

Independent Futures

Young Persons Leaving Care Offer



ISLINGTON



1. Introduction

As your corporate parent, we want to ensure that you have the best start into adulthood. This leaflet tells you about all the support that we have for you in Islington as a care leaver. We know that preparing for adulthood is difficult and we want to make sure that this big change is made as easy as possible.

In Islington we strongly believe a good way of doing this is through building relationships with you and working in a way that acknowledges that your journey to this point may have been difficult. We believe that by working in this way, we are better placed to then understand your needs and support you to make important decisions. Our way of working is called motivational practice.

We have consulted our Child Active Involvement Services (CAIS) and other care leavers. They have helped us make this leaflet. We will continue to listen to your views to make sure the services we offer are what you need.

To be able to get the support set out in this leaflet, you must have been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16th birthday) or for 13 weeks after your 16th birthday. If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, then ask your young person's adviser or social worker.

Your Young Person's Adviser will talk with you about the information in this leaflet.





Your pathway plan is written with you and important people in your life.



2. The Law

A Young Person's Adviser (YPA)

A Young Person's Adviser is a professional who will support and work alongside you to achieve the goals that the law says we need to support you on. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that if you want the support of a Young Person's Adviser you can have one until the age of 25. This is to try to make sure care leavers receive similar support to young adults who live with their families.

Your YPA is there to help you to prepare to live independently and to offer advice and support after you leave care. YPAs get involved in discussions about your needs and your pathway plan.

Your YPA will sometimes speak to professionals that you are working with, support and guide in all ways that they can. If you want to get the support outlined in this booklet, they will need to sometimes speak to some of these agencies: your Educational Establishment, your Employer, Housing, Benefits Agencies and the Home Office. We will not share any unnecessary information.

If you have a social worker or support worker in an adult social care services or a social worker in the Transitions Team they would also work alongside the YPA.

Your pathway plan identifies the work you would like us to undertake with you and says exactly how we will support you to achieve this. Your pathway plan is written with you and important people in your life. It is important that we review your pathway plan with you at least every six months to make sure we are giving you the right support.

Wherever possible, we will try to let you keep the same YPA - where this is not possible, we will explain why. The amount of support that you receive from your YPA will depend on what you want and your circumstances.

Your leaving care team will consider with you what additional support you may need. You might, for example, need extra support because:

- ▲ You have special educational needs or a disability.
- ▲ You have a significant sensory impairment such as being Blind or Deaf
- ▲ You have significant physical or mental health needs.
- ▲ You are an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Child (UASC) and your immigration status is unclear.
- ▲ You are in or leaving custody or you have had contact with the criminal justice system;
- ▲ You are a young parent; or
- ▲ You are going through a difficult time in your personal life.



Leaving care before turning 18

- ▲ We will encourage you to stay in care until you are 18. Most young people still live at home with their families at this age.
- ▲ If you choose to leave care before age 18, the law says we must provide you with suitable accommodation if you are not able to stay with your family.
- ▲ We encourage you to make decisions for yourself which are safe and in your interest. This may also involve returning to the care of your family or legally being cared for by a carer, friend or other family member before you are 18 years old.
- ▲ If you remain with your family for six months before your 18th birthday and we do not have a care order for you, you will no longer be considered a care leaver for purposes of the support in this booklet. Your social worker will advise you of what support we shall continue to provide to you.

Other support we offer

Some young people leaving care tend to live with important people in their life until they are ready to move into their own accommodation.

We also use semi-independent accommodation to help you start to prepare to manage a tenancy. Just because you are leaving care, or have already left care, we haven't stopped caring about you. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for advice and help.



A. Accommodation

We want you to feel safe, supported and happy in your placement and in your home.

If you are aged over 18, your YPA will help you to find suitable accommodation. This might involve:

- ▲ Working with your YPA and our Housing Team to agree suitable housing options for you, including supported accommodation, where you will be supported to develop the confidence and skills to manage your tenancy. You will be expected to make some financial contributions to your living arrangements and also claim Housing Benefit where this is appropriate to you.
- ▲ If it is your wish and that of your foster carers, you can remain with your foster carers under what is called a 'Staying Put' arrangement. This means that you stay with your foster carers until you are 21. You would begin to develop skills around managing your tenancy and make some financial contribution to their household.
- ▲ If you want to stay in a family type arrangement, we can support you to live in supported lodgings where you can live with a family or another adult. You would make some contribution to the household finances as you develop your skills around managing a tenancy.
- ▲ Support to access different housing options including social housing, when you are ready (this is accommodation managed by Islington Housing Department or a housing association).



- ▲ We will invite you to our Independence Skills training group to prepare you for managing your tenancy. Your YPA may also encourage you to attend other specific workshops to help you develop necessary skills to hold down a tenancy.

- ▲ Advise you about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent arrears, paying bills and budgeting. We know it can be very exciting but also challenging having your own place for the first time. We will do whatever we can to support you.
- ▲ Helping you to claim universal credits if needed.
- ▲ We will offer floating support and access to mentoring as you move towards living and settling into your own home. A floating support practitioner is a professional who can come and work with you on a variety of areas in your home. These include, help with managing your benefits and help with managing a tenancy/bills.
- ▲ Practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home. This includes help moving your belongings and ensuring your home is safe.
- ▲ Supporting you if you are struggling, including helping if you are threatened with the loss of your tenancy.
- ▲ We know that moving home and living on your own is a very enjoyable yet daunting experience and so, we will come and visit you more frequently in the first three months of you moving home. We would like you to tell us what is most suitable for you.

We will do whatever we can to support you.



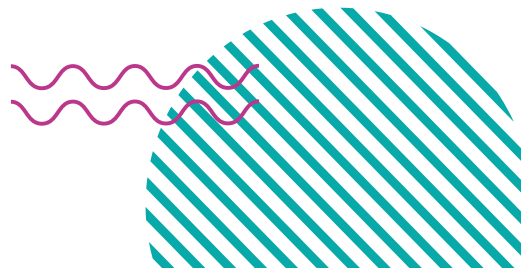
B. Education, Training and Employment



Being in Education, work or training is really good for your well-being, your health, your confidence and for meeting new people and gaining new skills.

We will offer you:

- ▲ Careers support and advice as well as access to our dedicated advisors in the Virtual College.
- ▲ If you attend University, a bursary of £1000 per term to support with the costs of attending university during your undergraduate study.
- ▲ Care leavers are a priority group for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, which means that if you are in a Further Education Course or College you can receive up to £1,200 a year to support you during your college course, this is subject to attendance. If you are not able to claim this directly from the college due to your immigration status, we shall make a similar payment to you.
- ▲ Support to meet your public transport costs when travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews. You will need to use the cheapest option available on public transport.
- ▲ Support to buy tools, equipment, essential clothing, and books which are necessary for your course up to £150 per year.
- ▲ If you are in employment- including an apprenticeship, employment, education or training and your income falls below £100.00 per week after you pay your rent and water bill, we will top up your income to ensure you have £100.00 per week to live on.



- ▲ Support if you choose to go to university, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, apply for bursaries that maybe available, travel costs at the start and end of term, and making sure you have somewhere to live during the holidays. We will help you choose the right course and university that matches your talents and interests.
- ▲ Opportunities for work experience, apprenticeships and employment within the Council.
- ▲ If you have an Education, Health & Social Care Plan (EHC Plan) we will monitor this and attend any EHC Plan review meetings.
- ▲ The chance to attend and help organise celebration events where young people achieve education, training and employment milestones.
- ▲ Access to programs of support, if you find yourself not to be in education, training or employment including access to work or education support for young people with additional needs or disabilities.

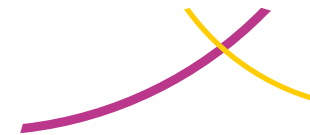
Support to buy tools, equipment, essential clothing, and books which are necessary for your course up to £150 per year.



C. Health and well-being

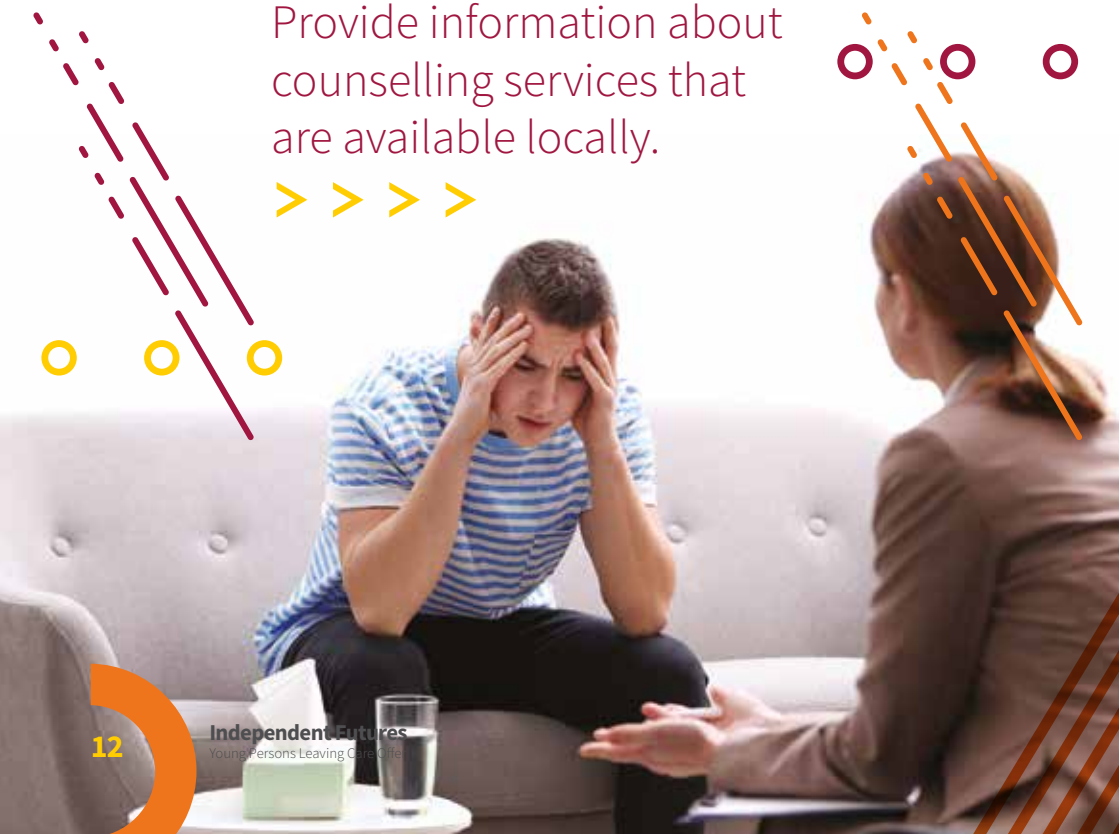
You are important to us and we want you to feel happy, safe and well. We will provide the following support and guidance:

- ▲ Work with you to make a 'health passport' containing key information from your childhood (for example, when and if you have had immunisations) and your current health needs. At your last Child Looked After Review before you turn 18 years old, we shall give you your health passport.
- ▲ Offer information on healthy living and community support and advice, including access to health led initiatives such as Choice and Control. This is a national initiative to support you with managing your emotional health by accessing activities that you define as improving your mental well-being.
- ▲ You can come along to the Healthy Futures Drop-In every Wednesday between 2pm and 4pm at 3 Elwood Street, where you can see our nurse and other support services in confidence and without an appointment.
- ▲ Access to the Sexual Health Drop in Service from our LAC Health Nurse or Pulse as above, as well as ongoing support and advice on healthy relationships.
- ▲ Give information on getting help to pay for prescriptions if required.
- ▲ Support you to register with a local GP.
- ▲ Support you to move from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health Services if required.
- ▲ Provide information about counselling services that are available locally.
- ▲ Give you help with transports costs when attending health appointments if required.
- ▲ If you a young person expecting to become a parent, we will offer support and advice as well support from specialist services such as the Family Nurse Partnership.
- ▲ If you are a young parent, we will take an interest in your child/ren and support you to do the best for them. We will help you arrange childcare, if this is what you want.



- ▲ Give you information about health drop-in centres.
- ▲ If you have a significant sensory impairment such as being Blind or Deaf we will sign post you to the sensory outreach team to access any sensory equipment.
- ▲ If you are a young person aged under 18 living in accommodation other than residential care or foster care, we will support you with a contribution of up to £100.00 per annum towards glasses or NHS dental treatment, in addition to the NHS funding available.
- ▲ In consultation with your YPA if you need support with managing your emotional health and are not accessing mental health services, you will be able to draw on a fund of £500.00 under our Choice and Control Personalisation budget. To be able to obtain this funding, you would need to let us know how you believe you would benefit from the service and also talk to us about the outcomes you hope to achieve. You can use these funds for a specific item or a hobby that helps you manage your mental health.

Provide information about counselling services that are available locally.



D. Finances

We will try to support you financially, just like any parent would for their child. This includes:

- ▲ Support to open a bank account if you don't already have one. You will also be provided with information on how to access your Junior ISA or any savings should you have these.
- ▲ Support to apply and obtain important identification documents like a passport and/or provisional driving licence. You will be entitled to one set of documents in the duration of your involvement with Independent Futures.
- ▲ Support to apply for benefits when you turn 18 and to liaise with the benefits agency when need be. Whilst your benefit application is considered, we will give you your weekly subsistence of £60.00 for up to 2 weeks while you make your application. If you have additional needs that relate to a disability, we will support you with payments if there is no additional means of claiming an interim benefit.
- ▲ If you have a job or an apprenticeship, we would want you to have £100.00 as a minimum weekly income after you have paid your rent and water bill. Should this be less, we may be able to top up your income to that amount.
- ▲ You will be supported to access the Residential Support Scheme which offers you the opportunity to access some council funding when you initially move into your permanent accommodation.
- ▲ Providing a leaving care grant of £1,500 for essential items when you move into your own home. We will also help you cover some of your moving-in expenses such as connection fees for a gas cooker, removal costs, annual TV license and household insurance for the first year only.



- ▲ You will not pay council tax until you are 25 years and living in London.
- ▲ If you are living in semi-independent accommodation and are aged 16-17-year-old you will have access to a care leavers fund of up to £300.00 per annum to use for: a choice activity such as a holiday, a hobby or birthday or celebration allowance. If you chose to, you can also access gym membership from Better Gyms by contributing £110 to your gym membership from your care leavers' fund.
- ▲ 18-21 year olds you will have access to a care leavers fund of up to £200.00 per annum to use for: a choice activity such as a holiday, a hobby or birthday or celebration allowance. If you chose to, you can also access gym membership from Better Gyms by contributing £110 to your gym membership from your care leavers' fund.
- ▲ 16/17 year olds in supported/semi-independent accommodation will receive a payment of up to £480.00 per annum for clothing or £40.00 per month.
- ▲ 18-21 year olds discretionary financial support in times of crisis/emergencies if all other sources of crisis payments, for example through the Job Centre, are not successful.
- ▲ 22-25 year olds, we shall advise you of relevant departments that can offer financial assistance such as food banks, Resident Support Scheme if you haven't recently drawn on these finances. We would only provide any financial support in highly exceptional circumstances.



E. Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (uasc)

As an UASC we recognise that achieving a settled immigration status is very important towards building your life in the UK.

An unresolved immigration status can affect your ability to access further education, work, housing and welfare benefits. Independent Futures is committed to helping you to understand what your immigration status means and entitlements that are available to you.

We can only provide a service to you if you have an active application for Asylum if you are appealing this decision made not to grant you status. We cannot provide a service to you if you are in breach of Immigration Law as we would be breaking the law.

We will provide the following support and guidance:

- ▲ We will explain the processes that can be taken to achieve a settled status i.e. appeal processes, Indefinite Leave to Remain and British Citizenship.
- ▲ Your social worker or YPA will assist you with finding and accessing regulated and specialist legal immigration advice to help achieve this.
- ▲ We will work with you to ensure that you have a financial plan around your savings to enable you to make an application for settled status. This detail will be recorded in your pathway plan from the point you receive time limited leave to remain status.
- ▲ We also recognise that this period of uncertainty can be distressing for you to go through and your social worker or young person's adviser will help you plan for all possible outcomes. These will be recorded in your pathway plan.
- ▲ If you have received a negative immigration decision, we will assist you to obtain legal immigration advice on the merits of any appeal/fresh claim by supporting you to access organisations that assist with immigration for care leavers.

- ▲ If an appeal or fresh claim does not have merit, you will be given a Human Rights Assessment; taking into consideration all aspects of your life in the UK and any barriers to return to your home country.
- ▲ Independent Futures will assist with any Voluntary Return applications. You will receive assistance with making safe travel plans back to your country of origin and receive help to plan your life in your home country. This will be reflected in your pathway plan which you will be able to take with you upon return.
- ▲ We cannot offer you a service if you do not have an active immigration application and are in breach of immigration rules.

We will explain the processes that can be taken to achieve a settled status



F. Young people in custody

We understand that being in custody can be very difficult for young people and at times may mean that the significant people in your life are not able to support you due to a variety of reasons.

We hope that custody may give you an opportunity to reflect on actions.

- ▲ We will support you by visiting you monthly wherever possible and providing you with an opportunity to think about how reduce your offending. We will think with you about other opportunities that maybe available for you and how we support you to access this if you are not already doing so.
- ▲ If you are aged 18 and do not have any family providing you support, we will support you by providing a £15 per month allowance to cover your basic necessities. We would expect that you would take on employment in prison to support you.
- ▲ If you are aged 16 and 17 years old, you will receive a £10 per week as there are no work opportunities within the system to enable you to maintain contact with your family and also purchase basic necessities.
- ▲ Plan with you and your probation or Young Offender Service as to what support will be most helpful to you on your release including accommodation should you wish to access suitable accommodation.

3. Relationships

We will support you in all aspects of your life and make sure you have the support you need from others. As well as support from your Young Persons Adviser, we may be able to offer you additional practical and emotional support, such as through:

- ▲ Referral to a Grandmentor or other mentor service which is deemed appropriate.
- ▲ Providing you with an advocate should you need one.
- ▲ Where appropriate, continuing to support contact with the 'Independent Visitor' you had while you were in care;
- ▲ Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers or social workers. This support will be available until your 19th birthday. After this, we would expect that you would be able to fund this out of your allowances.
- ▲ As part of our Independence Life Skills training, offer you workshops on Healthy Relationships.

4. Participation in society

We want our care leavers to be active members of society, and to have all the chances in life that other young adults have. We can help you participate in society in the following ways:

- ▲ Providing information on groups and clubs you may wish to join;
- ▲ Informing you about relevant awards, schemes and competitions you can enter, in line with your talents and interests;
- ▲ Encouraging and helping you to enrol on the Electoral Register, so you can vote in elections;
- ▲ Informing you about voluntary work and apprenticeships that we think you may be interested in;
- ▲ Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver;
- ▲ Regularly update our website with information about the support available to you and things that you can do;
- ▲ We can advise and support you to keep yourself safe in the community and sign post you to services who can assist you such as police and adult safeguarding services.



5. Who can help me?

Service Hours:

We are open Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm and generally work around those hours. However, depending on your needs and in agreement with your social worker or YPA, we shall visit you outside these hours as required.

You have said to us that you would like to be able to see a staff member outside the times that you work. Therefore, for a six-month trial period from September 2019, Independent Futures will remain open late one evening (Thursday) a week until 7:30pm to enable young people who are working, in training or education or unable to see their YPA during our normal working hours to be able to come in and see a staff member who can support them. There will be no petty cash payment made during these times.

We shall also have a telephone duty system that is dedicated to care leavers between 5:00pm and 10:00pm Monday to Friday and between 9:00am and 5:00pm at the weekends. The staff member will be able to offer telephone assistance on immediate issues you require support on and again we shall review the use and effectiveness of this support in six months to then decide if we shall continue to provide it if young people are making use of the service.

We will be contactable via **0207 527 8561** and **020 7527 8585** during these times.

Key contact numbers for:

- Independent Futures Team 1 Duty: **020 7527 8561**
- Independent Futures Team 2 Duty: **020 7527 8585**
- Islington Housing Advice Team: **020 7527 2000**
- Education, employment or training support: **020 7527 2540 / 020 7527 8552**
- Service Manager **0207 527 7152**
- Head of Service: **020 7527 7236**
- Islington CAIS Team: **020 7527 8694**
- Action for Children: **020 7254 9408**
- Looked After and Leaving Care Dedicated Health Team: **020 7527 8810**
- Pulse Sexual Health Service Islington: **020 7527 1323**
- Mind Connect (Emotional Support): **020 7278 4224 / 07977 283 660**
- Islington Learning Disability Partnership **0207 527 6600**
- Islington Adult Social Care Service: **0207 527 2299**
- Islington Adult Sensory Outreach Team: **0207 527 7359**
- Islington Children Sensory Outreach Team: **020 7704 8127**



Other places you can go for help:

1. Rees: The Care Leavers Foundation <https://www.reesfoundation.org>
Provides small grants for care leavers aged 18-25
2. The care leavers association <http://www.careleavers.com>
A charity aimed at improving the lives of care leavers
3. Become <http://www.becomecharity.org.uk>
Online advice and information for care leavers
4. Propel <http://propel.org.uk/>
UK Information on what support is available for care leavers at university
5. Shelter <https://england.shelter.org.uk> Provides housing advice
6. National government benefits calculator <https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators>
7. Citizens Advice Bureau <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Your right to be heard and taken seriously:

It is really important that your wishes, feelings, aspirations and views are always taken into account when decisions are made for you. Sometimes the decisions we may need to take are complex and we might not always get this right, it is helpful to be able to access someone who is independent from the local authority who can help us understand your wishes and feelings.

Independent Advocacy:

An advocate is someone who understands the law, knows what our duties to you are and knows about your rights. An advocate can speak up for you or help you to speak for yourself. It's their job to make sure that you are listened to and that your issues are taken seriously. They can accompany you to meetings or help you put your areas of disagreement to us in a written complaint.

Advocacy is provided by the national charity, Action for Children who can be contacted on: **020 7254 9408 / 0800 043 9553.**

Other rights:

- ▲ You have a right to see the information we keep about you, including the files and records written about you when you were in care. We will prepare you to read the files and support you to understand why some decisions were made for you.
- ▲ We want to make sure every young person leaving care has the support to achieve their goals in life.
- ▲ If you have a disability or a communication difficulty, we can offer you additional advice to support you to access to community based services.

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Living Allowance (Subsistence)	Young people aged 16-17 who are living in supported housing or semi-independent accommodation and are in full-time education or looking for work or training.	£60.00 per week	You are expected to let us know of any other income that you might have. If you have any other income, we may reduce the amount that we pay you. Young mothers can get Income Support (through Job Centre Plus) and so are not entitled to this living allowance. Young people living with foster families or in residential care receive their income in the form of allowances from their foster carers.
Rent/ Placement costs	Young people aged 16-17	The full cost of your rent (or your placement costs). This is inclusive of utility bills (bills for gas and electricity and water).	When you are 18 years old you become responsible for your own rent. If you are in education or training/ working and you are on a low income, or you are not working when you turn 18, you will be able to claim Housing Benefit to enable you to pay your rent. We expect you to make an application for your Housing Benefit within 2 weeks of your 18 th Birthday.
Finance	Young people aged 16-17 who are living in supported housing or semi-independent accommodation	Clothing up to £480.00 per year allowance for, Care Leavers Fund of £300	Payments need to be agreed by your social worker in discussion with you. This allowance is to purchase clothing and is £40.00 per month. Agree in advance with your social worker or young person's adviser how you would like to receive this payment. It could either be as a gift or a payment made to your account. Purchases need to be agreed with your social worker or YPA and supported by receipts. £300.00 is to be split between one important festivity such as Ramadhan, Dewali, Christmas or Hanukkah and your birthday or for use on a hobby or holiday. If you chose to, you can also access gym membership from Better Gyms by contributing £110 to your gym membership from your care leavers' fund.

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Care leavers fund	Young people aged 18-21	£200 for your birthday/ celebration or a holiday or hobby	Agree in advance with your social worker or young person's adviser how you would like to receive this payment. It could either be as a gift or a payment made to your account. Purchases need to be agreed with your social worker or YPA and supported by receipts. £200.00 is to be split between one important festivity such as Ramadhan, Dewali, Christmas or Hanukkah and your birthday or for use on a hobby or holiday. If you chose to, you can also access gym membership from Better Gyms by contributing £110 to your gym membership from your care leavers' fund.



What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Education Travel Allowance: FE	Young people aged 16-24 living in supported housing, semi-independent accommodation or living independently and who are in further education or training.	Costs of travel from home to college during term-times only.	<p>If these costs are not met through other sources, such as free student travel in London (and elsewhere). Students must apply for Student Travel Card/Oyster Card.</p> <p>Travel costs are for the cheapest reasonable journey by public transport. To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals.</p>
Learning Agreement Allowance	For young people aged 16-24 who are engaged in an agreed program of education or training that is recorded in a learning agreement with Independent Futures	£2.50 for each training or guided learning hour, up to a maximum of £30.00 per week. The allowance is paid on the basis of attendance.	<p>Not available for those young people who are entitled to full 16-19 Bursary. Evidence of regular attendance in line with the learning agreement is essential, and verified on a weekly basis.</p> <p>To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals.</p>
Education/ Employment/ Training income guarantee	Young people living independently, in supported housing or semi- independence, who are in education, training, apprenticeship or employment with training.	After meeting rent, and water, and the cost of travel to college, training or work or apprenticeship your income will be at least £100.00 per week.	<p>Evidence of regular attendance at college/ school/training or work is essential.</p> <p>All your income from: Wages; 16-19 Bursary, Learning Agreement Allowance; Training Allowance; and Benefits is taken into account. If the money that you have left after paying your rent, water and your travel costs, is less than £100.00 per week, then we will top up your income to the guarantee level of £100.00 per week.</p> <p>To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals.</p>

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Education Items: Further Education	Young people living independently, in supported housing or semi-independence and who are in school, Further Education, or training.	Up to £150.00 per year for books, materials, equipment, registration/ enrolment fees, trips etc.	<p>Where recommended by tutor in writing, or where this is part of your course.</p> <p>To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals.</p>
Higher Education Fund	Young people studying in Higher Education undertaking a course that is not a degree.	£2000.00 paid in two instalments in the first two terms of a course in Higher Education	<p>Payments of £1,000.00 in each of the first two terms. Young people must produce a letter from their tutor/ admissions office each term to confirm continuing attendance on the course before payment is made.</p> <p>To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals</p>
Higher Education Support Grant	Young people studying in Higher Education	£1,000.00 per term whilst studying. We will contribute to your learning as long as you are eligible for student finance. This means, we will pay a maximum of 12 payments for any young person.	<p>Paid in termly payments of £1,000.00 each. Young people must produce a letter from their tutor/admissions office each term to confirm continuing attendance on the course before payment is made. Young people are also required to supply a copy of their rent statement to show that they are not in rent arrears at the start of each term. The support grant is first used to clear any outstanding arrears, and the balance paid to the young person. This Higher Education Support Grant includes your higher education bursary and Islington's contribution to your living costs. For students undertaking any postgraduate learning, we will only offer a higher education support grant if you have not claimed your 12 payments.</p> <p>In the event that your course will end after your 25th birthday- agree a plan with you as to how payments will be made. You would not have the support of an YPA beyond your 25th birthday.</p>

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Graduation grant	For new graduates to meet the costs of attendance at graduation events	£150.00	A letter from the university setting out arrangements must be produced by the young person.
Higher Education Holiday Accommodation	Young people in Higher Education who are unable to stay in their term-time accommodation during a vacation.	Negotiable, to cover the cost of vacation accommodation.	Requires minimum of 12 weeks' notice by young person. Wherever possible this accommodation will be in a student halls type setting in borough or as close to Islington as possible. This is a separate additional contribution in addition to your Higher Education Support Grant.
Emergency/ Crisis Payment/ food etc.	Young People living independently or in supported housing or semi-independence aged 18-21	A one-off discretionary payment, or parcel of food, depending on circumstances and assessment, to provide food, or payment of essential utility bills.	Young people are expected to have tried all other sources available first including assistance available through Jobcentre Plus. Young people may be provided with food vouchers, or a food parcel or have money added to a pre-payment key rather than receive cash.
Support for Interviews / training/ starting work or apprenticeship	Young people in semi-independent and independent accommodation, or aged over 18	Cost of interview clothes/travel up to £100.00 per year.	Discretionary paid only where there is evidence of an interview. Young people will be supported to use services such as "dress- for-success" and "suited and booted". Additional costs which are essential to a young person being able to take up employment may be considered.
Support for starting work or apprenticeship	Young people in semi-independent and independent accommodation, or aged over 18	Living allowance at £60.00 per week and cost of travel to work during the first month (or in advance of the first salary payment if less than a month) where no other income is available from Jobcentre Plus or the employer.	Discretionary paid only where other funding is unavailable and where there is evidence of a confirmed job. Additional costs which are essential to a young person being able to take up employment may be considered To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals.

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Passports and Documentation	Young people in semi-independent and independent accommodation, or aged over 18	A one off payment to cover the cost of the actual documents required.	All young people should be provided with a only one set of documents - Passport, Birth Certificate, Travel Document or Permit to Travel whilst awaiting a Home Office decision if applicable. Includes the costs of any Photographs.
Provisional Driving Licence	All young people	Cost of a provisional licence	A one off payment to cover the cost of the actual documents required.



What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Settled Status for UASC	All UASC who are eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain and are unable to access legal aid.	Cost of indefinite leave application at the time of application.	Where you are not able to obtain your settled status via the use of legal aid, we will support you with making this application. To do so, we would need you to have worked in partnership with your YPA on a financial savings plan for your status ahead of this application and not able to obtain any support around this. To claim allowances in relation to your immigration need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals
Contact Arrangements	Young people aged up to 19 living in supported housing or semi-independent accommodation or living independently.	A contribution towards the costs of maintaining contact with family or carers.	Arrangements should be discussed at a Statutory Review or Pathway Plan Review. This support is discretionary. Any amounts discussed at a Review are provisional until agreed by the Independent Futures Service Manager.
Health support	Young People under 18 not living in foster or residential care	Up to £100 per annum contribution towards glasses or NHS dental treatment (over and above the NHS entitlement)	Requires written confirmation of costs from Optician/Dentist
Living Allowance whilst in Further Education	Young people aged over 21 who are in full-time education or training without another source of income	Up to £60.00 per week whilst studying and ineligible for benefits. An application for rent costs may be considered depending on income and circumstances.	Discretionary payment. Wherever possible young people will be supported to find suitable alternative courses which enable them to be self-funding. Young people may need to move to part-time study in order to be entitled to Job Seekers Allowance and Housing Benefit. The young person and their personal adviser must complete an application if an alternative is not available. To claim allowances in relation to employment, apprenticeship, and education, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals

What's it called?	Who can get it?	How much? How often?	Comments
Living Allowance while making a fresh claim for benefits	Young people under 21	Up to £60.00 per week for up to 2 weeks while making a fresh claim for benefits, (e.g. when first living independently at 18)	Young person must provide evidence of making a fresh claim for benefits. Other sources of income / savings must be taken into account. To claim this allowance, you need to provide us consent to liaise with relevant professionals at the Department of Work and Pensions.
Setting Up Allowance (SUA)	Young People who are moving into their own independent accommodation	£1500.00 (Up to £300.00 can be made available when a young person moves to furnished accommodation)	For essential items of furniture, equipment. £300 can be made available for portable items before the move to permanent housing (e.g. for young people living in furnished supported accommodation and semi-independent accommodation.) You would need to discuss and agree this with your YPA. This offer is only available for young people aged 18 and over.
Moving-in Expenses	Young People who are moving into their own independent accommodation	Up to a total of £750 for: Connection fees for a Gas cooker/ washing machine: up to £130 Removal costs: £75 TV Licence: £160.00 Household (contents) insurance (one year): up to £150 Moving-in starter pack: £55 Health & Safety pack: £65 Decorating grant: £125	These allowances are to be used only for these specific purposes. Young people should use recommended insurers. Details of moving-in starter pack - The Health & Safety pack comprises: Two smoke detectors, one carbon monoxide detector, door security chain, chub lock, fire blanket and first aid kit if not provided by housing. Decorating grant only available where there is no grant payable by the housing provider



Notes



