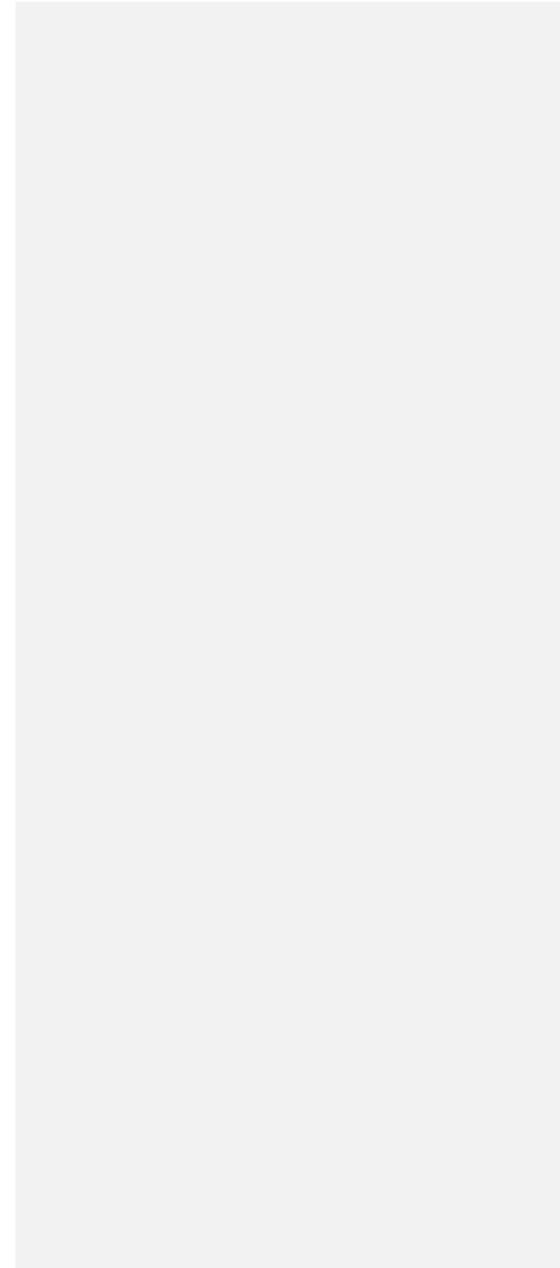
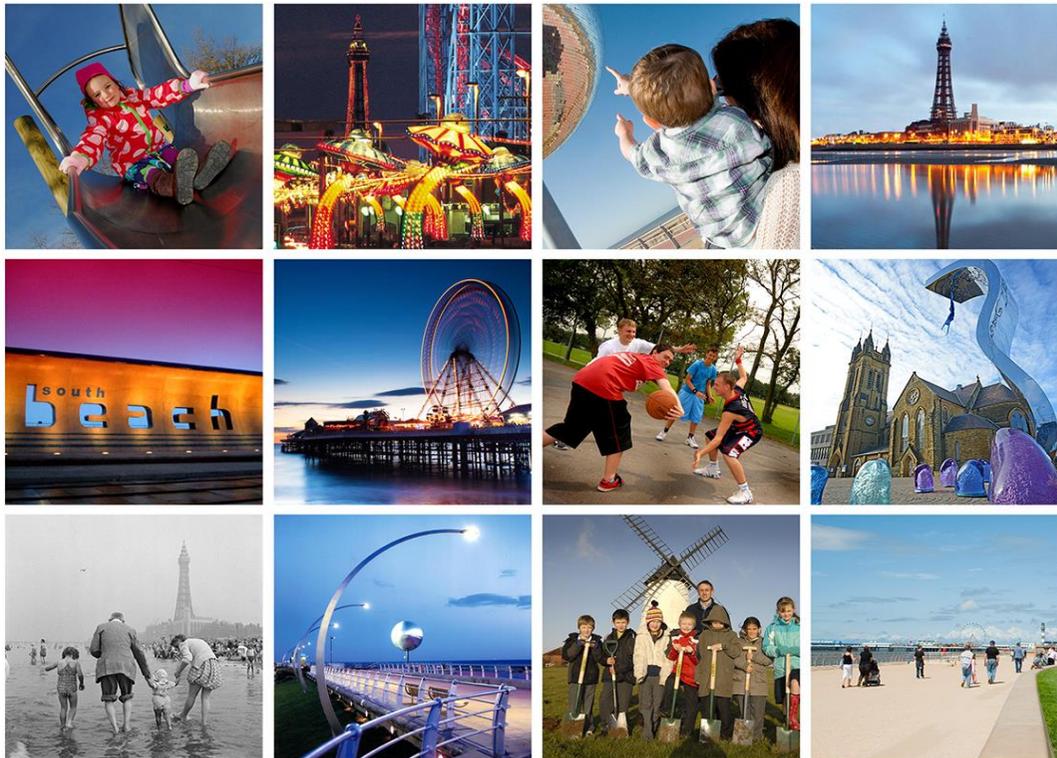


Blackpool Children's Services

Transition to Adulthood Finance Policy 2020/21

Blackpool Council



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Introduction

The policy covers finances and allowances for the following groups of young people:

- Eligible and Relevant Young People Aged 16 and 17
- Former Relevant Young People Aged 18 to 21, or to the end of the designated education or training programme being undertaken on the young person's 21st birthday
- Former Relevant Young People Aged 21 to 25 who return to the Responsible Authority to resume or undertake education or training
- Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

As a Local Authority Blackpool are committed to ensuring a smooth transition from child to adult services. In this case being a Looked After Child to a young person Leaving Care. Like any parent, Blackpool wants to make sure that young people have access to opportunities to support the move into adulthood – whether that be further or Higher education, setting up their own home or supporting with Council Tax. Just as any good parent we recognise that preparation for adulthood is key, therefore the Transition to Adulthood Finance Policy is supported by preparation to independence interventions delivered by social workers, personal advisors and carers via ASDAN, key working sessions and life skills.

We have strengthened our links with the Discretionary Support Scheme locally to provide additional support not only for young people who may be in crisis; but also to support them in setting up their own home by purchasing key items.

Blackpool have been working in partnership with the Department of Working Pensions to explore how to ensure there is a streamlined process for Care Leavers applying for Universal Credit. This has included the retention of a Specialist Leaving Care Officer at Job Centre Plus who provides weekly drop-ins for those young people due to turn 18 to ensure that their benefit claim is inputted ready to be processed on their 18th birthday.

As with everything we do, we have listened to Our Children and made appropriate adjustments where they have highlighted an issue. For example – we now provide an additional allowance for carpets/rugs where there are none in the property a young person is moving into. This not only makes a house a home, but supports reduction in heating costs. Their views, opinions and experiences drive the changes that are happening in Children's Services.

All finance related issues should be included in the young person's Pathway Plan so that they are aware of their entitlements and how Blackpool will support them financially to meet their full potential. For the purposes of ease and access the policy covers the cross section of legal status's and at what age various allowances apply.

For more information in relation to the various legal statuses of Our Children discussed in this policy please use the following links:

<https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/services-for-children-leaving-care/>

<https://coramvoice.org.uk/young-peoples-zone/am-i-care-leaver>

Income. Allowances and Benefits

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance	<p>This is provided for those young people who are studying, undertaking unpaid training, looking for employment and voluntary work.</p> <p>Young people who are in paid training will get the equivalent or a higher allowance from their training provider.</p> <p>Young people who in low paid employment will continue to receive the LCMA until they earn a given threshold</p>	<p>£59.70</p> <p>Thresholds: £123.00 (net) the LCMA will reduce by 50%</p> <p>£143.00 (net) weekly the LCMA will cease.</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p>
Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance – Supported Accommodation - Adjustments	<p>Where a young person is living in semi-independent accommodation. Adjustments will be made depending on the type and level of support and services provided. The reduction in the Local Authority Maintenance Allowance is underpinned by the principle of supporting young people to develop money management skills and become accustomed to making payments.</p>	<p>£47.52: A young person is residing in semi-independent accommodation but is responsible for food costs.</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p>
		<p>£36.52: A young person is residing in semi-independent accommodation and is provided with utilities and food.</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p>
		<p>£59.70: A young person is placed in emergency accommodation.</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p>
Lone Parent Allowances	<p>Lone parents (children looked after and care leavers) aged 16 and 17, either Section 31 (Care Order) or Section 20 (Accommodated) are eligible to claim Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Child Benefit and Healthy Start Vouchers from the birth of their baby.</p> <p>They will also be entitled to apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant from the day their baby is born (or up to 11 weeks earlier if in receipt of a qualifying benefit such as Employment & Support Allowance at that time). This includes young people living in foster care and residential care, and includes those who are still in education.</p> <p>The £500.00 ‘Sure Start’ Maternity Grant is claimed from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The Sure Start Maternity Grant is only available for the oldest or first child. Lone parents should be supported and assisted to claim their full benefit entitlement.</p>	<p>£0.00 – Due to having entitlement to welfare benefits where a young person is claiming said benefits they LCMA and Clothing Allowance will Cease. All other Allowances remain in place.</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p> <p>18+ Former Relevant</p>

<p>Universal Credit</p>	<p>Claiming benefits – Where this is required</p> <p>Up to 4 weeks before your 18th birthday, your Social Worker or Personal Adviser will be available to support you to access welfare benefit advice if needed and to make a claim for benefits according to your specific circumstances. This is likely to be Universal Credit, but may also be Income Support or Job Seekers Allowance. You can apply online on the GOV.UK website or ask at your Job Centre to make a paper claim.</p> <p>Universal Credit (UC)</p> <p>UC supports you if you are on a low income or out of work. It includes a monthly payment to help with your living costs.</p> <p>When you start work, the amount of UC you get will gradually reduce as you earn more.</p> <p>You're allowed to earn a certain amount before your UC is affected. This amount is called the work allowance. Then for every pound you earn over the work allowance, your UC will be reduced by 63 pence.</p> <p>As a single claimant under the age of 25 you can claim £342.72 every calendar month.</p> <p>Universal Credit Advance</p> <p>If you've made a UC claim but are unable to manage until your first payment, you may be able to get a Universal Credit advance. The amount you can borrow will be the same as your first estimated UC monthly payment. You'll need to pay back your advance a bit at a time from your future UC payments. You'll usually pay your advance back over a 12 month period.</p> <p>Young people leaving care are exempt from the Shared Accommodation Rate up to the age of 25. Therefore they are eligible for the 1 bedroom Local Housing Allowance rate.</p>	<p>£0.00</p> <p>Personal Allowance: varies depending on income and personal circumstances</p> <p>Housing Allowance: £85.00</p>	<p>18+ Former Relevant</p>
<p>Council Tax</p>	<p>The introduction a Council Tax relief for care leavers on a tapering basis up to the age of 21 will being on 1st April 2019.</p> <p>Financial expectation for Young People/Person (YP)</p>	<p>£0.00</p>	<p>Former Relevant 18+</p>

	<p>Tax year in which 18th birthday falls - The LA pay 85% BYPS contribution and YP pays 15%</p> <p>Tax year in which 19th birthday falls - The LA pay 70% BYPS contribution and YP pays 30%</p> <p>Tax year in which 20th birthday falls - The LA pay 55% BYPS contribution and YP pays 45%</p> <p>Tax year in which 21st birthday falls - The LA pay 30% BYPS contribution and YP pays 70%</p> <p>Please note: The contribution will be applied after any existing discounts such as single person-25% discount, low income 27%, discount if not working etc. Where there is more than one person in the property, they are jointly liable, however the % contribution above will remain as above.</p>		
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Accommodation

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Moving into private sector Accommodation	The rent amount must be within the Local Housing Allowance for Blackpool. Rent payments should not be approved for any young person where the rent charged by the landlord is higher than the LHA for a given area.	<p>Shared Rate: £60.75</p> <p>One Bedroom Rate: £85.00</p> <p>Current rates for different areas www.direct.gov.uk</p>	<p>Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17</p> <p>Former Relevant young people aged 18+</p>
Rent and Deposit	Where young people are moving into Private Rented Accommodation a deposit and rent in advance will only be authorised if the rent level falls within the Local Housing Allowance.	£0.00	Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17

	The social worker/personal advisor should ensure that images of the property's condition are taken. This should include any items that are included on the inventory. These images should then be sent to the young person, landlord and stored on the young person's file. This will assist in negotiating with the landlord where there are issues with regards to the condition of the property and the return of the deposit when the young person vacates the property.		Former Relevant young people aged 18+
Temporary Accommodation	In exceptional circumstances where young people are temporarily not able to, or are not claiming benefits, a temporary payment of £5.00 per week for 2 months will be made to ensure they are eligible to claim Local Housing Allowance/Housing Element of Universal Credit income of £5.00 per week. Where the placement is a Blackpool funded placement (Staying Put or Supported Lodgings) the 2 months can be extended to ensure Local Housing Allowance/Housing Benefit is paid as a contribution towards the placement costs.	£5.00 per week	Former Relevant young people aged 18+

Education, Training and Employment

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Education	Young people who are undertaking an education course or training activity will receive the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance. Additionally, young people who are undertaking full time education courses or unpaid training courses (12 hours study/training and contact time) are eligible for the 16-19 bursary Children's Services must inform colleges of a young person's status and eligibility for payment of the bursary which is administered by the college. Those aged between 16 & 19 who are in care, care leavers or claiming Universal Credit or getting both E&SA and DLA/PIP will be guaranteed a bursary of	£59.70 £1,200.00 per year, usually paid for 30 weeks at £40.00 per week £1,200.00 spread over the academic year, for those attending college or sixth	Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17 Former Relevant young people aged 18 & 19

	<p>Other bursaries for care leavers in education are available. Social Workers and Personal Advisers will support applications and offer more intensive support to plan and manage the expenditure of larger sums.</p> <p>Young people are expected to attend the nearest college for the given course they wish to undertake. In exceptional circumstances, and following an assessment of need, the nearest college rule can be waved, where it can be demonstrated that it is not in the best interest of the young person to attend the nearest college.</p>	form - payments of £40.00 per week over a 30 week teaching year	
Paid Training	<p>Where a young person is undertaking paid training will no longer receive the LCMA. They will instead receive the equivalent or a higher allowance from their training provider.</p> <p>However, where the paid training is paid at a rate less than £59.70 the allowance will be topped up to make £59.70</p>	£0.00	Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17
Apprenticeships	<p>Young people who are undertaking an apprenticeship will not receive the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance but will be given the equivalent or a higher allowance from their training provider.</p>	Government Grant	Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17
Government Bursary	<p>From August 2018 care leavers who start an apprenticeship aged between 16 and 24 years will receive £1,000 government bursary payment for the first year of their apprenticeship via their training provider.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apprenticeship funding from August 2018 - GOV.UK 		Eligible or Relevant young people aged 16&17 Former Relevant young people aged 18+
Further/Higher Education	<p>Funding for Further and Higher Education courses is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • up to the young person's 21st birthday; • or until the completion of the course following the young person's 21st birthday where the course commenced before their 21st birthday; • between the 21st and 25th birthday where a young person wishes to resume or commence education or training between those dates; • until the education or training course is completed following the 25th birthday where the course commenced prior to the 25th birthday. <p>In the first instance funding for Further and Higher Education courses is available until the completion of the course following a young person's 21st birthday.</p>		Former Relevant young people 18+

	<p>Funding should be agreed as part of an assessment of need and set out and agreed in the pathway plan.</p> <p>Wherever possible, young people should access universal benefits and welfare benefits these are available to young people studying further education who are deemed to be 'estranged' from their family and undertaking 'relevant education'.</p>		
Student Finance	<p>The level of fees, loans, grants, and bursaries for higher education student's change each academic year. The most accurate and up to date information is available via the following links: https://www.gov.uk/student-finance http://www.gov.uk/studentfinancesteps</p> <p>Children's Services must provide care leavers with a letter confirming that the young person was under the care of their LA, have now left the care of the LA and are a care leaver as defined in the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.</p> <p>Care leavers may be able to get financial support, for example fee waivers or cash awards, from their university or college. They should speak to their university or college to find out what support is available; this information is set out in each Universities Fair Access Offer.</p> <p>Students can access support from their university or college's advice centre or student union. There are also organisations that provide support for care leavers and students who are estranged from their families. Stand Alone – www.standalone.org.uk Propel – www.propel.org.uk National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL) – www.nnecl.org</p> <p>Support from Universities At the point of considering University the social worker/personal advisor should support the young person to check with the universities that they want to apply. This is to gather information in relation to the universities to understand what support they offer to care leavers. This information will support any decisions made when applying.</p>		Former Relevant young people 18+

	<p><u>Maintenance Loans</u> The maintenance loan is provided by Student Finance England and is paid directly to the student, normally in three instalments and is provided to help with living costs such as rent, food, bills and equipment and books.</p> <p><u>Loan Repayment</u> Graduates repay the combined tuition fee and maintenance loan when they have finished studying and are earning over £25,000.00 per year. The monthly repayments are linked to the person's income. After a certain amount of time (30 years), any outstanding loans will be written off, if the money has not been repaid.</p> <p>Many universities are now accredited under the Buttle Trust Quality Mark Award Scheme. The Quality Mark acknowledges and highlights additional support that establishments provide to young people leaving public care. http://www.buttletrust.org/quality_mark</p> <p>Information about additional support to care leavers can be found via the Fair Access Agreements that each institution is required to have. Information can be found on the web site of each institution or via: http://www.offa.org.uk</p> <p><u>Welfare Benefits</u> The majority of young people who undertake higher education courses are ineligible for welfare benefits such as Income Support and Housing Benefit/Local Housing Allowance. Certain limited groups of young people who undertake higher education courses such as lone parents and sick and disabled young people may remain, or be eligible for welfare benefits whilst studying.</p> <p>Lone Parents and Sick and Disabled Students who are in receipt of Welfare Benefits should check with the Department for Work and Pensions regarding the rules about student finance. Being in receipt of student finances may cause disqualification for welfare benefits. Generally, lone parents and sick and disabled young people will be assumed by the DWP to have taken out Student Loans and apply for the Special Support Grant. Their level of welfare benefit will be calculated by taking into account the loans and grants.</p>		
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	<p>Lone Parents (and certain couples with children) may be eligible for the Government's Childcare Grant https://www.gov.uk/childcare-grant</p> <p>and/or</p> <p>Parents' Learning Allowance https://www.gov.uk/parents-learning-allowance/what-youll-get</p> <p>Students who have adult dependents may be eligible for an Adult Dependents' Grant (ADG) https://www.gov.uk/adult-dependants-grant</p> <p>Students with children or dependent adults</p> <p>You can apply for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare Grant - full-time students only • Parents' Learning Allowance - full-time students only • Adult Dependents' Grant - full-time students only • Child Tax Credit • extra help if you're experiencing financial hardship <p>Funding from charitable trusts</p> <p>Use the Turn2us grant search to check whether you qualify for funding from a charitable trust.</p>	<p>£169.31 per week for one child and up to £290.27 per week for more than one child</p> <p>Between £50 and £1,716 per annum</p> <p>Up to £3,007 per academic year</p>	
Higher Education Bursary	The care leaver's higher education bursary is provided by the student's local authority and is provided as a minimum grant through the length of the whole course. The full amount is divided by length of the course i.e. 2 years/3 years/4 years and paid as a lump sum at the beginning of the academic year.	£2000.00	Former Relevant young people 18+
Accommodation Grant	This grant is variable depending on the cost of the accommodation linked to the university. In year 1 the grant can be used to cover the cost of halls of residence during term time and the cost of independent accommodation out of term time. In years 2+if halls are not available the grant can be used to cover the cost of independent accommodation. The level of this should not exceed the LHA for the	£0.00 - variable	Former Relevant young people 18+

	area that university is. All universities have a limited amount of 52 weeks per academic year		
Other available finances for HE	Higher Education Living Expenses and Travel Grant	£50.00 per week (start of the academic year and for 4 weeks after the completion of the final year)	Former Relevant young people 18+
	Graduation Grant. This is paid once and is paid on graduation in order to assist young people make the transition to employment. Careful consideration should be given to the timing of the access to this money to ensure it is paid at the best possible time for the young person. Discussion with the Team Manager required.	£1000.00	Former Relevant young people 18+
Voluntary Work	Young people who are undertaking voluntary work will continue to receive the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance.	£59.70	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds
Extra Tuition	Where it is assessed as being required, Blackpool Children's Services will consider funding extra tuition and travel related expenses (excluding taxis)	£ - Dependent on the individual needs and circumstances of the young people	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds
Equipment	Young people who are undertaking further education courses are entitled to: Stationary Grant Educational Visits Grant Books and Equipment/IT Equipment Grant – where they are not provided The Grant is per academic year, is not transferable One off Computer Grant is available to young people who are continuing with full time further education at level 2 or above, Higher Education	Up to £25.00 Up to £100.00 Up to £150.00 £325.00 (Net of VAT)	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Commencing Work Grant	Where a young person requires specialist equipment or clothing (including suitable work clothing i.e. interview wear, protective clothing) for their employment, and the employer does not provide this Children's Services will purchase required equipment and clothing.	£100 - maximum	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Employment	Young people who are in paid employment will continue to receive the LCMA until they earn:	£123.00 (net) the LCMA will reduce by 50%	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds

		£143.00 (net) weekly the LCMA will cease.																																		
Reductions	<p>Reductions are undertaken from the principle of assisting with the development of money management and budgeting skills.</p> <p>Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance, wages and earnings, Traineeship Allowances, Modern Apprenticeship Allowances and the 16 - 19 Bursary (EMA replacement) count as income.</p> <p>Young people should be issued with a Reductions Notice setting out the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The level of reduction (of their allowance/s); 2. When the reduction will commence; 3. What the young person can do if their circumstances change; 4. What the young person can do if they do not agree with the assessed reduction. <p><u>Reduction equation:</u></p> <p>Total income minus: fares, work costs and the cost of lunches. See examples below</p> <p><u>Example 1 – No reduction required</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£59.70</td> <td style="width: 20%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 – 19 Bursary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wages from part time job</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£28.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£125.90</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>minus costs (lunches X 2)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£10.00-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£115.90</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Example 2 – Reduction required</u></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: right;">£59.70</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£28.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wages from part time job</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£93.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£93.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£150.90</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Minus costs (lunches X 4)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£20.00-</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£130.90</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>LCMA reduced by 50% - net income becomes = <u>£121.95</u></p>	Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance	£59.70		16 – 19 Bursary	£40.00		Wages from part time job	£28.00		Total Income	£125.90		minus costs (lunches X 2)	£10.00-			£115.90		Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance	£59.70	£28.95	Wages from part time job	£93.00	£93.00	Total Income	£150.90		Minus costs (lunches X 4)	£20.00-			£130.90			Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds
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	In order to monitor incentive payments and other education, training and employment related payments, social workers and personal advisers will need to maintain close liaison with a young person's education, training and employment provider. Additionally, this liaison will ensure a young person receives practical assistance, if, and when required. To facilitate this process young people must sign the consent form so that social workers/personal advisers can liaise with the above.		
Education to Employment Transitions	To assist a young person with making a successful transition to employment and managing their wages a reduction will not be applied until they have completed six weeks of employment. A young person will need to provide proof of income in order that his/her social worker/personal adviser can calculate incentive opportunities and reductions. If proof is not forthcoming it will be assumed that earnings are exceeding £143.00 net per week. In these circumstances the allowance of £59.70 will cease on a temporary basis until proof of income is provided. Food Parcels/Vouchers can be provided where the young person is working to provide proof of income. Additionally, all other allowances can be suspended.	£59.70	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Child Care Costs	Lone parents, who wish to return to education, start a traineeship/apprenticeship or take up employment opportunities, will be assisted to identify funds to cover or contribute to childcare costs. In the first instance the Care to Learn Fund and other universal services should be approached for funding. The Care to Learn Fund provides financial support to assist young parents under the age of 20 to undertake education.	Government Scheme	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18-20

Support for Health

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Counselling and Therapeutic Needs	Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to access counselling and/or therapeutic services via CAMHS or universal health services. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services will provide funding for counselling and/or therapeutic services if other suitable routes/pathways/services are not available. - This requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.	£ - Determined on an individual basis	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+

Health	<p>Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to access services to meet their health and developmental needs via the 'looked after' children health provision and via universal health services.</p> <p>Social workers should complete form HC1 (SC) for all 16 & 17 year olds. The HC1 (SC) form enables young people to obtain an NHS low income exemption certificate. This will provide free or reduced cost dental, optician and prescription services. In situations where young people require specific health items these will be considered following an assessment of need.</p> <p>In situations where young people require glasses and receive an NHS Voucher, Blackpool Children's Social Care will match the value of the voucher</p> <p>Hearing aid equipment</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances and where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services may provide funds to secure additional health services. Funding above £100.00/£250.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.</p>	<p>Maximum of £100.00 per Year</p> <p>(£37.50), total value £75.00.</p> <p>£250.00 per annum</p>	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p>
Hospitalisation Grant	<p>Young people who have a hospital stay of over one week, or are anticipated to have such a stay, will be provided with a Hospital Pack containing slippers, night wear and a dressing gown.</p>	<p>£40.00</p>	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p>
Healthy Start Voucher	<p>Payment Equivalent to the Value of the Healthy Start Voucher, until the birth of the baby. From the birth of the baby entitlement is linked to a means tested benefit claim.</p> <p>From at least 10 weeks pregnant. £3.10 per week for Milk, Fruit and Vegetables.</p> <p>Submitting a claim for Income Support is a pre-requisite for the Healthy Start Vouchers.</p> <p>From the birth of the baby until their 1st birthday the voucher is worth £6.20 per week and £3.10 per week when they are aged over one and under four.</p>	<p>Equivalent £3.10 per week</p> <p>(£6.20 after the birth of the baby)</p>	

Family Contact and Travel Arrangements

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Bus Passes	<p>All young people aged 16 and 17 who are actively in contact with the Leaving Care Team will be provided with a bus pass. In the first instance the SW/PA will check if the Young people must attend the weekly drop-in group to receive the pass. Young people will be provided with a monthly card where they are unable to attend the weekly drop-in and remain in regular contact with their leaving care personal adviser. The need for support with travel costs must be evidenced and included in the young person's Pathway Plan.</p> <p>Where young people live outside of the Blackpool area they will be provided with a local area travel card.</p> <p>The travel card will assist young people to access education, training and employment opportunities where this is not provided by the educational establishment/employer. It will also facilitate family contact and contact with the leaving care team and enable access to leisure and cultural activities.</p> <p>Young people who are required to attend court appearances will be provide with travel warrants by the YOT.</p>	<p>£13.50 per week</p> <p>£15.50 per week</p>	<p>Relevant and Eligible young people 16 & 17 years old</p> <p>Former Relevant young people 18+</p>
Family Contact and associated Travel Costs	<p>Where young people have family members who live outside of the Blackpool area (more than a short bus/train journey), telephone and travel costs may be provided following an assessment of need. Wherever possible travel arrangements should be booked in advance in order to reduce costs.</p> <p>The use of the allowance and frequency of travel should be set out in the pathway plan.</p> <p>Where young people have family who live outside of the Blackpool area and travel costs may exceed £150.00 per year. Authorisation to exceed the limit must be obtained from the Service Manager.</p>	£150.00 Max	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17
Contact with Significant People and the	Where young people have significant contacts that live outside of the Blackpool area, telephone and travel costs may be provided following an assessment of need.	£150.00 Max	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17

associated Travel Costs	<p>Wherever possible travel arrangements should be booked in advance in order to reduce costs.</p> <p>The use of the allowance and frequency of travel should be set out in the pathway plan.</p> <p>Where young people have significant contacts that live outside of the Blackpool area and travel costs may exceed £150.00 per year agreement to exceed the limit must be sought from the Service Manager. 'Significant People' should be determined by the Service Manager based on evidence provided by the Social Worker/Personal Advisor.</p>		
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The celebration of Birthday's and Religious and Cultural Festivals

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
17 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person. Responsibility for the purchase of the gift/gifts rests with the social worker. This gives provides the opportunity to plan jointly with the young person what the money should be spent on, helping to embed a 'think before spending' habit.	£25.00	
18 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person. Responsibility for the purchase of the gift/gifts rests with the social worker. This gives provides the opportunity to plan jointly with the young person what the money should be spent on, helping to embed a 'think before spending' habit.	£100.00	
19 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person. Responsibility for the purchase of the gift/gifts rests with the social worker. This gives provides the opportunity to plan jointly with the young person what the money should be spent on, helping to embed a 'think before spending' habit.	£25.00	
20 th Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person. Responsibility for the purchase of the gift/gifts rests with the social worker. This gives provides the opportunity to plan jointly with the young person what the money should be spent on, helping to embed a 'think before spending' habit.	£25.00	
21 st Birthday	A gift/gifts should be purchased for the young person. Responsibility for the purchase of the gift/gifts rests with the social worker. This gives provides the opportunity to plan jointly with the young person what the money should be spent on, helping to embed a 'think before spending' habit.	£100.00	

22 nd -25 th Birthday	This money is only available where the young person is accessing Further or Higher Education.	£25.00	Young person is working with the service
Celebratory Meal	In circumstance where there is a planned birthday meal/celebration where the social worker/PA participates the total cost for the meal for the young person will be provided. Birthday presents and celebratory meals should only be provided where the young person is in contact with their social worker and/or personal advisor.	£20.00	Relevant and Eligible young people aged 16 & 17
Religious Festivals	Young people will be given a choice as to when they spend their Religious Festival Allowance. Where they do not stipulate a preference, the allowance should be made available at Christmas to ensure they receive their entitlement. They should also be offered the option of being able to split the allowance to allow a percentage for a Religious Festival and a percentage for Christmas.	£100.00 £25.00 – 18-25 where working with the service	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17 Former Relevant young people aged 18+
Cultural/Social Activities	Blackpool Children's Services will provide support for a major cultural or social activity once per year. The activity should be undertaken with a leaving care personal adviser, ex foster care or other key individual. The activity could range from a visit to the theatre, sporting event, art gallery or a day trip to a city to visit several museums etc. The allowance is dependent on an assessment of need, an assessment of the suitability of the activity. Depending on an assessment of need and an assessment of the suitability of the activities the allowance could be provided as two payments totalling the full amount for this area. The allowance should be used to fund the activity and refreshments for the young person Travel costs and refreshments for the social worker/personal adviser/foster carer should be claimed via the staff travel budget.	£130.00 Max – this is made as a one off payment for 17 year olds	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17
Cultural Needs	Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services aimed at meeting their cultural needs. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services will fund services aimed at meeting identified needs i.e. skin and hair care, dietary requirements. Funding above £100.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager	£100.00 max per annum	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17

Religious Needs	Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services aimed at meeting their religious needs. Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Social Care will fund services aimed at meeting identified religious needs. Funding above £100.00 per year requires the authorisation of the Service Manager.	£100 Max per annum	Relevant or Eligible young people aged 16 & 17
Health and Social Activities	<p>Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, the Blackpool Children's Services will pay for the membership of a hobby or leisure club and contribute towards the cost of equipment or special clothing/fees or contribute towards the cost of a social activity. This could include the cost of trial sessions and a contribution to travel costs. Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to obtain a Blackpool Leisure Card. Young people should be encouraged and assisted to explore the leisure facilities that accept the Blackpool Leisure Card.</p> <p>Financial assistance provided to pursue hobbies, leisure interests and social activities should be governed by the principle that these activities can be afforded by the young person at the age of eighteen, when they take over financial responsibility for their own affairs.</p> <p>Where young people live outside of the Blackpool area young people will be assisted to obtain a local Passport to Leisure.</p> <p>Young people should have access to at least one leisure/hobby/sports activity per week to ensure social inclusion.</p>	<p>Maximum of £10.00 per Week.</p> <p>Up to £520.00 per Year</p>	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p> <p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p> <p>Former Relevant young people 18+</p>

To receive birthday and religious festival allowances the young persons must be in touch with the Social Worker or Personal Advisor

Key Life Events

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Introduction to Driving	Blackpool Children's Social Care will provide the funding for one provisional driving licence, one theory test, one practical test and the cost of 5 (1 hour) motor car driving lessons to introduce young people to driving.	£ - Varied depending on provider	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p> <p>Former Relevant young people 18+</p>

	<p>This is available to 17, 18, 19 and 20 year olds (up to 25 if in education) and is conditional on the young person matching the cost of the 5 car driving lessons provided by the Blackpool Children’s Social Care. This will enable the young person to have 10 trial lessons.</p> <p>This is only available to young people who have been engaged in education, training or employment for 3 months and do not have any driving convictions. Young people must pay the cost of the 5 lessons to their social worker/personal adviser who will then book the 10 lessons. In general, by paying for 10 lessons in a block, driving schools provide an extra lesson free.</p> <p>Additionally, Blackpool Children’s Social Care will pay for one practical driving test. This is dependent on an approved driving school recommending that the young person is ready to take the test.</p> <p>Young people must provide their contribution before the overall package is provided. Young people can use their birthday or Christmas/festival allowance to pay for their five lessons. No other allowances are transferable for this purpose.</p> <p>Depending on an assessment of need which must be linked to the need to travel to an education, training or employment opportunity the driving package can be used to fund a moped/motor bike training programme. Young people must attend a CBT (Compulsory Basic Training) programme prior to driving on public roads.</p> <p>The allowance is only available until the young person’s 21st birthday, or their 25th if in education.</p>		
Key Documents	<p>Blackpool Children’s Services will purchase a passport (including the check and send facility) and 1 birth certificate for each young person.</p> <p>One passport, or passport renewal age 16 to 21, one birth certificate only if the young person does not have the original.</p>	£115.00	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p> <p>Former Relevant young people 18+</p>

	<p>Changing Name via Deed Poll: There are 2 ways to get a deed poll. Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make an 'unenrolled' deed poll • apply for an 'enrolled' deed poll <p>Ask the organisation you're dealing with (for example your bank) which type of deed poll they'll accept as proof of your new name.</p> <p>'Enrolling' a deed poll means that the young person's new name will be placed on public record. You can only do this if you're 18 or over.</p> <p>They must apply to the Royal Courts of Justice to get an 'enrolled' deed poll using the deed poll process.</p>	£36.00	<p>Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds</p> <p>Former Relevant young people 18+</p>
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Clothing Allowance

Area	Commentary	Amount	
Initial Clothing Allowance	<p>In circumstances where young people become looked after and are placed into semi-independent or independent accommodation they will be provided with an Initial Clothing Allowance.</p> <p>The Initial Clothing Allowance is paid in situations where young people become looked after with insufficient clothing for everyday needs. When a young person is first looked after the social worker should make a list of the clothing that the young person has and another list setting out what clothing is required and the cost. The list and costing should be submitted to a manager for approval.</p>	£200.00 Max	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds
Clothing Allowance	The clothing allowance can be paid weekly, monthly or quarterly and can be paid directly to the young person or spent by the social worker or support worker with the young person. The arrangements for providing and spending the clothing allowance should be set out in the young person's pathway plan and placement plan and should be dependent on an assessment of need.	£10.00 per week	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds

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Additional Support

Area	Commentary	Amount	
Luggage	Luggage – all young people moving to independence or between placements must have appropriate personal luggage. At least two items of appropriate personal luggage.	£50.00	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Consultation with Young People	Payments to young people who undertake consultation exercises should always be paid in the form of vouchers. Expenses related to enabling young people to participate in consultation exercise will be provided following an assessment of need.	£10.00 per consultation	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
The CORE	Each 'Preparation for Independence Group' will have a budget to enable personal advisers/young people to purchase ingredients and refreshments aimed at enabling participants to develop budgeting, cooking and independent living skills. Each 'Drop-In' session will have a £20.00 budget to enable young people to have access to refreshments and to facilitate a 'cooking activity'. Those for 16/17 year olds must be authorised by a Service Manager.	£20.00 £20.00	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Emergency Payments	In emergency situations Blackpool Children's Services staff will refer the young person to the Discretionary Scheme in the first instance by supporting with an online application. This should also be completed where a young person states that they have no food as food parcels are available. Where this is not successful Blackpool Children's Services will support financially and this is inclusive of food/ utilities/toiletries etc. Where the Team Manager agrees to support financially in an emergency the young person should be supported to purchase any agreed items required. Where a higher amount is required young people must have completed money management and budgeting sessions before the Service Manager will authorise.	£15.00 (max)	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+

Subsistence	Following an assessment of need the social worker or personal advisor can purchase refreshments to enable a structured Key Working Session. Other council premises with café facilities should be considered for these sessions. Alternatively social workers and/or personal advisors can purchase ingredients and prepare a meal with the young person as part of key work sessions and preparation for independence support.	£6.00 for young person	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+
Exceptional Needs payments	Where appropriate and following an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services may provide funds for exceptional needs as a one off payment. These payment have to be agreed be a Service Manager.	£0.00	Relevant and Eligible 16 & 17 year olds Former Relevant young people 18+

Sick or Disabled and/or Special Needs

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Local Authority Maintenance Allowance	Sick and disabled young people are able to claim means tested benefits and therefore they do not receive the majority of the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance as their welfare benefits are providing to cover these areas. LCMA, Clothing Allowance and Leisure Allowance will cease for this group of young people.	£0.00	
Welfare Benefits	Young people (looked after and care leavers) aged 16 and 17, either Section 31 (Care Order) or Section 20 (Accommodated) who are incapable of work due to ill-health (deemed Sick and Disabled by the DWP) are eligible to claim Employment & Support Allowance from their 16 th birthday. This includes young people living in foster care and residential care. It can also include those aged 16 and above who are undertaking education. Being in receipt of a Disability Living Allowance/ Personal Independence Payment at the higher rate makes claiming E&SA more straight forward. Young people should be supported and assisted to claim their full benefit entitlement.	£0.00	

	Due to having an entitlement to welfare benefits and when the young person is in receipt of these benefits the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance and Clothing Allowance will cease. All other allowances remain.		
Travel	Depending on an assessment of need sick and disabled young people may be exempt from the three month in education, training or employment condition. See Page 16		
Special Needs Costs	Blackpool Children's Services will assist young people to access services to meet their special needs and depending on the outcome, may assist in providing resources to address an identified need. Funding above £100.00 will require authorisation from the Service Manager.	£100.00	
Disabled Student's Allowances	<p>Disabled Students' Allowances are grants to help meet the extra course costs students can face as a direct result of a disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. They are aimed at helping disabled students to study on an equal basis with other students. Full-time, part-time and postgraduate students can apply for Disabled Students' Allowances. The amount awarded is not dependent on household income. Disabled Students' Allowances are paid on top of the standard student finance package, and do not have to be paid back.</p> <p>What they are for - Disabled Students' Allowances can help with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist equipment needed for studying – e.g., computer software • A non-medical helper, such as a note-taker or reader • Extra travel costs because of a disability • Other costs - for example, tapes or Braille paper <p>Eligibility Young people with a disability can apply if they are doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full-time course that lasts at least one year (including a distance-learning course) • A part-time course that lasts at least one year and doesn't take more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course (can include an Open University or other distance-learning course) <p>Checking if eligibility for student finance:</p>	Government Grant	

	To apply for financial help through Disabled Students' Allowances, both the young person and their course must be eligible. It's worth checking this before application. Information is available at: https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview		
Welfare Benefits for Lone Parents & sick and disabled young people in further education over 21	The majority of young people over the age of 21 who undertake full time further education courses are ineligible for welfare benefits such as Income Support and Housing Benefit. Certain limited groups of young people over the age of 21 such as lone parents and sick and disabled young people, who undertake further education courses, may remain eligible for welfare benefits. If a young person is entitled to welfare benefits (Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits) he/she is not eligible for Blackpool's further education support as this is intended to replicate family and/or welfare benefit support. Young people will be able to access one-off fees and equipment grants.		

Young people who are detained

Where Eligible or Relevant Children and young people are detained in hospital or custody Blackpool Children's Services have made provisions to ensure some financial support to this vulnerable group. For more detailed information in relation to legal status and how this changes when a young person is detained please refer to Blackpool's Safeguarding Children in Custody Policy and Procedures. https://blackpoolchildcare.proceduresonline.com/p_lac_yp_youth.html

When a young person is detained in hospital or custody the majority of their financial allowances are suspended. Where a young person is detained in Youth Detention Accommodation (YDA) there may be establishment rules in relation to finances and best practice would see the social worker/personal advisor establishing what these are at the point of sentence or remand. As a general rule, where young people engage in education, training and employment they are provided with 'pocket money' for example in Wetherby YOI Blackpool's main establishment up to £2.50 can be earned in a week.

Adult Prisoners taking part in work or education are paid a weekly amount which varies according to the job or course they are doing. This, any money that they had with them on arrival to prison, and money they have been sent by family and friends, is held by the prison in a personal account. The amount they can spend weekly varies according to their privilege and if they are convicted or on remand. The standard weekly allowance for a convicted prisoner is £15. The links below are helpful websites to visit to learn more.

<https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ForPrisonersFamilies/PrisonerInformationPages/Moneyinprison>

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Clothing Allowance	Most establishments provide clothing to prisoners. In those facilities that house adult prisoners they may be able to take clothing with them. Where there is a need for clothing the Service Manager will make a decision as to whether this is appropriate and authorise the required amount.	Up to £40.00 per month	Where a young person is in touch with the service
Weekly Allowance	Where, in exceptional circumstances, there is no Education, training or work opportunities and no pocket money or remuneration scheme exists young people will be provided with finances.	£10.00 per week	Where a young person is in touch with the service
Birthdays and Religious Festivals	This allowance will continue to be paid and depending on the rules of the establishment it will either go into the young person's account or be retained until their release. This allowance can only be authorised by a Service Manager when provided with a rationale for either option.	£ - See page 17	
Detained in Hospital	Young people who are detained in hospital will be provided with a weekly allowance as well as the standard leaving care clothing allowance	£15.00 per week £40.00 per month	Where a young person is in touch with the service
Setting Up Home	This allowance will still be available for young people upon their release	£1550.00	
Exceptional Needs Payment	Where a young person has been detained for 6 months or more an exceptional needs payment should be considered for clothing as part of their resettlement plan. This will need Service Manager authorisation when provided with a rationale	Up to £200.00	Where a young person is in touch with the service
Qualifying Children	On being sentenced Qualifying young people will only be in receipt of allowance outlined above following an assessment of need, parental situation as well as the remuneration issues laid out above. This will require Service Manager authorisation	£ - Variable	

Qualifying Children over 16

Section 24 (advice and assistance) of the Children Act 1989 [as amended by the Planning Transitions to Adulthood for Care Leavers 2010 (revised 2015) Guidance and the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010](revised 2015) covers 'Qualifying Young People'.

Depending on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Services have a responsibility to provide practical and financial support and assistance to Qualifying Children and Young People over 16. Individual young people may be given practical support and financial assistance (*Children Act 1989 (Section 24A (5)) and Section 24B*) with

priority being given to support relating to education, training and employment opportunities. Leaving care personal advisers should assist young people to maximise financial support available from employment, benefits and education allowances and opportunities.

Blackpool Children's Social Care has a duty to provide vacation accommodation, or the means to secure it, to any care leaver qualifying for advice and assistance, who is between the ages of 16 and 25, who is in higher education or in residential further education and who needs it.

Depending on an assessment of need Qualifying Children and Young People may require, and should be provided with the same level of service as Eligible, Relevant or Former Relevant young people.

See Para 2.6 to 2.11 Page 15 & 16. Para 8.43 to 8.51 Page 84 & 85. Volume 3: Planning Transitions to adulthood for care leavers

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/397649/CA1989_Transitions_guidance.pdf

Young People Deemed Qualifying Children and Young People Over 16

- Young people aged 16 & 17 who are subject to a Special Guardianship Order
- Young people aged 18 to 21, or up to 25 who were previously subject to a Special Guardianship Order.
 - The young person must have been looked after immediately prior to the making of the Special Guardianship Order.
- Young people who were privately fostered
- Young people who were looked after for less than 13 weeks between their 14th and 18th birthdays, but for at least 24 hours aged 16 or 17.
- Young people who returned home and are subject to a Section 31 Care Order and were looked after for a minimum of 13 weeks (age 14 or 15) become an 'Eligible' child on reaching their 16th birthday (if still looked after). If they live at home successfully for 6 months or more and their care order is revoked they become Qualifying on the revocation of their order.
 - If the arrangement at home breaks down before the age of 18, they automatically become 'Relevant' children.
- Young people aged 16 or 17 who are deemed 'Eligible' and are accommodated under Section 20 cease to be looked after and become 'Relevant' children on returning to parents or those with parental responsibility. After a stable and settled six month period as 'Relevant' children this group become Qualifying.
 - If the arrangement at home breaks down before the age of 18, they automatically revert to being 'Relevant' children.
- Young people subject to respite care arrangements do not become Eligible or Relevant even where their period of being looked after exceeds 13 weeks between their 14th and 18th birthday. The respite periods must all be planned periods with no individual period exceeding 4 weeks. This group are deemed Qualifying.

Provision for young people up to the age of 25 – including where they return to Education

Access to financial support will always be dependent on an assessment of the young person's financial circumstances and access to the money management course or appropriate advice/guidance. Where appropriate; young people will be provided with practical support to help them access education, training or

benefits funding, rather than with the provision of direct grants. The level of practical support and financial support should be set out within the young person's pathway plan and highlight any conditionality to the support being provided.

Area	Commentary	Amount	Eligibility
Accessing Education, Training, Voluntary/Positive Activities	Young people aged 18 to 25 who are undertaking a full time education, training course or voluntary activity (12 hours education/training/voluntary activity) and who are not entitled to a 16 to 19 Bursary will be entitled to a weekly support from Blackpool Children's Services.	£10.00 incentive – weekly £15.50 weekly bus pass	
Further Education	<p>From the age of 18 to the academic year following their 21st birthday, care leavers who are 'estranged from their families' and who are studying full time (12 hours or more of 'guided learning') can Universal Credit on the grounds of being in 'Relevant Education'. Young people can start or change courses at any point up until their 21st birthday.</p> <p>Where young people aged 21 to 25 wish to resume or commence education or training and have ceased to be supported by the Children Looked After and Leaving Care Service the following principles apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people should resume contact via the Duty Officer • Young people will be provided with support and services following an Assessment of Need • The Assessment of Need will consider the young person's motivation for undertaking the chosen education/training activity and the commitment to the activity • The Assessment of Need will consider what resources may be available to the young person and will assist in maximising universal provision, for example college bursaries and learner support funds, welfare benefits and nursery vouchers and childcare support • Blackpool Children's Services will consider making individual grants towards the chosen activity which will range from paying enrolment and exam fees and making specific equipment and study grants. • Young people aged 21 to 25 who are undertaking courses of less than 16 hours of 'guided learning' (part time) may be eligible to claim Universal Credit if they have a 'low income'. It is advisable to check with Job Centre Plus regarding the circumstances of individual young people. 	Up to £300.00 per year	
Apprenticeships	The majority of apprenticeships are classed as employment with a study component. These types of apprenticeships are generally secured by young people gaining employment with a company or		

	<p>organisation that is a registered apprenticeship provider. The young person is employed and also undertakes a study component towards a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) ▪ Technical Certificate ▪ Functional Skills (Mathematics, English) ▪ Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS) ▪ ERR (Employment Rights and Responsibilities) Workbook <p>National Minimum Wage for their age and can be found on www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates</p> <p>If the apprenticeship is deemed employment, the young person would not be covered by the age 21-25 Education and Training Care Leaver entitlements.</p>		
Traineeships and Programme Led Apprenticeships	<p>These types of traineeships and apprenticeships are provided by a training provider or college, with work experience provided at the establishment site, and are therefore deemed education/training rather than employment. In general young people aged 22 to 25 undertaking education or training will not be able to access benefits (unless they are parents or have a disability). Young people undertaking these courses are eligible for the 21-25 Education and Training Care Leaver entitlements, subject to an assessment of need and the conditions above being met.</p>	Please see page 7	
Higher Education	Please refer to page 8		
Post Graduate Grant	<p>Blackpool Children's Social Care will assist young people to identify financial support and resources to undertake post graduate courses. Generally, vocational post graduate courses are funded by secondment from an employer, or by individual universities providing a bursary to cover course/tuition fees and expenses.</p> <p>The Grant is provided as a single amount regardless of the type, or length of the post graduate course (MA, MSc, and MPhil, PhD). Payment is dependent on young people remaining in touch with Blackpool Children's Services and providing personal contact details and course contact details. In the first instance the Grant should be used to cover fees, if fees have been provided the Grant should be used for equipment and/or living expenses. If used for fees the Grant will be paid to the course provider. If used for equipment, payment will be made following agreement on the course equipment requirements. If used for living expenses the grant will be paid in instalments over the length of the course. All arrangements should be based on an assessment of need and be set out in the pathway plan.</p>	Up to £3,500	
Other Financial Support linked to ETE	<p>Where appropriate, and dependent on an assessment of need, Blackpool Children's Social Care may provide assistance for specific grants and one off payments to young people who are studying, for items such as books and equipment.</p>		

Aged 21-25 and returning to the Local Authority	Young people are entitled to resume or continue a leaving care service from the age of 21 to 25 on request. The primary purpose of the support from age 21 to 25 is to provide continuity and on-going practical support and guidance. Where young people require financial support personal advisers will assist the young person to identify universal sources of financial support to enable young people to be self-sustaining. In very exceptional circumstances and following an assessment of need, a request for financial support will be considered. The assessment and request will be considered by a Service Manager	£ Variable	
Birthday Allowance and Religious Festivals	Where young people are engaged in a designated and agreed program of education or training, the Christmas/Festival allowance will continue until the completion of the education/training being undertaken on the 21 st birthday. The same principles around purchasing a gift remain in place.	£25.00	

For more information and guidance please refer to:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683701/Extending_Personal_Adviser_support_to_all_care_leavers_to_age_25.pdf

Provision of young people aged 16 & 17 who are Homeless (and not Looked After)

When a young person aged 16 or 17 finds themselves in a position where they are homeless Children's Social Care and Housing will complete a Joint assessment and a Child and Family Assessment. Where the assessment concludes that the best course of action for the young person is the Housing Route they will have access to the following financial support:

A young person who is accommodated under Part 7 of the Housing Act will be eligible for welfare benefits, including the Local Housing Allowance.

16 and 17 year olds can also apply for the discretionary scheme. The Discretionary award can help with the provision of:

- Beds
- Bedding
- Provision of heating appliances
- Some essential domestic appliances/cookware
- Essential domestic furniture

Where it is assessed as being required, young people can access a Setting up Home Allowance of up to **£1550.00**. Accessing this resource will be supported by Targeted Intervention Services (BYPS) and it to be spent on making their first independent accommodation a home.

The allowance is to be spent in stages to support this transition; initially on a semi-independent setting (where required) and subsequently, on independent accommodation. The allowance will always be spent collaboratively between the BYPS practitioner and young person. Any additional requests for spend on top of the setting up home allowance will be considered on a case by case basis, in line with a young person's assessment and plan, and at the discretion of a Service Manager.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children

Care leavers who are also unaccompanied asylum seeking children are entitled to the same allowances as any other care leaver. Allowances to this group of young people may be affected and limited, however, because of their immigration status. When developing Pathway Plans with Eligible and Relevant (UASC) particular attention must be paid to their immigration status and contingency plans developed which take account of their possible status options at the of age eighteen.

Department for Education guidance highlights that pathway planning for the majority of UASC who do not have permanent immigration status should initially take a dual or triple planning perspective, which, over time should be refined as the young person's immigration status is resolved.

Planning may be based on:

- a transitional plan during the period of uncertainty when the young person is in the United Kingdom without permanent immigration status;
- longer term perspective plan in the United Kingdom should the young person be granted long term permission to stay (for example through the grant of Refugee Status); or
- a return to their country of origin at any appropriate point or at the end of the immigration consideration process, should that be necessary because the young person decides to leave the UK or is required to do so.

Area	Commentary	Amount
Family Contact	Following an assessment of need Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children may be provided with a weekly phone card/allowance.	£5.00
Travel Documents	Children's Services will purchase a travel document for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children dependent on an assessment of need. For children under 18 applying to be a Citizen including costs please follow: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fees-for-citizenship-applications/fees-for-citizenship-applications-and-the-right-of-abode-from-6-april-2018 Children's Services will contribute 50% of the cost; and the young person will be expected to contribute the remaining 50% (depending on an assessment of need). In addition, young people will need to undertake a B1 English Test, a Life in the UK	£ - varied

	Test and pay 'Document Checking Fee. Children's Services will contribute 50% of the cost; and the young person will be expected to contribute the remaining 50 depending on an assessment of need. For up to date amounts please follow: https://www.britishcitizenship.org/british-naturalisation-fees-costs/	
Child Care Costs	The majority of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children who have applied for asylum and have an initial decision such as Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave can apply for a Care to Learn Fund grant.	Government Scheme
Higher Education Grant	Blackpool Children's Services will provide a Higher Education Grant to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people only if all of the following circumstances are met: a) they have been offered a higher education place b) Student Finance England have award them a loan and/or grant c) they are classified as a home student.	£ - please see page ??
Welfare Benefits	Young people must apply to extend their leave to remain at least two months before their immigration leave status expires. If this task is completed by a young person's eighteenth birthday and they have proof that the Home Office has received their application the young person is eligible to apply for benefits. Personal Advisors should obtain a letter from the young person's solicitor that includes details of the young person's immigration status; the date of the application to extend the leave to remain was submitted. There solicitor submits the renewal/extension by recorded post. The recorded post item will have a tracking number that can be used to verify that the Home Officer received the application. The letter from the solicitor and a print out of the post office tracking statement should be submitted with the young person's benefit claim.	

Commented [LB1]:

For more information in relation to migrant children and their eligibility for support please see:

<https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/resources/leaving-care-support-fact-sheet/>

Failed Asylum Seekers aged 18 to 21/25

Former Relevant Children

Where young people have an immigration status that means they have permission to work and/or have recourse to public funds they will be expected to be working or claiming benefits like other Former Relevant Children. Additionally, Blackpool Children's Social Care will apply all of the aspects of the Former Relevant Children section of the leaving care financial policy with some exceptions to the Higher Education and Further Education sub-section.

Where young people have:

- limited leave to remain;
- exceptional leave to remain;
- (are) appealed an adverse decision;

they are only eligible for a Blackpool Children’s Social Care Higher Education Grant for higher education courses that finish in the academic year prior to their status expiring.

Blackpool Children’s Social Care will provide a Higher Education Grant to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people only if all of the following circumstances are met:

- a) they have been offered a higher education place
- b) Student Finance England have award them a loan and/or grant
- c) they are classified as a home student.

Blackpool Children’s Social Care will work with education establishments and training providers to ensure that young people who have limited leave to remain have access to purposeful activities such as short education courses, training opportunities and courses and voluntary activities.

Where asylum seeking young people:

- have lodged an asylum application, but do not have an initial decision;
- have no recourse to public funds;
- are all rights exhausted;

they will not be eligible for higher education funding.

Consideration will be given to supporting young people with short term universal access courses that provide enhanced education and training skills.

Young people who have exhausted all ‘avenues and rights’ regarding appealing an adverse asylum decision, and/or are unable to extend their exceptional leave to remain, and/or lose access to public funds and the right to work are deemed ‘end of line cases’ or ‘all appeal rights exhausted’ cases (at this point the young person will usually receive a removal directions notice).

Where young people lose access to welfare benefits and are deemed ‘end of line cases’ or ‘all appeal rights exhausted’ case Blackpool Children’s Social Care will provide an allowance commensurate with benefits following the completion of a Human Rights Assessment. This allowance can continue to be paid until the removal date or the young person’s 21st birthday (or the end of their education course following their 21st birthday) whichever comes first. In addition, the provision of an allowance and accommodation is dependent on the young person remaining in contact with their personal adviser and actively engaging in the pathway planning process. *(See London Borough of Barking and Dagenham [2010] EWCA Civ 1101 - Case Law)*

Also see – Children’s Asylum Claims and Funding to Local Authorities Financial Year 2019/20:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/650514/children_s-asylum-claims-v2_0.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806813/UASC_funding_instructions_to_local_authorities_2019_to_2020.pdf

Guidance on the Provision of Financial Support to Children aged 16 or 17 who are A) Placed with Parents, or B) Return to Live with Parents in a Planned, or Unplanned Manner

Principles:

- Wherever possible, parents should be financially responsible for their own children and should not be funded by the local authority to support their own children.
- Where financial allowances are provided to parents, these should not create inequalities with other siblings and children within the family/household who have not been looked after.

Placement with Parents – Children Reaching the Age of 16 Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order

The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010 (revised 2015) and associated Guidance sets out that the Responsible Local Authority is required to assess and meeting the needs, including the financial needs of an ‘Eligible’ child.

Her Majesties Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Guidance sets out that where a child aged 16 or 17 is resident with a parent and is undertaking full-time education or training, the parent will normally be eligible for child benefit. As a result of being eligible for child benefit, the parent should also be eligible for child tax credit and/or working tax credit (depending on income), and any benefits arising from a child’s disability. Where a child is placed with a parent, a transitional payment equivalent to the level of child benefit and child tax credit/working tax credit that a parent would be entitled to will be provided for a period of up to six weeks. On average it takes four to six weeks to establish a child benefit and child tax credit and/or working tax credit claim.

Transitional payment example:

Child benefit equivalent - £20.70 or £13.70 (second child)

Child tax credit:

Child element - £53.46 £53.46

Total Paid – 6 weeks maximum £74.64 or £67.16

For a parent to be eligible for child benefit and tax credits no part of the child's accommodation or maintenance costs should be met by the local authority, as such Children's Services should set a date to cease any transitional payments. The date to cease financial support should be set at a point between four and six weeks after a placement with a parent or a return home.

Child benefit can continue, or be reinstated if a child is residing with a parent on a regular basis, generally on at least 2 nights per week from Monday to Sunday or is home for a complete week. – HMRC Guidance.

Where a child was placed with a parent/s prior to their 16th birthday a review of the financial support for the child and parent/s must take place when the child becomes an 'Eligible' child. The review must be undertaken within the framework of the Leaving Care Assessment of Need.

The majority of 'Eligible' children will be living in foster care, residential care or, in a placement deemed 'Other Arrangements'. The financial support provided to the child will be set out in the fostering financial policy, residential financial policy and leaving care financial policy.

In situations where a child aged 16 & 17 is placed with a parent or returns home to live with a parent and is not engaged in any education or training, the leaving care financial policy provides guidance on the provision of any allowances.

In circumstances where the child is living with a parent/s and the Care/Pathway Plan is focused on revoking the Care Order, or Interim Care Order, both the assessment of, and financial support should be based on assisting the transition to parental financial support and for the child to enter/resume or continue education or training.

The primary aim of leaving care financial support for 16 & 17 year olds is to enable young people to prepare for independent living and develop money management skills. As such, each young person should have an assessment of their individual leaving care financial needs and any subsequent allowance provided to those not in education or training should be provided to the young person in a manner that assists with the development of these skills and a return to education or training.

Young people placed with parents who are not engaged in education or training should therefore be provided with the standard Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance of £59.70 per week (2018-2019).

In order to avoid any inequalities within the family by the provision of leaving care support, an assessment must be undertaken regarding the need for supplementary allowances, i.e. those in addition to the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance. For example, where there are children in the family who have not been looked after, it may be inappropriate to provide any allowances other than the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance if these allowances create disparities, inequalities and potentially undermine parenting responsibilities.

The provision of a leaving care birthday allowance for one child would potentially create an inequality if other family members do not receive a similar allowance, as such, the leaving care birthday allowance should not be provided and parents therefore take responsibility for the level of all birthday allowances to their children. The assessment of, and the reason behind this decision should be made using the guidance contained in this document and should be set out in the young person's Care/Pathway Plan.

When developing a Care/Pathway Plan for a young person placed with parent/s or living with a parent/s who is not engaged in education or training, consideration should be given to whether the young person should provide a percentage of their Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance to their parent/s as a contribution to living costs. The level of the contribution should be set out in the young person's Care/Pathway Plan. For example, it may be appropriate that the young person retain an amount equivalent to the fostering pocket money and clothing allowance elements i.e. £12.00 pocket money and £20.00 clothing allowance and provide a contribution to the parent of £25.90 per week.

In circumstances where a contribution has been set and the young person does not make the necessary contribution, the amount set can be deducted from the young person's Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance and paid directly to the parent/s.

As noted above, there is an obligation on the local authority to provide financial assistance to young people leaving care that would normally fall on parents, and/or on the welfare benefit system. Being an Eligible or Relevant child not engaged in education or training (regardless of them being placed at home) disqualifies parents from welfare benefits/tax credits/universal credit. In situations where the child is not engaged in education or training, the leaving care finance policy should be used as the framework for the provision of allowances to the child and/or parent).

The majority of Eligible or Relevant children, regardless of being engaged in education or training are disqualified from welfare benefits/tax credits/universal credit, with the exception of sick and disabled children and children who are also lone parents.

In circumstances where a care leaver aged 16 or 17 (not engaged in education or training) is placed/living with a parent who is in receipt of a welfare benefit/tax credit/universal credit. The difference between the young person's Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance and the level of the welfare benefit/tax credits/universal credit that the parent would be entitled to in respect of that child, (if they were not an Eligible or Relevant child) can be provided directly to the parent/s. This would only apply to a child not engaged in education or training.

Care Order Revocations and Ceasing Financial Allowances

Where an 'Eligible' child has lived with a person with parental responsibility for at least 6 months and they cease to be looked after, due to the revocation of the Care Order, or Interim Care Order. They become a 'Qualifying' child (a Qualifying child is a 16 to 21/24 year old subject to Section 24 of the Children Act 1989). The 6 month period living with parents that is required to be deemed a Qualifying child, can include time both prior to and after the revocation of the Care Order.

Welfare benefit legislation relating to 'Qualifying' children sets out that both parents and children are entitled to welfare benefits/tax credits/universal credit in their own right.

'Qualifying' child status does not have any impact on either the child, or parents benefit or tax credit entitlements. Once a child is deemed a 'Qualifying' child and following a financial re-assessment of their financial needs, the majority, if not all, of the leaving care financial support being provided should cease. The primary responsibility for meeting a 'Qualifying' child's financial needs rests with the parent/s.

The detailed financial and practical arrangements to support the child and parent should be set out in the Care/Pathway Plan and Placement Plan. The level of the leaving care financial support should be based on an assessment of need and set out in the Care/Pathway Plan.

Placement with Parents – Children aged 16 or 17 Subject to Care Order or Interim Care Order Being Placed with Parent/s

In circumstances where, following an assessment of suitability, it is deemed appropriate to place a child with a parent/s at the age of 16 or 17, the assessment of financial support to the child and parent should be completed prior to the placement being made and should be set out in the Care/Pathway Plan and Placement Plan.

The principles and financial approach set out above in section 1, i.e. the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance being provided to the young person (if not engaged in education or training), and, an assessment of the need for any additional allowances being undertaken to consider the types and level of financial support to be provided should be followed. The Care/Pathway Plan should be used to evidence and explain the level of, and the types of financial support to be provided.

Children aged 16 & 17 Accommodated Under Section 20 Returning to Live with a Parent/s in a Planned Manner who Cease to be Looked After and Become 'Relevant' children

In circumstances where it is deemed appropriate for a child to return to a parent/s at the age of 16 or 17, following an assessment of suitability, the evaluation of financial support to the child and/or parent should be completed prior to the child returning to the parent/s. On the child returning to the parent/s the child becomes a 'Relevant' child. Where the young person is undertaking an education or training activity, financial responsibility should transfer to the parent as set out in section 1. Transitional financial support will be provided for a period of four to six weeks.

In circumstances where a young person (subject to section 20) aged 16 & 17 returns to live with a parent, agreement to, and approval of the ceasing to be looked after must be sought from the Director of Children's Services - Regulation 39.

In circumstances where the 'Relevant' child is living with a parent/s as part of planned return to a parent/s, both the assessment of, and financial support should focus on assisting the transition to parental financial support. The principles set out above in section 1 should be used to assess the type and level of financial

support. The Pathway Plan should be used to evidence and explain the level of, and the types of financial support to be provided (for those not engaged in education or training).

Where a child remains living with a parent/s for six months (after a planned return) the child's status changes from a 'Relevant' child to that of 'Qualifying' child. Once a child becomes a 'Qualifying' child, both parent/s and child are entitled to claim welfare benefits/tax credits like other parents/children. See above section.

Once a child is deemed a 'Qualifying' child and following a financial re-assessment of their financial needs, the majority, if not all of the leaving care financial support being provided should cease. The primary responsibility for meeting a 'Qualifying' child's financial needs rests with the parent/s.

Children Subject to a Care Order or Interim Care Order Returning to a Parent/s Against the Assessment of the Child's Needs and the Wishes of the Local Authority

Social workers will need to undertake an assessment and risk assessment of the appropriateness of the child remaining with the parent/s where the child has returned to a parent/s against the wishes of the authority and follow due procedure.

Financial support should only be provided to the child in line with the Leaving Care Finance policy. No payment or any percentage of the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance should be made to the parent/s until it is deemed an authorised placement with parent/s.

The Pathway Plan and the provision of financial support should focus on positive engagement or re-engagement with the child.

Children Accommodated Section 20 Returning to a Parent/s Against the Assessment of the Child's Needs and the Wishes of the Local Authority

Social workers will need to undertake an assessment and risk assessment of the appropriateness of the child remaining with the parent/s where the child has returned to a parent/s against the wishes of the authority and follow due process. A statutory review should take place to approve the decision to cease the child's Section 20 status. In circumstances where a young person (subject to section 20) aged 16 & 17 returns to live with a parent, agreement to, and approval of the ceasing to be looked after must be sought from the Director of Children's Services – Regulation 39.

Financial support should only be provided to the child in line with the Leaving Care Finance policy (where the young person is not engaged in education or training). No payment or any percentage of the Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance should be made to the parents until it is deemed appropriate for the 'Relevant' child to remain living with the parent/s.

The Pathway Plan and the provision of financial support should focus on positive engagement or re-engagement with the child.

Summary

In essence, financial support to 16 and 17 year olds living at home should be provided by parents:

- where a child/young person is engaged in an education or training activity, the parent/parents are entitled to claim child benefit/child tax credits;

- where children/young people are not engaged in education or training the guidance above and the leaving care finance policy provides the framework for the provision of allowances.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Award Payments

The rules on Criminal Injuries Compensation Award (C.I.C.A.) payments allow a young person a 52 week 'grace period' regarding eligibility for means tested benefits after receipt of the award. The following guidance should still be followed.

Housing Benefit, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance and Universal Credit legislation sets out that a C.I.C.A. payment is disregarded in terms of calculating benefit entitlement for the first 52 weeks after receipt of the award.

Young people who receive a C.I.C.A. payment should be assisted to seek independent financial advice regarding establishing a Discretionary Trust Fund. Additionally, young people should be made aware of the implications of the C.I.C.A. payment for any benefit claim they may make after the 52 week disregard period. Young people should visit the Citizen's Advice Bureau and choose an independent solicitor and financial adviser to explore opportunities to use their award in a positive manner.

Generally, young people will receive their C.I.C.A. payment on their eighteenth birthday. If young people establish a 'Discretionary Trust Fund' prior to, or within 52 weeks of receiving their payment they continue to be eligible for benefits. Establishing a 'Discretionary Trust Fund' results in their award payment being 'tied up' until they reach the age of 21.

If a C.I.C.A. award has not been placed in a Trust Fund, or used after 52 weeks the following will apply; if the award was less than £6000.00 it will not affect a claim for benefit. If the award is between £6000.00 and £16,000.00, it will result in a reduced benefit payment and an award of over £16,000.00 will disqualify a young person from benefit. Strict benefit rules apply in regard to spending the award after the 52 week disregard period, consideration should be given to the DWP rules on the inappropriate disposal of 'capital'. It is important that young people are given independent advice regarding C.I.C.A. payments and that social workers/personal advisers are not responsible for choosing who gives advice.

Where a young person has been awarded a sum in compensation for a criminal injury, Children, Schools and Families is required to disregard that capital entirely. See page 62 para 4 - Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000 Guidance

Setting Up Home Allowance:

Blackpool Children's Services will provide each young person who is *Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant Children Aged 16 to 21, or until completion of an agreed program of education or training being undertaken on the young person's 21st birthday* with **£1550.00** to spend on making their first independent accommodation a home. This allowance will be spent in stages; initially on semi-independent setting needs (where required) and subsequently, on independent accommodation needs. The allowance will always be spent collaboratively between the personal adviser and young person. Original receipts should be retained by the personal adviser for audit purposes, reclaiming VAT and in case defective items need to be returned.

Area	Commentary	Amount
TV Licence	The first TV licence will be paid for by Blackpool Children's Services. Any subsequent ones will be paid for by the young person. A TV licence must be purchased before a television can be purchased.	£150.50 Non-transferable
Setting up home started pack	Coffee, tea, washing-up liquid, light bulbs, laundry and cleaning equipment, utility card/key top-up etc.	£60.00 Non-transferable
Removal and Transport Costs	This is a one off payment, however in exceptional circumstances this can be considered for a second move. This decision is to be made by the Service Manager	£110.00 Non-transferable
Contents Insurance	One year's contents insurance should be purchased up to the value of £9000 cover	£100.00 Non-transferable
White Goods connection	This is a one off payment for Cooker and Washing machine connection cost, however in exceptional circumstances this can be considered for a second move. This decision is to be made by the Service Manager	£110.00 Non-transferable
Carpet	Where a young person moves into a property that has no carpets and they are not supported by the Positive Transitions Model, Blackpool Children's Services will pay for rugs or carpets. This will require the authorisation of the Service Manager.	Up to £700.00

Any young person leaving care is eligible to use their Setting Up Home Allowance up until the age of 25 irrespective of whether they are in any further or higher educational provision. Whilst ideally this will be used with the young person upon leaving any supported accommodation and moving into their own home at 18 – 21. We understand that there can often be barriers i.e. being in custody and Staying Put Arrangements.