



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Request ID: FOI632678266

Thank you for your request for information relating to Care leavers and housing support.

You have requested the following information:

I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to support for care leavers for whom your local authority has corporate parenting responsibilities.

1) Are care leavers given any “reasonable preference” for social housing under your local authority’s social housing allocations policy?

Yes they receive priority banding under our joint housing protocol which refers to: A person under 21 who was (but is no longer) looked after by the local authority between the ages of 16 and 18 (except relevant students)

2) How many priority bands or categories does your local authority housing allocation policy have?

One priority banding.

Under the current Homefinder policy Coventry care leavers who are deemed to be tenancy ready will be placed in Band 1. If not tenancy ready, then they will go to band 4 until they are tenancy ready and have support in place to help them manage a tenancy– this must be evidenced by the social worker. The current policy went live on the 13th of September 2021.

3) Under your local authority's social housing allocations policy, which priority banding would care leavers be given if they had no additional need or vulnerability?

Not applicable. All care leavers receive priority banding.

4) Are there any circumstances or criteria in which care leavers from other local authorities can be assessed as having a local area connection under your local authority's housing allocations policy, and if so, what are these circumstances or criteria?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing the Council website, please use the following link:

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/housing-1/coventry-homefinder-policy-housing-allocations-scheme-summary>

5) What are the criteria or circumstances in which care leavers aged 21-25 can be assessed as in priority need for a homelessness duty?

Coventry Joint housing protocol states: A person aged 21 or more who is vulnerable as a result of having been looked after by the local authority.

6) Are there circumstances or criteria in which care leavers can be assessed as intentionally homeless, and if so, what are these circumstances / criteria?

Joint housing protocol:

The homeless team will consider the fact that the council has a corporate parenting duty for young people leaving care. This may lead to a more lenient approach than for other young people however, doesn't mean that a care leaver cannot be deemed intentionally homeless. Before this decision is made it will be discussed between senior managers from Housing and Children's Services. Where a young person is deemed as being intentionally homeless the homeless service will work with Through Care to source alternative accommodation. Support will also be provided to seek to remedy the issues that led to an intentionally homeless decision.

7) Does your local authority have a joint housing protocol for care leavers across children's services and housing services?

Yes.

8) Does your local authority currently provide a housing guarantor scheme for care leavers, and if so, what are the eligibility criteria for this scheme?

Following careful consideration, the information you requested falls under the exemption(s) in Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to 'information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means.'

The exemption applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing

the following website, please use the following link:

<https://www.maryannehodd.co.uk/the-guarantor-scheme>

9) Does your local authority currently provide a tenancy deposit scheme for care leavers, and if so, what are the eligibility criteria for this scheme?

The first months rent is paid for care leavers as part of their set up and transition into their first own home.

The supply of information in response to a FOI/EIR request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: infogov@coventry.gov.uk

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email icocasework@ico.org.uk.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance