

# CROYDON CARE LEAVERS LOCAL OFFER SUMMARY

The Care Leavers Local Offer sets out what we offer in full— be sure to read it to see the full range of services that can support you. It can be found at [www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/local-offer-for-care-leavers](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/healthsocial/families/local-offer-for-care-leavers)

## Life Skills and Support

There is a range of ways we can support you to develop skills:

- ◆ Floating support from CAYSH
- ◆ Advocacy Services from Barnardo's
- ◆ Esther Outreach support groups
- ◆ FormerR Relevant YouTube channel
- ◆ SEND local offer for those with additional educational needs [www.croydon.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/education/special-educational-needs)
- ◆ Support from the Transitions Team if you meet the criteria for support as an adult under the Care Act.

## Migrant Support

If you have the legal right to stay in the UK we will offer you a list of immigration solicitors who can help you make an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain. Most people can get Legal Aid to fund the application.

If you have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) you will not be entitled to housing or benefits, and in the majority of cases you won't be entitled to work. We still support you by allocating a personal adviser, make a pathway plan and giving advice and assistance.

It is likely you may have to return home at some point, so we will help you plan about what might happen, who, if anyone, could support you, what dangers you may face, where you could stay and what would help you best be prepared for education or work back home. We can also help you take advantage of any voluntary return schemes.

## Health and Staying Safe

Your Personal Adviser will help you with registering with a GP, dentist and optician, and signposting you to any services you might need for your physical, mental and sexual health such as:

- ◆ IAPT talking therapies provided by the NHS
- ◆ Off the Record Youth Counselling
- ◆ Sexual Health services
- ◆ Turning Point service for substance misuse
- ◆ Just Be Croydon for healthy lifestyle advice.

Before you turn 18 the Nurse for looked after children will send you letter with your health history, health checks and any NHS information we know.

If you are the victim of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence the Family Justice Centre can advise and support.

We work in partnership with the Youth Offending Service based at the Turnaround Centre, with Prisons and the Probation Service to plan for and support young people who are involved in crime or in prison.

## Leaving Care Services

Based at the Turnaround Centre, 51– 55 South End Croydon, CR0 1BF, Tel: 0208 726 6000.

For Eligible, Relevant and Former Relevant Care Leavers we offer:

- ◆ A Needs Assessment and Pathway Plan which we review with you at least every 6 months
- ◆ A Social Worker or Personal Adviser who keeps in touch at least every 8 weeks
- ◆ Support and advice detailed in this guide, including finding and maintaining accommodation.

For Qualifying Care leavers we offer:

- ◆ Advice and Support
- ◆ Access to the Higher Education Bursary
- ◆ Vacation accommodation if you are at University.

Care leavers aged 21 to 25 years old can now request a service at any time up to the age of 25. We will meet with you to see if you need:

- ◆ Advice and signposting
- ◆ An assessment of your needs
- ◆ A pathway plan setting out how we will support you.

## Housing and Accommodation

The Council gives priority in our Croydon Housing Allocations Scheme to care leavers in most need and we support you to apply for a place on the Housing Register. Due to the high demand on a limited number of properties we can't guarantee you a council property and you might need to rent privately, possibly in a shared house, for a number of years.

We help you by finding landlords who provide accommodation for care leavers where you won't have to fund lots of up front costs.

If you are 16-17 a **semi-independent** home might give you the opportunity to live more independently with others—we work with a number of providers who offer this type of accommodation and support.

If you are in foster care, you and your carer might agree for you to remain living there after you turn 18 in a **Staying Put** arrangement.

If you are over 18 but need additional support or we are worried about risks, we may offer **Supported Accommodation** for a time-limited period.

If you are at University and need accommodation during the summer and Christmas periods we will support you to find and if necessary fund accommodation.

## Money

Here's the ways in which we help you with money and budgeting:

- ◆ A Setting Up Home Allowance of £1000
- ◆ Support to apply for Universal Credit and a loan whilst your benefits come through
- ◆ If you are eligible, a Higher Education Bursary of £2000 and support to apply for Student Finance if you go to University
- ◆ A Graduation fund of £200 for photos, graduation gown hire etc.
- ◆ Expenses linked with getting and staying in employment or travel to work or college if necessary
- ◆ Exemption from paying Council tax
- ◆ Support to open a bank account and get a National Insurance Number
- ◆ Help to apply for charitable funding or bursaries
- ◆ Discretionary support in an emergency including food, toiletries or food vouchers
- ◆ Access to any savings put aside while you were looked after
- ◆ If you have No Recourse to Public Funds, fully subsidised accommodation including utility bills, a pre-paid money card and weekly subsistence payments.

## Jobs, Education and Training

If you are 16,17 or 18 and still in education you will meet with college and your personal adviser to review your progress and ensure you have the support you need written into a Personal Education Plan (PEP).

If you want to go to University we can support with visiting on open days, making your application, applying for student finance, finding accommodation and adjusting to university life.

We also work with

- ◆ Croydon Adult Learning and Training (CALAT) who deliver academic and vocational courses across Croydon. They also provide apprenticeships.
- ◆ Croydon Works, a council service helping people to find jobs and apprenticeships
- ◆ The Health and Work programme run by REED, who provide advice, guidance, skills training and support to help care leavers and other groups to become ready for work and to maintain employment, including self-employment.

## Family and Relationships

Where appropriate we will help you strengthen or reconnect with family and friends through mediation, tracing services or a return home. If you are a parent we will help you connect with our Early Help Service who can offer advice and support.

If you want, we will signpost LGBTQ groups or events or ensure you can explore or express your identity without fear of discrimination.