students.



visit: gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance

- PROPEL provides advice for any Care Experienced young



person wanting to go to University



visit: propel.org.uk/UK

- Job Centre Plus for support on benefit claims and finding work.



visit: gov.uk/contact-jobcentre-plus

- Princes Trust offers 12-week Personal Development Programmes.

Telephone: 0800 842 842



visit: princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/get-job/boost-your-confidence



- Bright Lights Catch 22
[visit: catch-22.org.uk/services/bright-light/](http://catch-22.org.uk/services/bright-light/)

Money Matters

- Step Change offers free, impartial and confidential advice to help people deal with their debts.

[visit: stepchange.org](http://stepchange.org)

- Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice can support you with issues around debt and money, including: help with debt, budgeting, mortgage problems, rent arrears, banking etc.



- [visit: citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)
- Money Saving Expert offers advice on how to save money, including help with banking and saving, utilities and bills, travel and motoring, insurance etc.



- [visit: moneysavingexpert.com](http://moneysavingexpert.com)

- Prince's Trust Finance Advice

[visit: princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/tools-resources/money-management](http://princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/tools-resources/money-management)



- The Buttle Trust offers a range of grants to Care Experienced



young people
[visit: buttleuk.org](http://buttleuk.org)

- Rees Crisis Fund offers financial support for care leavers in emergency situations for e.g. food, gas/electricity, transport.



[visit: eesfoundation.org/financial-assistance1.html](http://eesfoundation.org/financial-assistance1.html)

- Emergency support from Wandsworth Council

[visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/benefits-and-support/discretionary-support-grants/](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/benefits-and-support/discretionary-support-grants/)

- Turn2US provide a large amount of advice on entitlements, guidance on saving money and benefits calculators



[visit: turn2us.org.uk](http://turn2us.org.uk)

Supporting you to be yourself

- Family Information Service Wandsworth

This website provides loads of information for parents including Parent and Toddler Groups where parents or carers can take 0-5 year olds to enjoy play activities and meet others and offer support and advice for parents.



[visit: fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/home.page](http://fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/home.page)

- Family Nurse Partnership is an intensive, structured, home visiting programme. It is available to first time mums and dads.



visit:fnp.nhs.uk

- Children's Centres provide a welcoming space where you and your child can have fun and learn. You can find your nearest Children's Centre on the Family Information Service website. [visit:fis.](#)



wandsworth.gov.uk/kb5/wandsworth/fsd/family.page?familychannel=1-3-2

- LGBTQ+ Care Experienced young people can get support and advice from the Care Leaver's Association



visit:careleavers.com/what-we-do/young-peoples-project/lgbt-care-leavers

- LGBTQ+ Care Experienced young people can get great



support from LGBTQ+ Youth In Care
visit:lgbyouthincare.com

- Legal Aid support for young people with Asylum Issues



visit:www.gov.uk/check-legal-aid

- Become offer LGBTQ+ Young People advice and support

[visit:becomecharity.org.uk/when-will-we-see-](#)



when-will-we-see-change-improving-the-experiences-of-lgbtplus-young-people-in-care/

- Young Stonewall supports and empowers young lesbian, gay, bi and trans people to live free from discrimination and fulfil



visit:youngstonewall.org.uk

- Gendered Intelligence is a London based service for transgender young people and can offer youth group sessions, one-on-one mentoring, special projects and workshops, training sessions and other resources for trans gender youth and their families.



visit:genderedintelligence.co.uk

- Asylum Aid assists refugees on their applications for asylum in the UK and offers advice on related areas such as appeal against refusal, welfare rights and housing.



Email: info@asylumaid.org.uk
visit:asylumaid.org.uk

- Asylum Support Tribunal considers appeals against decisions made by the UK Border Agency and is independent of government.

Telephone: 020 7538 6171



[visit: gov.uk/appeal-first-tier-asylum-support-tribunal](http://gov.uk/appeal-first-tier-asylum-support-tribunal)

- Refugee Council is for refugees and people seeking asylum in the UK. It offers advice and information for refugees.



[visit: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)

- CARAS Youth Club is a place of fun, friendship and food for young refugees and asylum seekers aged 11-19.

Telephone: 020 8767 5378

E-mail: info@caras.org.uk

- South London Refugee Association offers advice, information, practical help and emotional support; information on housing, benefits and immigration issues and help with accessing health care services, & ESOL classes



Telephone: 020 3490 3443
email: chris@slr-a.org.uk
[visit: slr-a.org.uk](http://slr-a.org.uk)

- Da'aro is a project that supports young people from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia living in South London



[visit: daaroyouth.org.uk](http://daaroyouth.org.uk)

- The Vietnamese Family Partnership is an organisation that supports



Vietnamese people living in London
[visit: vietfp.org](http://vietfp.org)

- There is support for Albanian young people living in London at Nene Tereza



[visit: nenetereza.co.uk](http://nenetereza.co.uk)

Housing and Accommodation

- Wandsworth Council - Housing You can find more information about housing issues on Wandsworth's website, including learning more about the housing options available and housing and homelessness advice



[visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/)

- Citizens Advice, offers a range of housing advice on areas including: renting, repairs, council tax, rent arrears, discrimination, moving and improving your home and problems



where you live.
[visit: citizensadvice.org.uk/housing](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/housing)

- National Homeless Advice Service offers advice about homelessness, including the provision of emergency housing for care leavers.

[visit: nhas.org.uk/improving-outcomes/advising-young-people/emergency-housing-for-care-leavers](https://nhas.org.uk/improving-outcomes/advising-young-people/emergency-housing-for-care-leavers)

- Shelter offers advice and guidance on housing matters, including advice specific to care leavers.

Free helpline:

0808 800 4444

visit: shelter.org

- The Albert Kennedy Trust helps young people up to the age of 25 who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans or Intersex and are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Telephone: 020 7831 6562

visit: akt.org.uk

Health and Wellbeing

- Talk to Frank for information on drugs and alcohol

Telephone: 0300 123 6600

SMS: 82111

visit: talktofrank.com

- Addiction for support on drug, alcohol and mental health issues

visit: addiction.org.uk



- Sexual Health Services in Wandsworth

[visit: shswl.nhs.uk/#data](https://shswl.nhs.uk/#data)

- Samaritans offers a safe place for you to talk any time you like about what is getting to you. 24/7 confidential support:



Telephone: 116 123

Email: jo@samaritans.org

visit: samaritans.org

- Talk Wandsworth Provides Talking Therapies for any Wandsworth Resident who needs it



visit: talkwandsworth.nhs.uk

- Brook can provide information and advice on sexual health or relationships, including sex, contraception, STIs, pregnancy or abuse.



visit: brook.org.uk

- Wandsworth and Westminster Mind Wandsworth and Westminster Mind can help support people to get new skills, learn to cope, feel confident, keep healthy, make a



change, enjoy life, make new friends and get involved.

visit: bwwmind.org.uk

Relationships

- The Wandsworth LINKS Team can support you to get in touch with people who are important to you or to manage relationships which you are finding hard

visit: <https://fis.wandsworth.gov.uk/>



kb5/wandsworth/fsd/service.page?id=fOMABVe5INc&familychannel=1-2

- Relate offer mediation, advice and counselling for all sorts of relationship issues:



visit: relate.org.uk

- Domestic Abuse services for Wandsworth Residents



visit: wandsworth.gov.uk/community-safety/domestic-abuse

- Women's aid provide support to Women experiencing domestic abuse



visit: womensaid.org.uk

- Refuge is a national Domestic Abuse support service



visit: refuge.org.uk

- Respect offers support to the Male victims of domestic abuse



visit: mensadviceline.org.uk

- Advice for the victims of domestic abuse



visit: gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help

- Solace is a London Based Domestic Abuse organisation for Women and children



visit: solacewomensaid.org

Name of my Personal Adviser:

Contact number of my Personal Adviser:

Contact Number if I can't get hold of my Personal Adviser:

Call: 020 8871 6733

Or out of hours (evenings and weekends)

Call: 020 8871 6000

