



# COVENTRY'S LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE LEAVER PARENTS



# INTRODUCTION

- This document tells you about the support that is on offer to you as a Coventry care leaver. This includes your entitlement to financial and practical support.
- It is important that you know there is support available to you whilst you or your partner are pregnant, but also once your baby has been born.
- The Through Care team wants to make sure that you feel supported and in order to do this - you should know where and who to go to for help/advice.
- If you are a care leaver parent and/or expecting a child, this document should be read alongside the Money Matters and Local Offer document.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- To access PA (Personal Adviser) support and the entitlements listed below you must be a 'Former Relevant Care Leaver' (The Children and Social Work Act 2017). A former relevant care leaver is someone who has been in care for at least 16 or they were in care for 13 weeks after their 16th Birthday. If you are unsure on whether you meet this criteria, please contact the Through Care Team on 02476 787808 and ask for a member of the duty team.
- Alternatively, if you do not meet the above criteria and you were in care for a different period (as a child) you may be a qualifying care leaver. If this is the case, then you can contact the Through Care duty team for advice and guidance.
- If you are over 25 and a Coventry Care Leaver please do still make contact on the above number for advice and guidance.

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

## ROLE OF THE PERSONAL ADVISER

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



# PATHWAY PLANNING

- Personal Advisers support care leavers in preparing for independent living and will complete a pathway plan with you. This will set out what support you need and what your goals are for the future.
- Your pathway plan should be reviewed once you know that you or your partner are pregnant. It should then be reviewed six monthly with you. As well as this, with your consent, your personal Adviser will hold a pathway plan meeting 2 months before your baby is due to be born.
- Your pathway plan will focus on some of the areas listed below and your entitlements.

# HOUSING

- You will be able to access your SUHG (setting up home grant) until the age of 21 and up until the age of 25 if agreed within your pathway plan before you turn 21 years old.
- Your Personal Adviser will work with you to identify the most appropriate housing option for you and your child.
- If appropriate, Through Care's housing liaison officer should be invited to your pathway plan review – to provide advice on the options available to you.
- When you are deemed tenancy ready, you will have priority banding on Homefinder as a care leaver.
- You may be able to bid on bigger properties, depending on your child's age and need. This should be reviewed with your Personal Adviser and the Homefinder team.

# ALLOWANCES

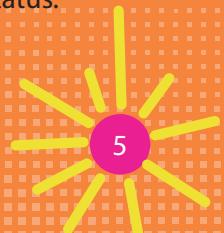
- During the third trimester of pregnancy you will be able to access a grant of £150 from Through Care.
- Your Personal Adviser will be able to support you in applying for your Sure Start Grant of £500 (where appropriate).
- You may be entitled to your savings that were accrued when you were a looked after child and if so you will be supported to access these by your Personal Adviser.
- You may be able to access a onetime clothing grant of up to £50 to ensure you have some of the necessary clothing through pregnancy.



- When you/your partner enter hospital your Personal Adviser will be provide you with a care package of essential items.
- Once your baby is born they will be given a gift from your Personal Adviser (as long as you are in agreement with this).

# EDUCATION/ EMPLOYMENT

- You may be referred to the Through Care Education and Employment Panel. This is to support you in exploring employment/education opportunities.
- You may be able to access 6 months free internet via the National Databank to support you in exploring education/employment opportunities.
- Your Personal Adviser will support you in applying/searching for School and Nursery provisions for your child.
- Your Personal Adviser will support you to explore your maternity/ paternity pay options – regardless of your employment status.



# IDENTIFICATION

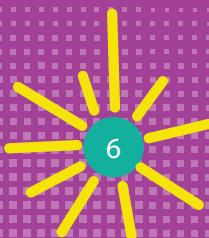
- Your Personal Adviser will support you in accessing photo ID and this will be funded under your Money Matters entitlement.
- Your Personal Adviser may support you to register your baby once they are born (if this is something you would like/need support with).
- Through Care may cover the cost of your baby's first scan pictures.

# SUPPORT NETWORK

- Through Care may support your family in visiting you once your baby is born. This would be up to three times a year and would need to be discussed with your Personal Adviser.
- Lifelong Links helps find and bring together people that are important to you, for example family, friends, former foster carers, teachers. These might include people you haven't seen for a while.
- Whilst you/your partner are pregnant, a referral will be made (with your consent) to lifelong links.
- You and your child are welcome to come to all of our activities and events. Also, you may be invited to our parent support group/s once your child is born.

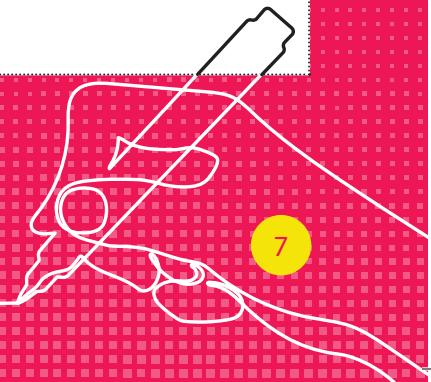
# HEALTH

- Your Personal Adviser may support you to access support services such as the Family Nurse Partnership and Coventry Family Health and Lifestyle Team.
- Your Personal Adviser may support you to apply for Healthy Start vouchers – if this is something you would like advice around.
- Your Personal Adviser may offer support to and from Midwife appointments.
- You can also access therapeutic support through Ask Jan and your Personal Adviser will support you in registering for this.



# CHECKLIST

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?	YES/NO	COMMENTS
Have you/your partner been to the GP?		
Does your support network know you are pregnant?		
Have you/your partner got a midwife?		
Has your first scan been booked?		
Has your baby been given their gift?		
Have you accessed all of your allowances?		
Have you made a birth plan?		



# USEFUL CONTACTS

Name:

Number:

Email:

## THROUGH CARE

02476787808

DutyThroughCare@coventry.gov.uk

## COFFEE TOTS

coffeetots@gmail.com

## FAMILY NURSE PARTNERSHIP

swg-tr.fnpcoventry@nhs.net

07881635611

## COVENTRY FAMILY HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE SERVICE

02475 189190

## BABY GODIVA

<https://babygodiva.org/>

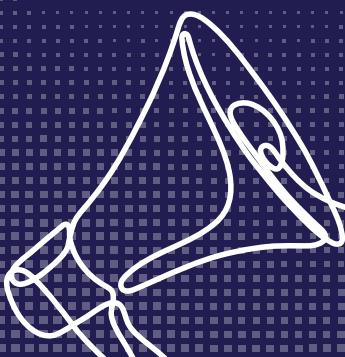
## COVENTRY FAMILY HUBS

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/family-hubs>

Hello!



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\*If you are over the age of 25 when you have your child you will still be able to contact the Through Care Service on the number listed above for advice and guidance \*