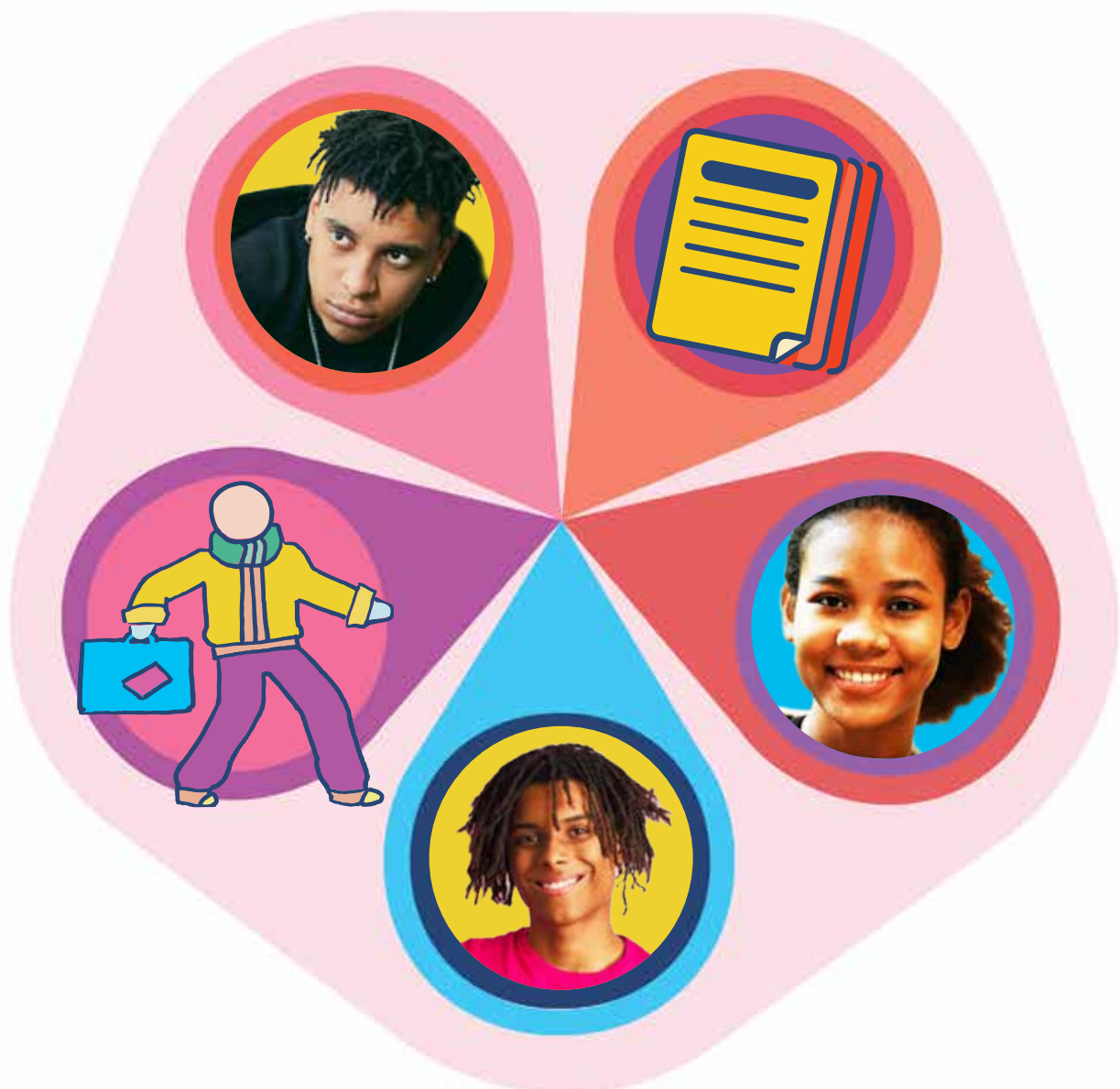


The Camden Promise for care experienced young people



The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

As your corporate parent these are our promises to you

We want you to have every opportunity to be successful in life and no challenge is too hard for us to support you to think about. We can help you to secure housing and offer you opportunities in education, employment and training. We will be working across all services with our partners to make sure everyone is committed to support you on your journey to independence.

The basics:

- We will put aside £10 a week for your savings and give you an annual clothing allowance up to the age of 18.
- Up to the age of 18, we will give you a weekly allowance and pay for your accommodation costs.
- You will have a social worker and a personal advisor between 16-18, You will have a PA up to 21 or 25 if you would like your personal advisor ongoing support.
- We will give you money for your birthdays of £100 for your 18th to 21st birthday then £150 for your 21st - 25th birthday.

Well-being:

- Do you want to get fit and stay healthy? We will give you financial support to pay towards a leisure centre or gym membership.
- As your corporate parents we celebrate your diverse background and traditions so we will give you a gift of £100 each year to celebrate your cultural heritage between the ages of 18-25.



The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

As your corporate parent these are our promises to you

Education, Employment and Training:

- We will give you a laptop, if you need one, when you are completing A levels or a BTEC. We will help you to choose the best option for further and higher education, training, and employment opportunities and support you with finance for travel.
- We will give you £1250 for each term over a 3-year course and support you with travel expenses when you are at university. We pay for your holiday accommodation.
- If you are completing a one year full time Masters degree we will give you a yearly grant of £6000. If you complete your Masters part-time over a number of years we will carry out an assessment for financial support.
- We will support you with equipment for training or development, travel to interviews or refer you for clothing for interviews.

Supporting you to independence:

- From 18 we will support you to become financially independent and help you apply for benefits or student loans.
- We will pay for you to access Wi-Fi when you are in your own accommodation or private rented accommodation up to the age of 25.
- We will offer you suitable accommodation, with a keyworker to support you; this will be offered to you up to the age of 25.
- We will pay a setting up home allowance of £3500 (£4000 for parents if your children are living with you) to help you furnish your home.
- We will pay for your council Tax up to the age of 25.
- We have a specific package of care when you are in prison and when you are released from prison to make sure you can settle back into the community.
- As corporate parents we will support you on your journey as a parent, so we have a package of care to support you and your child.

**Look inside
and see all the
promises above in
more detail and
other promises that
we have for
you.**

Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. Your right to services	8
3. How we support you	11
4. Financial support	14
5. Your accommodation	18
6. Education, training and employment	23
7. Your health and wellbeing	27
8. Extra support	32
9. Getting involved	39
10. Useful contacts	43





The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC

Protected Characteristic

Care experienced people living in Camden or those who have been previously in our care have been awarded 'Protected Characteristic Status.' This means that as a borough, we will ensure the support is in place to help those who have experience of the care system to thrive. Those of you who are in care, who are care leavers, or who have had an experience of care, will have the same protection from discrimination as other characteristics under the Equality Act.

Practically within Camden services, this will mean that no service can discriminate against you based on your status as a care-experienced person. As a council, we recognise that as a care-experienced person, you may have experienced discrimination, so we want to ensure that your best interest is considered at every point, by all council services. This includes but is not limited to housing, adult services, and health services.

As your corporate parent, we want you to have the best opportunity in our care and support you to be the best adult you can be!

PROTECTED
CHARACTERISTIC



1

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is for young people who have been in Camden's care. It lets you know about the services we have available to support you as your Corporate Parent.



HOME SWEET
HOME

1

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction

Camden will still be around to support you up to the age of 25 and this brochure gives you information on the help you can expect from us.

Camden's promise to care experienced young people

Camden has a duty to make sure that young people who have been looked after by the council continue to get the support they need once they leave care:

- We will make sure you are well-supported by professionals who work with you.
- There will always be someone available that you can contact for help in an emergency.
- We will help you to find somewhere safe to live.
- We will help you to learn the practical skills you will need for independent living.
- We will make sure you can take up education, training and employment opportunities.
- We will help you get any support you need from other local services.
- We will make sure there is a back up plan in place so that if things don't work out you can get back on track quickly.
- We want you to be safe and be the best adult you can be.



2

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR RIGHT TO SERVICES

2. Your right to services

To qualify for the support set out here once you leave care, you must have been in Camden's care for more than 13 weeks since your 14th birthday and ending after your 16th birthday, or come into our care for 13 weeks before your 18th birthday.

If you are aged 16 and 17 and you are looked after, you will be an eligible child. Camden will work with you to help you to get ready to leave care.

- You will have a social worker and a personal advisor working with you to support you, and your Independent Reviewing Officer will continue to review your care plan.
- We will carry out an assessment of what help you'll need once you leave care and you will have a pathway plan explaining what support you will get once you leave care.
- To make sure you are ready to live independently, we will help you learn the basic skills you'll need, such as managing your money, cooking and looking after your health. You will be expected to work through an independence programme to show that you have learnt these skills before you live independently.

If you are aged 18 to 25 you will be a former relevant child and Camden will continue to support you while you move on to full independence and living in your own home.

2

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR RIGHT TO SERVICES

- You will have a personal advisor working with you to support you and help you plan for your future.
- You will have a pathway plan that sets out the support you'll get to help you move to independent living and pursue your chosen education, employment or training option.

At 21 you can choose to end contact with the Care Experienced service and become completely independent or you can continue to get services and support up to the age of 25. If you choose to end contact at 21, you can still come back and ask us for support at any time. If we can't provide you with a service, we will direct you to who can. Any services or support we provide will be based on an assessment of your needs.

Qualifying children

If you are aged 16-21 you may be able to get some help as a qualifying child if any of these apply to you:

- you were in care for less than the 13 week period since the age of 14
- you were living with a private foster carer before your 16th birthday
- you were living with someone under a Special Guardianship Order and you were looked after before this order was made.

We can carry out an assessment to see what help you need but this is discretionary and we will take into account any help you are already getting from your previous carer.

Seeing your records

As a care experienced young person, you have the right to see the records Camden has kept about your time in our care. This might help you get answers to any questions you may have about why you were looked after and help you to make sense of what happened to you. Your personal advisor should be able to help you find out about information on your childhood and how you can go about accessing your file.



3

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

You will have a personal advisor to support you



**PERSONAL
ADVISOR**

3

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

3. How we support you

A personal advisor

You will have a personal advisor to support you and who will:

- keep in touch with you so you always have someone looking out for you
- make sure you know your rights and that you get the services you're entitled to
- help you plan for your future through your pathway plan.

At 16 and 17 you will still be looked after and will have an allocated social worker and a personal advisor who will work with you and your social worker to plan for when you to move to independence.

Between 18-25 once you leave care the professional who will support you will be your personal advisor.

Pathway plan

Pathway planning is how we make sure you have the right support to get ready to leave care and continued support to help you move on to independence and living in your own home.

When you are 16 your social worker and personal advisor will carry out an assessment and will work with you to put together a pathway plan that shows what support you will get when you move to independence.

This plan is reviewed every 6 months and your personal advisor will work with you so you can get involved and make sure your views and wishes are taken into account.

This is to make sure your plan is right for you and reflects what you want to do in life.

3

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

HOW WE SUPPORT YOU

An independent advocate

An advocate is someone who can support you to speak your mind, or speak up for you so that you can get your voice heard. This way you can make sure you are involved in decisions about your life and you have control over what's happening to you.

All Camden's care experienced young people will be able to get support from an advocate from Action for Children; details can be found at www.actionforchildren.org.uk/how-we-can-help/our-local-services/find-our-services-near-you/london-advocacy-service/ or call 0207 254 9408 or email: London.Advocacy@actionforchildren.org.uk

What to do in an emergency

- If you need money in an emergency, you need to contact your social worker or personal advisor. They will carry out an assessment before any payment is made.
- If you are about to be evicted or cannot return to your accommodation for any reason you need to contact your social worker or personal advisor (or the Emergency Duty Team out of hours on 020 7974 4444) so that we can make arrangements to find alternative accommodation.
- If you don't have a personal advisor but want advice about services for care experienced young people you can call our Duty number 020 7974 7217/6169 and speak to a worker.
- If you want urgent support but cannot reach your personal advisor, you can contact the duty manager on 020 7974 7217/6169.



4

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

FINANCIAL SUPPORT



4

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

4. Financial support

While you are in care, we will support you with managing your money. As you become more independent, you will be responsible for your finances.

At 16-17 while you are in care:

- If you live with a foster carer or in residential care your carer will pay for your living costs but you will be given a weekly allowance to pay for personal items and this should help you to learn about budgeting.
- If you live in semi-independent accommodation, you will be given a weekly allowance of £75 to pay for food and living costs and you will need to learn how to manage your money as part of your preparation for independence. You can also get a bonus payment of £20 per week if you stay in touch with your social worker, attend pathway reviews and medical check-ups and engage with your education, employment or training plan.

Camden will also pay the following clothing allowances:

- annual payments of £200 in winter and £100 in summer.
- a discretionary emergency payment of £200 for UASC arriving in the UK based on an assessment of need.
- a discretionary payment of £50 one-off allowance for young people who need clothing for a specific purpose, for example a suit for a job interview, based on an assessment of need.

Between 18-25 once you have left care:

Camden won't be responsible for paying for your accommodation or living expenses so you'll have to make sure you have this covered:

- If you are attending university you will get a bursary and can apply for student loans to cover your living expenses.
- If you are working, you will need to support yourself and pay rent from your earnings. But you might still be entitled to some financial support from housing benefit.
- Otherwise you will need to apply for benefits to cover your rent and living costs.

4

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For information on benefits:

- Benefits and financial support if you're looking for work: www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/looking-for-work
- Camden's Housing Benefits Service can be contacted on: 020 7974 4444 option 6.
- Camden's benefits and financial support webpage has details of other organisations who can offer advice on welfare benefits. www.camden.gov.uk/benefits-support

A Department of Work and Pensions benefits advisor is available at Vadnie Bish every Wednesday to give you help and advice on making a claim. A representative from Drive Forward will also be available to give advice on training and employment opportunities.

As corporate parents we want you to be successful in life and we want to support your journey by providing you with Free Wi-Fi up to the age of 25, if you are living in your own council flat or private rented accommodation.

Camden will also make sure of the following:

- for 16 and 17 year olds, that weekly savings of £10 continue to be paid into your junior ISA account.
- that you have been issued with your National Insurance number.
- that you have a bank account.
- at 18, that you are given any savings you received whilst you have been in care.



4

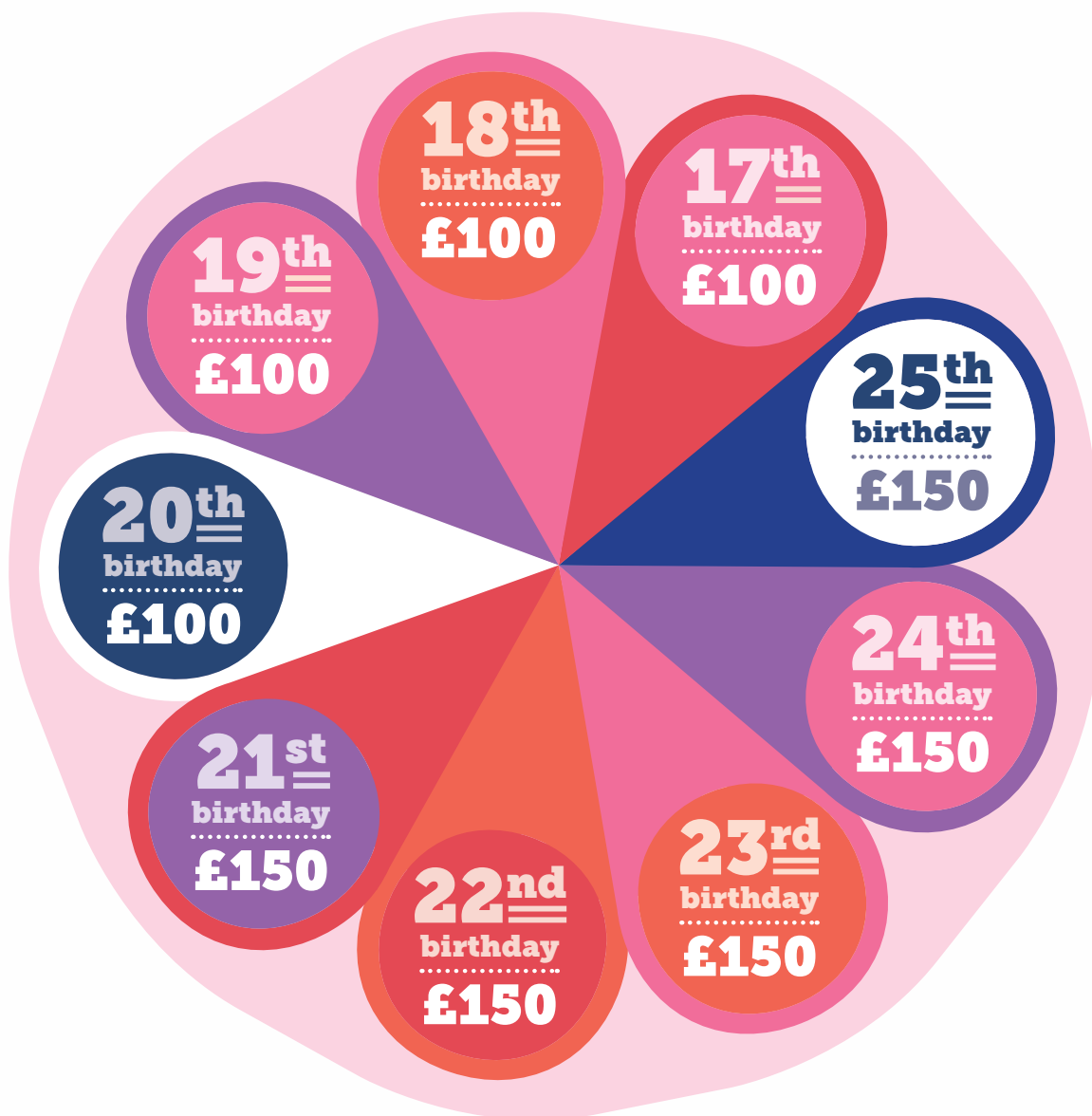
The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Birthday allowances

Camden pays allowances on your birthday and you can have cash or gift vouchers so you need to let your social worker or personal advisor know your preference.

You only receive these allowances if you stay in contact with us.



5

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Having somewhere safe to live is
important as it gives you a secure base
from where you can plan for your future.



5

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

5. Your accommodation

Having somewhere safe to live is important as it gives you a secure base from where you can plan for your future. There are different accommodation options for you to choose from and your social worker and personal advisor will help you decide on the option that helps you get the right level of support.

Staying put

If you are living in foster care you can carry on living there up to the age of 21 under a staying put arrangement. You will need to agree this with your foster carer and let your social worker know so that this can be arranged. Planning for a staying put arrangement normally starts around your 16th birthday.

Camden Young People's Pathway

- The Pathway is a collection of supported housing options in the borough that are designed to support young people who are preparing to move to independence; the accommodation varies in type and includes individual rooms, self-contained flats and house shares.
- All the accommodation comes with support from keyworkers who either live on the premises or who visit regularly and who support you to learn the skills you'll need for independent living.
- Pathways accommodation provides you with a stepping-stone from care to independence, providing support but gradually allowing you to take on more control and responsibility for decisions about your life.
- You must be 16 to live in Pathway Supported Accommodation and it is available for as long as you need it up to the age of 25.



5

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Moving on

Once we think you are ready, you can start planning to move on to your own tenancy. When you are able to do this will depend on you being able to show that you have learnt the skills you need to live independently and will be able to manage your own tenancy. This will be assessed by your personal advisor and keyworker as part of the independence programme.

Bidding for social housing properties

Camden has some social housing run by local housing associations that are suitable for care leavers. All care leavers will be given extra points and if you have enough points, you can bid on suitable properties in the borough.

Private rented accommodation

If you are moving into private rented accommodation because you can't live in Camden, we will advance the money for the deposit to secure the property from your Setting Up Home allowance. It's up to you to make sure that you apply for housing benefit and that this will be enough to cover the rent. Your personal advisor will help you sort out housing benefit claims and will visit any privately rented accommodation you are moving into to check it is safe for you to live in.



5

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Setting up home grant

If you move to your own home before you are 25 you will get a grant of £3500 (or £4000 for parents with children living with them) to help you with the costs of buying furniture and equipment. Your personal advisor can help you decide what you need to buy from this grant but the following conditions apply:

- you can only use the grant to buy household items
- you can ask for up to £500 in advance to buy essential items
- at least £100 should be used to buy safety items such as smoke alarms
- some of the money should be used to buy a TV licence and home contents insurance.

If you live in Camden, you won't have to pay council tax; if you live in another borough your personal advisor will contact the local authority to see if they can offer you any help with a council tax exemption. If not, we shall pay this directly to the council. Camden will pay your removal costs until you settle into your permanent home by the age of 25.



5

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Risk of eviction

While you live in Pathway accommodation or independent accommodation you must follow any rules or conditions of your tenancy and pay rent and any maintenance charges that are due. You also need to be a good neighbour.

If you are at risk of losing your accommodation or tenancy you must tell your personal advisor so we can take steps to avoid eviction and make sure you don't become intentionally homeless.



6

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

We want you to be able to make the most of your opportunities so you can invest in your future, and we expect all care experienced young people aged 16-25 to be in education, training or employment.



6

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

6. Education, training and employment

We will provide support and advice up to the age of 25, including financial support based on an assessment of your needs, to help you follow your plans for education, training and work. You can speak to your personal advisor or get specialist help from Camden's Virtual School who can advise you on your options and support you in your choices.

Aged 16-18 and looked after:

- you will have a Personal Education Plan showing how your social worker and the Virtual School will support your plans for further education and training
- you can apply for a 16-19 bursary for financial support to pursue your education and training choices once you are enrolled on a course (see below)
- anyone in year 13 of an A level course or on an equivalent BTEC will be given a laptop.

Aged 19-25 and care experienced:

- You can still get support from your personal advisor and the Virtual School Post 16 advisor to help you pursue your goals for education, training and employment and this support will be written into your pathway plan.



6

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Bursaries and other funding

- If you are aged 16-19 and planning on taking up education or training opportunities your social worker or personal advisor can help you apply for a government bursary of up to £1,200, depending on your needs. The bursary can help you to pay for expenses such as books, equipment and travel costs. 16 to 19 Bursary Fund guide 2023 to 2024 academic year (www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2023-to-2024-academic-year/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2023-to-2024-academic-year)
- If you are over 19 and starting on a further education course, you can ask your college about applying for funding to cover costs other than fees such as travel expenses. Learner Support: www.gov.uk/learner-support
- If you are a parent aged 20 plus and want to take up further education you can get help with child care costs. www.gov.uk/care-to-learn
- We will support you with equipment for training or development, travel to interviews or refer you for clothing for interviews.

University

If you are planning on going to university, your personal advisor will be able to help you with applying for a place and for any student loans, grants or bursaries you can access to support you financially. You can also get:

- A £1250 grant from Camden paid each term for the duration of a 3 year degree course in the UK and includes the £2000 grant from the government
- help with travel costs (based on an assessment of need)
- funding to help with the costs of accommodation during vacation periods whilst at university. For details on student loans and finance visit: <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk>
- Information on what support is available for care leavers at university: Propel <http://propel.org.uk/UK>
- If you are completing a one year full time Masters degree we will give you a yearly grant of £6000. If you complete your Masters part-time over a number of years we will carry out an assessment for financial support.

6

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Camden's youth employment offer

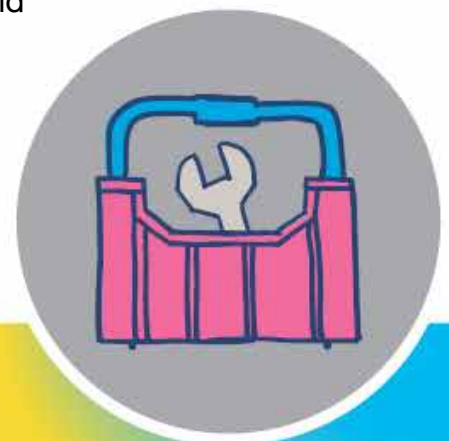
Camden's Young Talent guarantee offers opportunities for an apprenticeship or work experience placement to any care experienced young person who is interested.

A dedicated team will work with you and your social worker or personal advisor to help you find a suitable opportunity and support you during your apprenticeship or placement.

There are also opportunities to apply for one of 6 paid internships across Camden Council and within the civil service.

More information is available at:

- Camden apprenticeships:
www.camden.gov.uk/apprenticeships Tel: 020 7974 8778/6474
- Connexions drop-in every Friday at the Crowndale Centre, (218 Eversholt Street NW1 1BD) between 10am and 4pm providing advice on education and careers.
- City Lit Information Advice and Guidance Service for advice on careers and education including possible financial support. Contact City Lit Help Centre:
<https://help.citylit.ac.uk/hc/en-us/articles/115001792969-Contact-City-Lit>
- National Careers Service Information Advice and Guidance provides information and advice on skills, careers and training and to book appointments with local advisors. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> Tel: 0800 100 900
- West Euston One Stop provides one to one guidance and support around employment with free IT facilities and training. Tel: 020 7388 7932
<https://cindex.camden.gov.uk/kb5/camden/cd/service.page?id=D3Poj6upxBg>



7

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We hope that once you leave care, you'll be able to look after your health by following a healthy diet and lifestyle and knowing where to go for medical help when you need it.



7

The Camden Promise for care
experienced young people aged 16-25

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

7. Your health and wellbeing

We hope that once you leave care, you'll be able to look after your health by following a healthy diet and lifestyle and knowing where to go for medical help when you need it.

Looking after your health

When you leave care at 18, the CLA Health nurse will contact you to give you a health summary that tells you about your state of health and how to manage any medical conditions. This will help you to be aware of any actions you'll need to take in the future to look after your health.

The nurse can also give you general advice on where to go to get help with any health issues or to support you if you need to transfer to adult services.



7

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Health services in Camden

It's important that you know how to access health services in the borough and your personal advisor will help you to sign on with a GP and dentist and access health and wellbeing services.

- To find a GP go to: www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp
- To find a dentist go to: www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist
- If you need health advice out of hours you can contact the NHS on 111 or you can get advice from the NHS website at: www.nhs.uk
- For details of sexual health clinics and contraception advice in Camden go to CAMISH: www.brook.org.uk/regions/camish
- If you are receiving mental health services from CAMHS, at 17 your social worker and personal advisor will refer you to the Minding the Gap panel who can advise on the best adult mental health service for you and help you to transfer to that service.
- If you need help with your alcohol or drug use you can contact the FWD team on 0207 974 4701. www.nhs.uk/services/service-directory/fwd-drug-and-alcohol-service-for-young-people-in-camden/N



7

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Camden's health and fitness offer

Camden's GLL card gives you access to all Camden's sports and leisure facilities and can be used for a range of activities such as swimming, gym and fitness classes.

If you are aged 16-18 and living in foster care, your foster carer will make arrangements to pay for the card.

If you are aged 16-19 and living in Pathways accommodation Camden will pay for the card.

If you are aged 19-25 and care experienced, the card costs £32.50 but Camden will contribute £20 towards this cost. If you use the gym card 3 or more times a week, we shall refund you £12.50.

Young people will be given a letter by their personal advisor giving details of how to join but the membership is given on the understanding that it is used regularly. Your social worker or personal advisor will check to see how often you use your membership and any cards that are not used for 2 months will be cancelled by the leisure centre.

For information on sports and leisure in Camden go to: www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/london/camden



7

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Coaching and mentoring

The Become charity offers coaching and mentoring to care experienced young people. For details visit: <https://becomecharity.org.uk/get-support>

Relationships

When you become 18, you might find it difficult to deal with all the changes and it's common for care experienced young people to feel lonely. It's important you let your personal advisor or keyworker know how you feel and ask them for help to reach out to people and build up your network of support.

As you become an adult it may feel like a good time to reconnect with your birth family or other people who were important in your life such as old foster carers. The life-long links project can help you to get in touch with these people and rebuild these relationships. Your personal advisor can tell you all about the project but please be aware that Camden will only support you to get back in touch with your birth family if it is safe and in your best interests.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

If you are turning 18, you may be worried about what happens next, where you'll be living and how you'll manage. Camden will still be around to support you up to the age of 25 and this brochure gives you information on the help you can expect from us.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

8. Extra support

Some care experienced young people need extra support because of their situation. Camden will provide extra support if any of these apply to you:

Young parents

We recognise that care experienced parents may need extra support:

- Camden will provide £1000 of financial assistance to help with buying essential equipment
- Your personal advisor will:
 - help you to apply for any other support such as the Sure Start maternity grant of £500
 - refer you to parenting programmes and baby bonding classes
 - provide you with information on First Aid training courses and children's centres in Camden
 - refer you to the Department of Work and Pensions benefits advisor for advice on benefits for care experienced parents
 - give you information about community resources such as Healthy Start
 - make a referral to Little Village and help you access other online support and charities.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

Young people in or leaving custody

If you are serving a prison sentence and you are or become eligible for a service as a care experienced young person you will still be able to get support and we will continue to work with you to plan for what happens when you are released.

- We will make sure you have a personal advisor who will visit you regularly in prison and who will work with the prison and probation services to support your resettlement.
- This will take place alongside reviews of your pathway plan so that arrangements are made for you to have somewhere to live and can take up education, training and employment opportunities.
- While you are in custody, we give you a weekly allowance of £10 to buy essential items plus your birthday money. We will also make sure you have suitable clothing.
- When you are released, we will give you a grant of up to £500 based on an assessment of your needs to pay for basic items like food, clothes and toiletries. Ask your personal advisor for details.

Mentor

If you would like a mentor to talk to on a one-to-one basis to discuss your future plans we can offer this through our Grandmentor offer. Your mentor will be able to support you around finding and sustaining employment and education as well as independent living skills. The mentor will offer you a personalised service to meet your needs and to support you to realise and achieve your goals.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

Young people with disabilities

If you have a disability and you are getting a service from the Children and Young People's Disability Service, you will get special help to prepare for adult life. For details see the SEND Promise (formerly local offer). <https://cindex.camden.gov.uk/kb5/camden/cd/localoffer.page?localofferbands=3&localofferchannel=0>

If you have a mild disability but you don't get a service from the Children and Young People's Disability Service, you will get support from your personal advisor but we will work with the Children and Young People's Disability Service to make sure you receive help if you need to be referred for a service from Adult Social Care.

Placed out of the borough

If you have been living outside of Camden and you want to move back to settle here, we will work with you on the best plan for you and help you get in touch with local services so you can settle back into the borough. Your pathway plan will set out how we will manage this move and make sure you can take up education, training and employment opportunities locally.

If you prefer to stay in the area where you are living, we will work with you on the best plan for you and help to make sure you can access services there but you will still be supported by Camden and will have an allocated personal advisor.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC)

If you are under 18 and have come to the UK on your own as a refugee, Camden can offer you help and support, including somewhere to live, while you apply for leave to stay in the UK.

Camden Council is responsible for looking after children like yourself who have come to the UK alone and are separated from their parents. We will look after you until you are 18 and can continue to support you up to the age of 25 as long as you are allowed to stay in the UK. If you are declined status in the UK, we will support you to appeal this decision.

Although we are responsible for looking after you, we don't have any power to make decisions about your application to stay in the UK. That decision is made by the Home Office, but we will support you to make your application and while you make any appeals.

If you are not allowed to stay in the UK after 18 and have exhausted your appeal rights, we may no longer offer you a service, but we will support you while you make arrangements to return home.

Your asylum claim

You must make an application to the Home Office for asylum in order to stay in the UK legally; you must also attend any interviews and provide any documents and evidence the Home Office asks for. We will help you find a solicitor who can represent you and we will support you in your contact with the Home Office.

This link explains the asylum process: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Separated-children-asylum-process-journey-map-January-2024.pdf (refugeecouncil.org.uk)

Camden will continue to support you as long as you are still waiting for a decision from the Home Office or if you appeal any decision and are waiting for the outcome. These are the decisions that can be made.

- If you are allowed to stay you will normally be given up to 5 years to stay in the UK after which you can apply for permission to stay longer or appeal this decision.

8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

- If you are under 18 and the Home Office decides you cannot stay in the UK, you may be allowed to stay until you are 18. The Home Office will normally give a time by which you need to leave the UK. You can apply for further leave to remain if you want to stay longer or appeal this decision.

If you are not allowed to stay you will be expected to leave the UK and return home as soon as possible. You can appeal this decision.

Your care

- You will have a social worker who will carry out an assessment to find out your needs and they will write a plan that says what Camden will do to look after you and plan for your future.
- Your social worker will find you somewhere to live, make sure you have any financial support you need and arrange for you to go to school or college.
- Someone will be appointed as your Independent Reviewing Officer and its their job to make sure Camden is looking after you properly; they will make sure there is a regular meeting to review your plan to make sure you are getting the help you need.

Where you will live

We will find you a place in our Pathways supported accommodation where you will have some degree of independence but will also get help from key workers who live on site and who can offer you any support you might need.



8

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

EXTRA SUPPORT

Your health

- You will have a medical examination with the Children Looked After health team to make sure you are healthy and they will make sure you get any medical treatment you might need. **This is a routine medical assessment to find out how you are and not about assessing your age.**
- You probably had a tough time on your journey to the UK, and you may be dealing with difficult feelings like fear and loss or worrying about your family.
- We will make sure you are able to get help from a team of specialists in the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service to help you deal with any emotional problems.

Your education

- Your social worker and our Virtual School will help you to access education in the UK.
- The main focus will be on helping you to learn English but once you are able to understand and speak good enough English, we will support you to take up a place at college so you can continue your education or learn skills that can help you find a job in the future.
- To support your education, you will be given a laptop and if you need further help, we can provide extra tuition.



When you are 18

We will carry on supporting you once you are 18 as long as you are allowed to stay in the UK legally. You will be able to work or claim benefits in order to support yourself and you can carry on living in your supported accommodation until you find a permanent place of your own. You will have a personal advisor who will help you to find your own home and support you to continue with your education or finding a job so you make a future in the UK.

9

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

GETTING INVOLVED

We want to hear what you think about the services you get so we can make any changes to make them better



9

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

GETTING INVOLVED

9. Getting involved

We want to hear what you think about the services you get so we can make any changes to make them better.

There are lots of different ways to get involved and get your voice heard;

Participation

We have a dedicated Participation Officer who organises activities and meetings for care experienced young people to get involved in designing services and making sure your views are known to council managers and councillors. What you think of our services is important because that's how we know if we need to make any changes.

- The Children in Care Council is open to all children under the age of 18 who are looked after by Camden. Ask your social worker for details.
- The Young Inspectors are a group of care experienced young people aged 18 and over who are recruited to carry out annual inspections of Camden's services. Ask your personal advisor for details.



9

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

GETTING INVOLVED

Care experienced forum and panel

We want young people to have a chance to get their voices heard and express their views so we have set up a care experienced forum for all care experienced young people aged 16-25; it's a safe space for you to meet other care experienced young people and talk about your experiences so you can get support and feel part of a community.

The Care Experienced Panel will be recruited from this group to represent care experienced young people by talking to managers about issues and the services that affect you and feed back your views to the Council.

This is your chance to build relationships and a community with other care experienced young people with adults to assist but ultimately this is your space.

Volunteering

Your personal advisor can advise you on how you can take up volunteering opportunities so you can make a difference to your local neighbourhood environment and help other people.

Complaints

We want to make sure that the service you receive from us is the very best. If you're not happy with the service you're getting from Camden, you need to let us know so we can take steps to make things better. You should speak to your social worker or personal advisor first so we can try to sort things out but if you're still not happy, your social worker or personal advisor will help you to make a formal complaint.



9

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

GETTING INVOLVED

Drop in sessions

The drop in sessions give you a chance to meet with people who can support you and give you advice on issues that affect you such as housing and benefits. Sessions are run on a monthly basis and there will be opportunities to suggest any other things you'd like discussed in the sessions.

Cultural appreciation

As part of our commitment to supporting and celebrating the diverse backgrounds and traditions of care experienced young people like yourself, you will receive a gift of £100 each year between the ages of 18 and 25 from our service to recognise and celebrate your cultural heritage.

We believe that acknowledging **cultural occasions** is essential in fostering stronger relationships between personal advisors and young people. By celebrating your cultural heritage, we aim to promote inclusivity and demonstrate our respect and appreciation for the rich diversity within our community. Your unique cultural identity is valued and celebrated here in Camden.



10

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

USEFUL CONTACTS

During office hours, your personal advisor, the Care Experienced duty worker or your key worker at your accommodation are all available to help you if there are any emergencies.



10

The Camden Promise for care experienced young people aged 16-25

USEFUL CONTACTS

10. Useful contacts

Contact us

During office hours, your personal advisor, the Care Experienced duty worker or your key worker at your accommodation are all available to help you if there are any emergencies. The duty number is 020 7974 7217/6169.

Outside of office hours you can contact the Emergency Duty team on 020 7974 4444

Other useful contacts:

- Rees: The Care Leavers Foundation <https://www.reesfoundation.org>
Provides small grants for care leavers aged 18-25
- The Care Leavers Association <http://www.careleavers.com>
A charity aimed at improving the lives of care leavers
- Become <http://www.becomecharity.org.uk>
Online advice and information for care experienced young people
- Propel <http://propel.org.uk/UK> Information on what support is available for care leavers at university
- Shelter <https://england.shelter.org.uk> provides housing advice
- National government benefits calculator <https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>
Information on benefits
- Citizens Advice Bureau <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>
Information about money, benefits, your rights, employment, housing and the law.
- Buttle Trust
<https://www.buttleuk.org/need-support>
- Refugee council
<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk>





For more information, please contact:

The CLA duty number
020 7974-7218 (16-18)

Duty number for Care Experienced is
020 7974 6169 (18-25)

The Care Experienced Service is based at
5 St Pancras Square,
London N1C 4AG

Drop in on Wednesday at Vadnie Bish House
33-43 Caversham Road
London NW5 2DR