

# Camden's local offer for care experienced young people

## Financial support for 16 and 17 year olds care leavers living in semi-independent accommodation

### 2024-25

#### Introduction

If you are aged 16 or 17 and you are looked after by Camden the council will be responsible for paying for your accommodation and living costs and any costs to support your plans for education, training and employment.

This leaflet sets out what financial support you can expect from Camden when you move into semi-independent accommodation in the Young People's Pathway up to your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### How we make decisions about payments

The financial support you are given is to help you reach the goals set out in your pathway plan and support you in your education, training and employment. All decisions about how much you will be paid and what this money is to be used for is decided during your pathway needs assessment and set out in your pathway plan. You need to make sure you get involved in this process so you can have a say about what support you may need.

#### What we pay

By law, we **must** pay for your accommodation costs and give you money for your living expenses as long as you meet the conditions set out below. We will also carry out an assessment to see what other financial help you need but these payments are discretionary and based on your assessed needs. Payments are listed in the table below.

#### How we pay

We will only make payments into your bank account so you must make sure you open an account before you leave foster care. Your social worker will be able to help you with this.

Payments are normally made weekly though some may be monthly. If you are having trouble with making your money last, your social worker may arrange to pay money on a more regular basis while you learn to budget. We can give you food vouchers in an emergency but this will be subject to an assessment.

#### Claiming benefits

Young people under 18 years are generally not able to claim any benefits unless they are parents or have a disability. If you think you may be entitled to benefits, you need to check with your social worker.

## What you need to do

All financial support is paid on the understanding that you will:

- regularly attend at college and training programmes; we will check with colleges and trainers to find if you are following your programme;
- live in pathway accommodation according to the terms of the licence agreement;
- meet regularly with your social worker and keyworker and attend pathway reviews
- pay your service charge; any arrears will be deducted from your weekly allowance.

If you don't meet these conditions your weekly allowance may be reduced or you may be at risk of losing your accommodation.

You must also notify your social worker of any changes to your situation that might affect your financial support, such as leaving college, changing accommodation or having a baby.

Item	Amount and conditions of payment
Weekly allowance	£75.00 £20 bonus also paid on the recommendation of your social worker and you are co-operating with services and attending education, training and employment £15 per week for young people who are in custody
Rent	Paid directly to the provider as long as you are living at your accommodation
16-19 bursaries for young people in further education	Up to £1200 each year depending on your needs; ask your social worker about applying
Clothing	£200 paid in 2 instalments in winter and summer £50 discretionary payment for one-off purchases on the assessment of your social worker ie; a suit for job interviews
Leisure activities	A free Camden GLL card to use in sports and leisure facilities within the borough
WiFi	Free WiFi access up to the age of 25
Birthday allowances (cash or vouchers as agreed with social worker)	17 <sup>th</sup> birthday £100 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday £100 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday £100 20 <sup>th</sup> birthday £100 21 <sup>st</sup> birthday £150 You must remain in touch with your social worker to get this payment
Travel costs for attending college, work or to keep in touch with family and friends	As agreed with your social worker subject to an assessment of need
Moving costs for 16 and 17 year olds moving within the Young People's Pathway	As agreed with your social worker subject to an assessment of need
Savings`	£10 per week paid into your Junior ISA account
Identification documents and passport applications	Paid for by the Corporate Parenting Service subject to an assessment of need
Mothers to be	£150 one off payment in the 20 <sup>th</sup> week to pay for items for the baby