

Short guide to leaving care eligibility criteria and services

For full details of leaving care policy: [Leaving care | Children's Policy & Practice Hub \(camden.gov.uk\)](https://www.camden.gov.uk/leaving-care)

For looked after young people aged 16-18, please see the *Preparing for independence* policy: [preparing-for-independence-policy-16-18.pdf \(camden.gov.uk\)](https://www.camden.gov.uk/preparing-for-independence-policy-16-18.pdf)

For care leavers aged 18-25, please see the *Services and support for care leavers* policy: [services-and-support-for-care-leavers-18-25.pdf \(camden.gov.uk\)](https://www.camden.gov.uk/services-and-support-for-care-leavers-18-25.pdf)

Leaving care status		Description of services to be provided
Eligible children (16-18 who are still Looked After by Camden)	These are young people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged 16 or 17 • are currently looked after • have been looked after for at least 13 weeks (or for periods totalling 13 weeks) since the age of 14 and after the age of 16. 	These young people will be looked after and will continue to receive a full LAC service. At 15½, their allocated social worker will carry out a pathway needs assessment to identify what support they will need to move on to independence. The assessment will inform the young person's pathway plan which will become part of their care plan once they reach 16 and which is reviewed at their LAC review.
Relevant children (16-18 who are no longer Looked After)	These are young people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged 16 or 17 • are not currently looked after • have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and up to their 16th birthday and have since left care or: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged 16 or 17 • are not currently looked after • were detained in custody or admitted to hospital on attaining 16 and immediately prior to this had been looked after for 13 weeks since the age of 14 	These young people will have left care at 16 and will no longer be looked after. At 15½, their allocated social worker will have carried out a pathway needs assessment to identify what support they will need to move on to independence. The assessment will inform the young person's pathway plan which comes into effect once they reach 16 and is reviewed at a pathway plan review. Camden will still provide accommodation and living costs and a personal advisor who will keep in touch with the young person and support them to reach the goals set out in their pathway plan.

<p>Former relevant children 18-21 18 and over who were eligible or relevant children prior to reaching 18 and up to the age of 21</p>	<p>These are young people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged 18 or above • were an eligible child but have since left care or • were a relevant child but have since reached the age of 18 	<p>These young people will have an allocated personal advisor to keep in touch with them and support them to implement their pathway plan, including taking part in reviewing the plan. Camden will not provide accommodation costs or living expenses but will provide financial support based on assessed needs in order to support education, training and employment goals or to fund higher education, including vacation accommodation.</p>
<p>Former relevant children 21-25 Aged 21-25 who choose to continue to receive leaving care support or who return to request support up to the age of 25</p>	<p>These are young people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged between 21 and 25 • have been a former relevant child • at 21 choose to continue to receive a leaving care service • end contact with leaving care services at 21 but return to request further leaving care support before their 25th birthday. • 	<p>Where a care leaver aged 21-25 wishes to continue to receive a leaving care service or returns to request a service their allocated personal advisor will carry out a needs assessment to inform their pathway plan which will be reviewed regularly. Support will focus on specific areas of the young person's life where they need help, including support around education, training and employment. All assistance, including financial assistance, will be based on assessed needs.</p>
<p>Qualifying children 16-21 who were looked after for a short period but who are not eligible, relevant or former relevant children</p>	<p>These are young people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are aged 16-21 • are entitled to advice and assistance because they were accommodated between the ages of 16 and 18 in a variety of settings, including schools and hospitals or were privately fostered, but are not eligible or relevant children or • aged over 18, were subject to a special guardianship order and • were looked after prior to the special guardianship order being granted 	<p>Camden will provide a limited service to assist, advise and befriend the young person and service provision will be based on a needs assessment.</p>