

Calderdale Pathways Leaving Care Service

Service guide and Local Offer for our young people



Your Local offer website:

www.calderdale.gov.uk/localoffer and select the leaving care section.

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“Welcome to your guide”

This guide tells you, as a young person who has been Looked After by Calderdale, about the support available to you now and in the future.

Who can help you?

Before you come to Pathways, your current Social Worker and your new Pathway Social Worker will work with you to support you to write and agree your Pathway Plan. They will work together for a while so you and your Pathway Social Worker can get to know each other. Once this has happened, your Pathway Social Worker will become your Social Worker. When you are 18 you will get a Pathway Adviser who will support you until you are 25.

Pathway Planning

All young people who are being Looked After by Calderdale Council aged 15 and over have a Pathway Plan. Your Pathway Plan will replace your Care Plan from the age of 15½. Your Pathway Plan is about your needs and what we all need to do to ensure you can achieve your dreams and ambitions and to become a successful adult. It also includes things like accommodation, budgeting, health and education, training and employment.

Did you know?

Your first Pathway Plan will be completed before you are 16 years old.

How will I be involved?

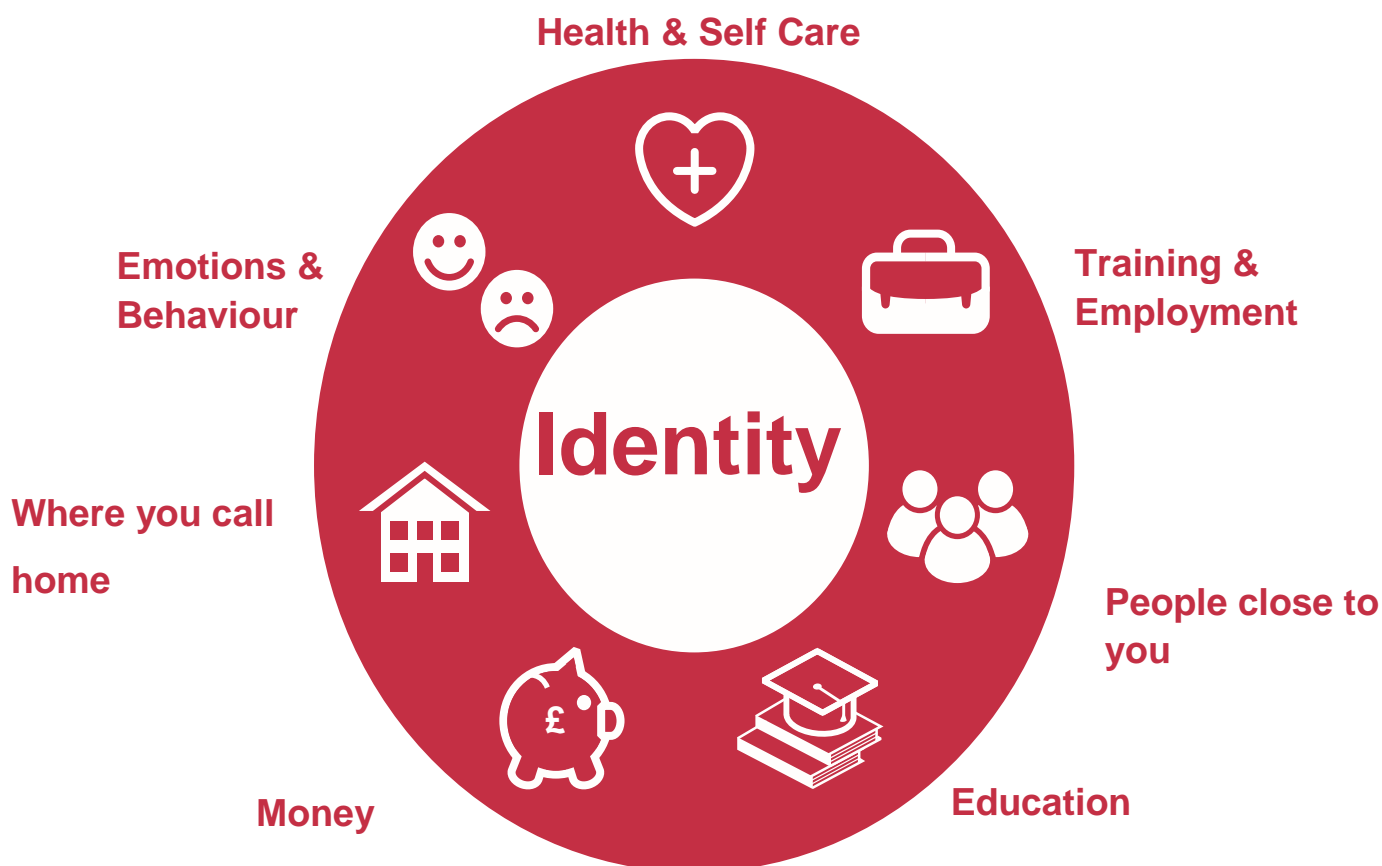
For your Pathway Plan to be successful, it will be based on an up to date needs assessment; setting out the support that will be offered to you to achieve your aspirations. We aim to fully involve you in the development of your Plan and you will be offered support to complete a Review Form for any updates.

Who else will be involved?

With your agreement, we will seek the views of our partner agencies when completing your Pathway Plan. This may include Housing, Education, Training and Employment providers, Health Services, The Youth Offending Service and Youth Support Services to ensure we all work together to provide you with clear and consistent advice and support. We will also involve carers and or parents if it is appropriate.

What will be included in my pathway plan?

The following diagram sets out some of the areas covered in your plan:



What about changes to my plan?

Your Pathway plan will then be updated and reviewed within every 6 months or within 28 working days of any significant change to your plan such as a change of address.

As a young person who is Looked After, your Pathway Plan will be written and available at your statutory review chaired by your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) - a review must take place before you reach the age of 18 in order to make a decision to confirm that you are ready to live independently.

For young people over 18, the review will be led by your Pathway Adviser and checked by their Team Manager.

Your entitlements

Did you know?

You can ask for a copy of the Financial Policy from your Pathway Adviser at anytime.

Living Allowances

Living Allowances

You will receive a Personal Allowance that will continue for up to 4 weeks after your 18th birthday to allow for any benefits you may be claiming to be processed (this will be adjusted if you are in employment.) The allowance will be paid at £40.00 per week.

For those who are in Employment, Education or Training (EET) or fully engaged in actively seeking EET opportunities a full allowance of £60.00 per week will be paid.

Living Allowance

Education Top Up and Tenancy Premium

If you are over 18 and in full time Further or Higher Education you will receive a Living Allowance £30.00 Education Top Up and £10.00 Tenancy Premium if you are in rented accommodation. The Education Top Up is paid one week in arrears and will not be paid during holidays or if you do not attend your course. You will have your accommodation costs fully met whilst in Higher Education.

If the course requires you to have a laptop we will contribute up to £250.00 towards the purchase price once you have established regular attendance for 3 months.

Suitable Accommodation costs

Rent for accommodation will be paid for those aged under 18 or over 19 years, in fulltime education and are unable to claim housing allowance including those in Higher Education. This will be agreed as part of their Pathway Plan.

Tenancy Top Up and College Bursary

If you are aged 16 to 17 living independently and in full time education for 12 hours or more per week, you will receive £10.00 per week tenancy top up. You will also be eligible for a £30.00 per week bursary paid by the college.

Tenancy Top Up and Apprenticeship allowance

If you are 16 to 20 years old, and on an apprenticeship, you will receive £20.00 per week top up allowance and if you are living independently an additional £10.00 tenancy top up.

Education

Degree or equivalent level course bursary

If you are studying a degree or equivalent course you will receive a total bursary of £2,000; £150.00 paid each academic year and £1,550.00 on completion of your degree

Birthday and festival allowance

Birthday and festival allowance aged 16 to 18 years

If you are aged 16 to 18 years you and will receive £150 birthday and festival allowance per event. Payments will be made to foster carers for young people under 18 years of age and directly to young people 18 and above. If the young person is aged between 16 and 17 and living independently the payment will be made directly to them.

A Birthday allowance for young people aged 19 to 21 years

You will receive £50 birthday allowance and the payment will be made directly to you.

Aged 19: £50

Aged 20: £50

Aged 21 £50

Clothing Allowance

Clothing Allowance

If you are 16 or 17 years old and living independently you will receive a clothing allowance of £100 every 3 months until you reach 18 years old – the first instalment is usually paid after 3 months from coming to Pathways Service.

Thereafter you will be expected to budget for replacement clothing you're your allowances, benefits or earnings and only in exceptional circumstances, will clothes/shoes be bought for you.

Other allowances

If you are eligible for a service and on remand or were cared for, prior to receiving a custodial sentence you will receive a small allowance whilst you are 16 or 17 years old

Each young person will be able to access up to a total maximum of £500 to support the following if required; this will be agreed with the Pathway Advisor as part of their Pathway Plan and will be reviewed on an annual basis

- Obtaining essential documents such as passport, birth certificate and provisional driving licence
- Support employability such as interview clothes, college equipment, uniform, stationary
- Driving lessons, travel costs for work activity, to pursue a special talent, sports, hobbies, cultural outings, access to leisure passes
- Other essential items as agreed in advance

Setting up Home Allowance



Every young person involved with Pathways has a Setting Up Home Allowance. This is a sum of money that can be used to help you secure a private rented tenancy and buy some essential items for your home.

What is included in the Setting Up Home Allowance

Your Setting Up Home Allowance will be held by the Pathway Service and your Social Worker or Personal Advisor will be able to purchase these items with you.

<p style="text-align: center;">Living room</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sofa TV TV Licence for the 1st year only</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Kitchen</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cooker* Washing machine Fridge/Fridge freezer Kettle Tea, Coffee & Sugar Cups/containers Plates and cutlery Pan Set and Oven Tray, Tea Towels</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bedroom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bed Base and Mattress Duvet & Duvet Cover and Pillows Chest of Drawers Wardrobe</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bathroom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shower Curtain Bath Mat Laundry Basket Towels</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Other items</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Home contents insurance Clock Mirror</p>	

* Gas or Electric with connection by a certified fitter

Staying safe in your home

With your agreement, your Social Worker/Personal Advisor will contact your local Fire Brigade to request a safety check for your property.

Please remember!

This is a set amount of money and needs to be spent carefully and wisely.

Somewhere to call home

How can you help me find somewhere I can call my home

If you are living with Foster Carers and want to remain living with them after you are 18 you can ask your Social Worker or Pathway Advisor to request that this is considered by Calderdale Council and made into a “Staying Put” arrangement.

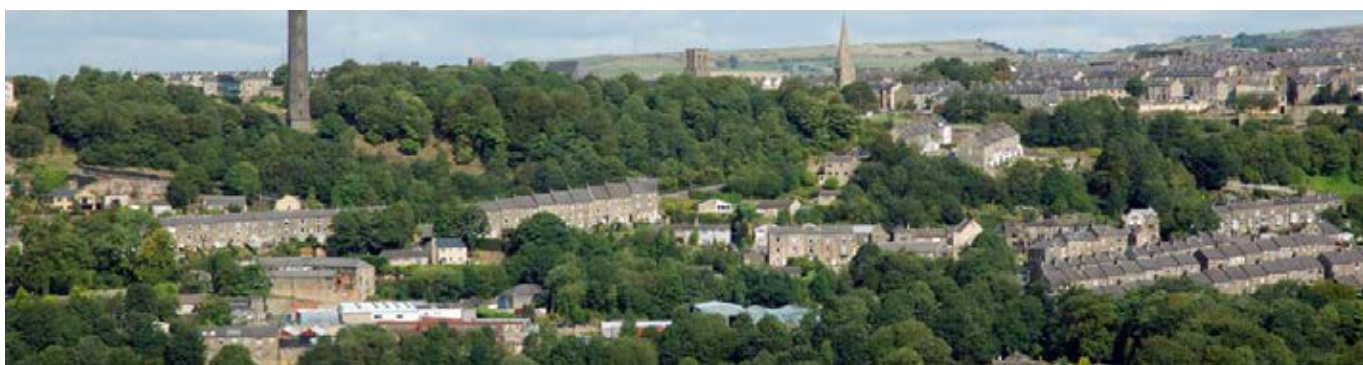
“Staying Put” arrangements could also be continued if you are attending Full Time Higher Education to ensure you have somewhere to stay during holidays.

As part of your preparation for adult life you will be supported to complete a Social Housing Application and/or to secure private rented accommodation in line with your wishes and your Pathway Plan. We will offer you support to make a housing benefit claim if you are on a low income or not in work.

It is important to note that young people under 22 are normally only entitled to rent payments equivalent to the cost of a room in a shared house. Because you are entitled to a service from Pathways and if you are between 18 and 25 can get the rate for 1-bedroom accommodation instead but once you turn 22 you can only get the shared accommodation amount. Bear this in mind if you are moving into a new home and think that you will continue to claim benefits after you are 22.

Because you are eligible for support from Pathways you may be entitled to Council Tax rebate or a reduction in council tax through Second Adult Rebate. Like Housing Benefit, you can qualify for Council Tax Benefit if you are not working or on a low income. If you have savings of over £16,000 you cannot normally get Council Tax Benefit.

All your benefit entitlements will need to be confirmed with the benefits agency and your Personal Advisor will be available to support you to attend appointments as required.



Further Education

How can you support me with my further education?

As a young person supported by the Pathway Team you may be able to get financial support of £1200 a year direct from your School, Further Education College or Learning Provider.

The 16-19 bursary is guaranteed for young people who are looked after and care leavers aged 16-19, and discretionary learner support can support older students.

The Pathways Team will provide a letter confirming your eligibility for financial support to your Education or Training provider but you may wish to talk to your School, College or learning provider to find out more.

Employment and Training

A significant concern raised by young people leaving care is that the focus is on preparing them for “a life in benefits”

Our priority is to support you with employment and training opportunities.

We will support you with training opportunities with local colleges and training providers and employment through our partnership with C & K Careers.

Calderdale Council runs an Apprenticeship scheme specifically for young people who are supported by the Pathway Service. Your Social Worker or Pathway Advisor will discuss these opportunities with you.

Some additional financial support may be available for training courses and apprenticeships which your Social Worker or Pathway Advisor will discuss with you.

Support and somewhere to meet

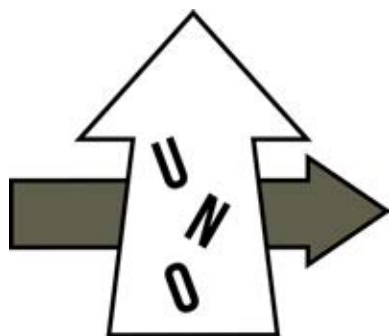


Getting On And Living – Independent Living

The GOAL Project brings together Care Experienced Young People to learn about the key skills and knowledge needed for 'Getting On And Living'. The project is designed to improve the skills, knowledge and confidence required for young care leavers to live independently. GOAL is unique as it has been created by Care Leavers who have been there, it is also taught by Care Leaver Mentors who bring their own experiences to share and inspire others. We have put together this toolkit to help you with 'Getting On And Living' (GOAL) with Independent Living and to help you to get on the pathway to achieving your dreams in life. Our care experienced trainer-mentors who deliver the training are here to support you. By the end of the course you will:

- Be more confident at approaching independent life and will
- demonstrate an increase in confidence in the self-evaluation assessment
- Will understand the importance of goal setting, showing that you can evaluate your progress based in your GOAL Outcome Star support sheets
- Able to identify and list your key areas for learning in life skills and demonstrate that you can apply the knowledge learnt appropriately by setting specific actions for ways forward

Upwards n Onwards - UnO



UPWARDS & ONWARDS...

UnO is a group created by young people for young people who are Looked After or Care Leavers. This group has been created to enable young people the opportunity to 'have their say' on the services provided by the Local Authority and help make the right changes, meet other young people, and have a space to relax.

The group meets once every two weeks on a Wednesday evening, 6pm-8pm; we are currently based at Youth Works in the Orange Box.

Benefits may be an option

What if I need to claim benefits?

When you become 18 years old your Personal Advisor will be available to support you to make a claim for Universal Credit. You can apply online at [Apply for Universal Credit - GOV.UK](#)

If you are in full time further education, your Personal Advisor will assist you to claim Income Support. You will need to be able to provide confirmation of your attendance from your education provider.

If you are ill or disabled your Social Worker or Personal Advisor will be able to support you to make a claim for Employment and Support Allowance and/or Personal Independence Payment. You can find out more by calling the Benefit Enquiry Line on Tel: 0800 88 22 00

If you are pregnant or a parent your Personal Advisor will be able to support you to claim Income Support, Maternity Allowance (dependent on previous employment), Healthy Start Vouchers, Child Benefit and Child Tax Credits.

Please note that as Universal Credit is rolled out by Job Centre Plus throughout 2016 this will impact on the benefits you claim. Your Personal Advisor will be available to support you through these changes.

You may wish to visit www.gov.uk for more information.

Help with your money

What if I still need financial advice and assistance?

If you are 18 or over you can ask the Pathways Service for financial help in emergencies. In very exceptional circumstances this will include small amounts of cash for specific items.

You can access further advice and assistance by requesting an appointment at your local Citizen's Advice Bureau.

You can visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk for details of your local office.

Our Pledge to you

Calderdale Council has made a commitment to supporting young people and all elected Councillors have signed the pledge.

Care Leavers Pledge Calderdale

This pledge is a commitment made by Calderdale Council, as corporate parents and grandparents, to our young people who have been looked after by the Council and who are aged 15 and a half and above and who are supported by the Pathways service. All the adults who work for and with the Council have

a responsibility to make sure that you are safe, healthy and achieving your goals. Calderdale promises that the people who work with you when you are leaving care, including Social Workers and Pathway Advisers will believe in you, listen to you, respect you and never give up on you.

We will:

- Help and support you to move on to independence
- Keep in touch with you regularly
- Work with you to find the right place for you to live and help you settle in
- Involve you when decisions are made and take on board your wishes and feelings
- Help you to get a good education and to get a good job
- Help you to stay healthy and happy
- Provide financial support to you when you are in education

prospects | Calderdale Council

Working together to support young people leaving care

Your Rights and Advocacy Service

The Children's Rights, Advocacy & Independent Visitor Service is for children and young people who are Looked After by Calderdale Council and also Care Leavers, aged 0-25years.

The service is part of the Calderdale Councils Young People's Service but it is not part of Calderdale Children's Care Service.

Children's Rights and Advocacy

We can

- Make sure you know what your rights are
- Tell you about other services that might be able to help you
- Help you sort out disagreements
- Help with something that you are unhappy about

If you feel that someone is making decisions about you without listening to what you have to say, an advocate can:

- Help your voice be heard
- Make sure that you are being treated fairly
- Support you in meetings
- Support you to have your say about things that affect you
- Help you understand what is happening and why
- Help you make a complaint
- Help you to speak out for yourself

Confidentiality

Everything you tell us will be kept confidential. The only time we will pass on anything you say is:

- If you ask us to
- If we think that you or another person is at risk
- If we are concerned that a crime may be committed

Accessibility

Children's Rights Advocacy & Independent Visitor Service can be contacted Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm. Visits / appointments can take place outside of these times by prior arrangement.

How to contact us:

Tel: 01422 288251 or Email us: CRAADMIN@calderdale.gov.uk

People who can help

Pathways Leaving Care Team

19 Horton Street, Halifax, HX1 1QE

Tel: 01422 394099

Email: PathwaysService@calderdale.gov.uk

Customer First

Email: customerfirst@calderdale.gov.uk

Tel: 01422 288001 or 0845 2458000

Out of Hours Service: (EDT) Tel (emergencies only) 01422 288000

Housing:

Tel: 01422 264300 or 0845 245 6000

Job Seekers Allowance Online Application:

<https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance/how-to-claim> Tel: 0845 6060 234

National Care Advisory Service:

<http://www.leavingcare.org> Email: ncas@catch22.org.uk Tel: 020 7336 4824

Citizens Advice Bureau:

<http://www.calderdalecab.org.uk>

Shelter: www.shelter.org.uk Tel: 03445 152315

Refugee Action:

Tel: 0800 917 2719 (free from landlines)

Normal landline rate

Tel: 0161 441 4141

General Enquiries:

23-37 Edge Street, Manchester, M4 1HW Client Advice

Tel: 0161 831 5420

Legislation, Guidance and Regulations

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 is intended to improve support for looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and make provisions about the regulation of social workers.

The important changes for our young people leaving care are:

Section 1 introduces seven principles of corporate parenting which local authorities must have regard to for looked after children or care leavers. This is whether, or not, they are, or was, the local authority looking after the child.

Section 2 requires local authorities to publish information about the services it offers to care leavers, which may assist them in preparing for adulthood and independent living. These services may include health and wellbeing, education and training, employment, accommodation and participation in society. For more details, please see: Local Offer

Section 3 requires local authorities to offer Personal Advisor (PA) support to all care leavers up to age 25 years.

Other Legislation, Guidance and Regulations

- Children Act Guidance and Regulations Vol. 3 Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care Leavers including the Care Leavers (England) Regulations 2010 revised January 2015
- Care Leavers Charter DfE 2012
- Staying Put Guidance DfE, DWP and HMRC 2013
- The Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 2:
- Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010
- The Children Act 1989
- The Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000
- The Children Act 2004
- The Children (Leaving Care) (England) Regulations 2001
- National Standards for Leaving Care March 2004
- Care of unaccompanied and trafficked child

Your feedback about the Pathway Service

We need to know what you think about our services so that we can improve them.

What if I want to make a complaint?

If you have got a problem with Children's Social Care Services or if you are unhappy about something that is happening to you, this can usually be sorted out by speaking to someone you trust like your Social Worker, Personal Advisor, Key Worker or Foster Carer.

But if they cannot put things right for you, then you can make a complaint in one of the following ways:

On request a complaints form can be sent to you. Complaints forms can also be found at Council offices including Customer First.

The council have a contact/ Customer Service Section, phone them on
Tel: 01422 392279

Or write to us at:

Social Care Complaints Manager
Calderdale Council
Complaints and Compliments Team
Freepost RTGL-EXHR-SRLH
Halifax Customer First 1st Floor, 19 Horton
Street Halifax HX1 1QE.



Please remember!

Your comments, good or bad,
will help us to know how to
change things for the better.