



Care Experienced Local Offer

together for
children
SUNDERLAND

Health and wellbeing ‘looking after yourself’

Support with health appointments

- Transport costs to doctor/hospital appointments
- Leaving care worker can attend appointments with care experienced young person
- Financial support with health

Health Passport

- Available to every care experienced young people and opportunity to understand this information

Access to leisure services

- Free Everyone Active gym membership

Specialist health services

- Access to Looked After Nurse up to 18 years
- Access to a MIND counsellor
- Access to Kooth, an online counselling and support service for young people in Sunderland aged 10 to 18, and care experienced young people up to 25 years old
- Clinical Child Psychologist available to workers in the team
- Young person’s Project Worker will support young people with cooking and healthy eating, workshops around healthy lifestyle, sexual relationships, promoting an active lifestyle and more
- C Cards available at Next Steps
- Support around substances from Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) or Wear Recovery for 18+
- A cookbook made in conjunction with Change Council, with easy low budget recipes

Relationships

Mentoring scheme for care experienced young people

- Access to an advocate who can provide confidential and independent advice, information and representation. For access, follow the link to the online referral form at www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/advocacy-service

Understanding life story

- Offer to request records and opportunity for support to talk about this
- Digital Life story
- Funding to print off family photos and documents
- Help with transport costs to see family
- Help to stay in touch with family, past carers and friends
- Team of Family Group Conference (FGC) workers to help re-connect with people
- Family Network Meetings, where your social worker will come to your home to chat about a specific problem

Support

- Following changes introduced through the Children & Social Work Act 2017, you will be able to ask to have support from your personal adviser up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not. This is to try to make sure care leavers receive similar support to young adults who live with their families.

Education and training 'learning'

Additional education/training incentives

- Monterey incentive linked to education/training (linked to attendance)
- Additional money towards housing costs if in education/training
- Laptop/software
- Trips linked to education/training
- Support with equipment or clothing needed for education/training
- Books/stationary needed for education/training
- Celebratory voucher/money/meal given on completion of course
- Private tuition via the Virtual School
- Opportunity to undertake a health and safety course with the Local Authority, if relevant to education/training
- Support to attend open days for education/training courses
- Pay registration/exam fees/food package with Sunderland University
- Virtual School Post-16 staff will continue to support you in your education, training and employment when you leave school and ensure you are supported through PEP meetings up until your 18th birthday
- Choices Together Years 10 and 11 is the perfect opportunity to find out all about being a university student and what Higher Education could offer you in the future. It doesn't matter if you haven't thought about college or university - everyone is welcome!

Extra support at University

- Specified bursary up to 25yrs
- Travel costs to/from university
- Support with initial costs of moving belongings to university
- Upon Graduation, you will be provided with a one-off grant of £1,000
- Bursary
- Liaise with uni tutor/support service





Employment 'work'

Additional financial support with employment

- Support costs associated with uniform, interview clothes and tools
- Support with travel costs to interview and work
- Childcare costs (only in exceptional circumstances)
- Support with CSCS card
- If you are a care experienced young person from Sunderland and you are successful in getting an apprenticeship with us, your wage will be decided upon this post

Apprenticeships

- Support to apply for apprenticeships in business community
- Together for Children will guarantee care experienced young people an interview for their apprenticeships
- A Sunderland care experienced apprenticeship wage will be determined upon appointment to post
- Care experienced young people who gain an apprenticeship will receive a £1,000 bursary to support them in beginning their working life
- Supported programme to work towards apprenticeships e.g. interview practice, help with CV writing, personal statement etc.
- Support via NEXUS to travel to work

Specialise work project worker/s

- Careers/work readiness/advice/access to courses, via Careers and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) team and support via PA's, Parker Trust, PAG (Pallion Action Group) and Springboard
- PA to support interests and connect with other services
- Designated contact at Job Centre (SPOC)

Accommodation 'your home'

Council Tax exemption or discount

- Care experienced young people are 100 % exempt from this up to the age of 25
- Care leavers exempt conditionality (e.g. if in education, type of accommodation live in)
- Care leavers who live in Sunderland from another local authority are also entitled to 100 % exemption from council tax

Additional financial or practical support with accommodation

- Make sure you have a suitcase so you don't have to use bin bags
- Starter pack payment (for utilities, food, cleaning)
- Cost toward first weeks shopping
- Pay for first TV licence
- Health and safety equipment
- Local links for finance towards white goods
- Pay one-year home contents insurance
- Other practical support i.e. painting, decorating and DIY, supported by Personal Advisor

On an individual basis, we may support:

- Cost of deposit/agency admin fee
- One months rent
- Help with moving Priority Housing
- Priority with housing bidding
- Priority with housing dept if return to live in area after university
- Support in housing crisis
- Act as guarantor

Specialist housing project or worker for care experienced young people

- Preparation for Independence workbook
- Opportunity to spend time in a trainer flat
- Housing worker linked to accommodation e.g. floating support including weekend and evening
- Supported Lodgings is a scheme which provides accommodation for 16 to 21 year old care experienced young people within a home environment. The aim is to offer a supportive, safe environment to help young people develop their self-confidence and independent living skills and prepare for their future

Participation in society 'getting involved in your community'

Celebrations of achievements

- Awards events
- Individual celebration of milestone such as gaining qualification e.g. go out for a meal
- Support to celebrate religious festivals

Fun activities

- Financial and practical support towards hobbies, cultural outing etc.
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- Organise fun activities with young person's Project Worker Dedicated care experienced space
- Chill out space at Stanfield Centre building/laundry facilities at Next Steps

Support with learning to drive

- Either car or motorcycle
- Match funding scheme (e.g. care experienced young people pay for five lessons and Next Steps pay for five lessons (max no of lessons conditional on being linked to education or training)
- Costs towards theory test, practical test and provisional driving licence
- Same can be offered with motorcycle, up to same costs

Volunteering opportunities

- Volunteering opportunities
- Training offered re: interviewing staff (voucher paid for time)
- Young people can be paid for time when consulted
- Help access volunteering opportunities

Out of hours support

- In the evening via ED

Care experienced forum

- Monthly Change Council meetings in the evening with the purpose of having voice heard, making positive change, shaping services, meeting senior managers, meeting other young people and having food together
- National young people benchmarking forum
- Young people can be paid for time when consulted
- Food and travel provided
- Newsletter to share what young people have been up to and to show what's been happening in the local community

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Digital support/social media use

- Access to Mind Of My Own app
- Facebook page
- Wi-Fi available at some homes
- Laptop provided to all those young people who are in education/training during covid-19

Identity documents

- Financial support with ID documents e.g. national insurance number; passport; birth certificate; provisional driving licence and photos if needed
- Keep a copy of these documents
- Support with British citizenship/naturalisation
- Support to open a bank account
- Help to join electoral register

Finance 'your money'

Specialist finance project or worker for care experienced young people

- Money management/budgeting training at Next Steps
- Benefit and finance advice via Job Centre and Pallion Action Group, who support with benefit advice
- Finance handbook/entitlements information for care leavers (updated annually)
- Assistance to make an 'advance claim' prior to 18th birthday

Savings

- Savings
- Help to access Junior ISA
- Help to open bank account
- Help to set up a 'basic account' if young people are not able to open a debit account

Financial crisis support

- Support during sanction period e.g. food, heating, transport pass, but no money
- Support during benefit delay or waiting period e.g. income maintenance for up to five weeks whilst waiting for benefits, help to apply for government loan; cash allowance; food vouchers; food parcel
- Signpost or refer to voluntary organisation e.g. food bank; community furniture stores; Hopespring; Base (soup kitchen)

Personal allowance

- Birthday money (amount specified by age)
- Festival/Christmas money
- Christmas hamper/gifts
- Clothing allowance (amount specified)





'Groups' of care experienced young people

LGBTQ+

- Spektrum (LGBTQ+)
- Youth group via Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusions Network (EDIN) via NHS Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group
- Email youthvoice@togetherforchildren.org.uk

Care experienced young people who are parents

- Parenting classes with Triple P
- One to one parenting support (with focus on practical; emotional demands; help accessing community support) if in a mother and baby home •
- Access to a Family Nurse Practitioner
- Dad's group

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people

- Immunisation (if needed)
- Extension of Cared For Child's medical
- Support to access Refugee Council and legal appointments
- Emotional support from UASC leads who understand the challenges faced by unaccompanied young people
- Support via referral for therapeutic services for Separated Children, via Refugee Council

Care experienced young people in custody

- Financial allowance for care leavers in custody (£10 per week if in education/work in custody)

Disabled care experienced young people

- Access to specialist groups, via adults social workers
- Transitions Management Group to aid in a smooth transition from children's services to adult's services

Cost of Living Support

We understand that this is a difficult time for many young people and their families and friends, with all of us expecting to face challenges this winter and spring.

Please see some extra resources that you might find useful:

Bethany City Church

Bede Tower, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR2 7EA
Provides an emergency food bank, drop-in cafés plus other activities, including lunch on Fridays between 11am and 1pm for vulnerable people and those in need.

[Bethany City Church | Sunderland Information Point](#)

Community School Clothing Scheme

59 Fawcett Street, Sunderland, SR1 1SE
A free service specialising in pre-loved school uniforms, with over 100 schools in the North East represented.

[Community School Clothing Scheme | Sunderland Information Point](#)

Love, Amelia

3 Glaholm Rd, Hendon, Sunderland, SR1 2NX
Supporting people with children from birth to 16 years old with the essential items needed to be safe, happy and thrive.

loveamelia.org.uk

Bundles for Babies

The Co-Op Centre, Whitehouse Road, SR2 8AH
0191 511 1391

Offering a discreet service for families in need providing baby and child essentials, clothing, toys and books, as well as mothers-to-be with pre and post-natal essentials.

[Bundles For Babies Sunderland baby bank - Wellbeing Info](#)

Citizens Advice Bureau

5A Waterloo Pl, Sunderland SR1 3HT
0808 278 7950

Offering free, impartial and confidential advice and information to people in the community to help them find the way forward and resolve their issues. They advise on a range of subject areas, including welfare benefits and debt.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

FISCUS Community Advice

37 Villette Road, Hendon, Sunderland
07983 355 212

Provides advice, crisis support and community services in Sunderland and the wider North East. They also have a debt surgery on Thursday afternoons – call to make an appointment.

[FISCUS Community Advice | Sunderland Information Point](#)

Salvation Army

Shakespeare Street, Sunderland and other locations

0191 561 8272

www.salvationarmy.org.uk

The Green Doctor

Offers free and practical energy advice and support to help you save energy, reduce your bills, and live in a warmer, more comfortable home.

GreenDoctorSunderland@groundwork.org.uk

PAG Pallion Action Group

3 East Moor Road, Sunderland
0191 514 2011

Offers educational and recreational activities with great links to other services.

pallionactiongroup.co.uk

Youth Almighty

Provides opportunities for young people around activities, holiday hunger, disability group, intergenerational, employment support, training, social activities, volunteering, digital skills and social action projects.

www.youthalmighty.co.uk/

Household Support Fund

Open to care experienced young people who need support with the cost of living. Speak to your worker about the Household Support Fund.

Social Prescribers

Ask your worker or GP about social prescribers – they can support you with more than your physical health.

Hope4All

Everything they sell is sold at half price or less, helping people manage within their budget so that they can rely less on food banks. They also give back the ability to choose – at a food bank you are given food, whereas at Shop4All, you can decide what food to buy and regain your independence.

www.facebook.com/hope4allcommunity/

Warm Spaces

Various Sunderland locations

Open seven days a week, Warm Spaces are being offered by local community organisations, with support from Greggs, Morrisons and Aldi

sunderland.gov.uk/warm-spaces