



COVENTRY'S LOCAL OFFER

FOR CARE LEAVERS IN CUSTODY



INTRODUCTION

- This document tells you about the support that is on offer to you as a Coventry care leaver. This includes your entitlement to financial and practical support.
- It is important that you know there is support available to you whilst you are in custody.
- The Through Care team wants to make sure that you feel supported and in order to do this - you should know where and who to go to for help/ advice.
- If you are released from custody, this document should be read alongside the Money Matters and Local Offer document.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- To access PA (Personal Adviser) support and the entitlements listed below you must be a 'Former Relevant Care Leaver' (The Children and Social Work Act 2017). A former relevant care leaver is someone who has been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 or they were in care for 13 weeks after their 16th Birthday.
- Alternatively, if you do not meet the above criteria and you were in care for a different period (as a child) you may be a qualifying care leaver. If this is the case, then you can contact the Through Care duty team for advice and guidance.
- If you are over 25 and a Coventry Care Leaver please do still make contact on the number to the left for advice and guidance.

If you are unsure on whether you meet this criteria, please contact the Through Care Team on 024 7678 7808 and ask for a member of the duty team.

ROLE OF THE PERSONAL ADVISER:

- Your Personal Adviser will support you from the age of 18 until the age of 21. They can also continue to support you from the age of 21 until 25 if you would like this.
- Your Personal Adviser will visit you whilst you are in custody and will continue to do so when you are living in the community. They will do this every 2 months as a minimum up until the age of 21 and in line with your pathway plan post 21.

PATHWAY PLANNING:

- Personal Advisers support care leavers in preparing for independent living and will complete a pathway plan with you. This will set out what support you need and what your goals are for the future.
- Your pathway plan should be reviewed as soon as you go into custody. It should then be reviewed six monthly with you. As well as this, with your consent, your Personal Adviser will hold a pathway plan meeting 2 months before you are released from custody.
- Your pathway plan will focus on some of the areas listed below and your entitlements.

HOUSING:

- You will be able to access your SUHG (setting up home grant) until the age of 21 and up until the age of 25 if agreed within our pathway plan before you turn 21 years old.
- Your Personal Adviser will work with you to identify the most appropriate housing option for you and your release from custody. This may involve your Personal Adviser liaising with housing options and completing a duty to refer for a housing officer to be allocated and support you.
- If appropriate, Through Care's housing liaison officer should be invited to your pathway plan review – to provide advice on the options available to you.
- Your Personal Adviser will attend your HMPPS pre-release meeting.
- When you are released from custody and if you move back to the Coventry area and deemed tenancy ready, you will have priority banding on Homefinder as a care leaver.

ALLOWANCES:

- When you first enter custody you may be able to access a one-off payment to support you settling in.
- You will be sent £20 a month via a postal order until you reach 21. This can be used to support you in purchasing essential items.
- You may be entitled to your savings that were accrued when you were a child looked after and if so you will be supported to access these by your Personal Adviser.
- You may be able to access a onetime clothing grant of up to £50 to ensure you have appropriate clothing for release.

EDUCATION/ EMPLOYMENT

- You may be referred to the Through Care Education and Employment Panel, which is closest to your release date. This is to support you in exploring employment/education opportunities upon your release from custody.
- You may be able to access 6 months free internet via the National Databank when leaving custody to support you in exploring education/employment opportunities



IDENTIFICATION

- Your Personal Adviser will support you in accessing photo ID whilst in custody and this will be funded under your Money Matters entitlement.

FAMILY

- We may support your family in visiting you in custody three times a year – up until the age of 21. This would need to be discussed with your Personal Adviser and part of your pathway planning.
- Your Personal Adviser will ensure that you have appropriate travel and support upon your release from custody.
- Lifelong Links helps find and bring together people that are important to you, for example family, friends, former foster carers, teachers. These might include people you haven't seen for a while.
- Whilst you are in custody a referral will be made (with your consent) to lifelong links.

HEALTH

- If you need some extra support when you are in the community and have presenting care and support needs. An Adult Social Care (ASC) referral may be submitted by your Personal Adviser and your consent would be sought.



PRE-RELEASE CHECKLIST:

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?	YES/NO	COMMENTS
Do I have ID?		
Do I have an address?		
Have I been referred to EET panel?		
Do I know how I will get home from custody?		
Has a UC claim been submitted?		
Has a pathway planning meeting taken place?		
Do I have a copy of my licence conditions?		
Am I working with Life Long Links?		
Do I have a National Databank SIM card		
Do I have my NI number?		

USEFUL CONTACTS:

YOUR PA

Name:

Number:

Email:

THROUGH CARE

024 7678 7808

DutyThroughCare@coventry.gov.uk

THE HOWARD LEAGUE

0207 249 7373

info@howardleague.org

PRISON REFORM TRUST

0207 251 5070

contact@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

DOING TIME

A GUIDE TO PRISON AND PROBATION

doingtime.co.uk

WOMEN IN PRISON

020 7359 6674

info@wipuk.org

REES FOUNDATION

0330 094 5645

contactus@reesfoundation.org

Hello!



