

# COVENTRY'S LOCAL OFFER

FOR CARE LEAVERS  
WITH DISABILITIES OR  
ADDITIONAL NEEDS



# INTRODUCTION

- This Care Leaver Local Offer document tells you about the support that is on offer to you as a care leaver aged 16 to 25 with disabilities or additional needs
- The Through Care team are committed to ensuring all care leavers with disabilities or additional needs feel supported



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- To access a Personal Adviser support and the entitlements listed below you must be a **'Former Relevant Care Leaver'** (The Children and Social Work Act 2017). A former relevant care leaver is someone who has been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 or they were in care for 13 weeks after their 16th Birthday. If you are unsure on whether you meet these criteria, please contact the Through Care Team on **024 7678 7808** 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 team for advice and guidance on what your support looks like.

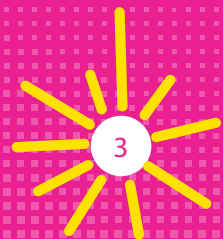


## ROLE OF THE PERSONAL ADVISER

- You will be allocated a Personal Adviser. They will be trained in Mental Health First Aid.
- You will be allocated a Personal Adviser who will support you from the age of 17 until the age of 21 (as a minimum). They can also continue to support you from the age of 21 until 25 if you would like this.
- Before you turn 18, your PA will work closely with you, your social worker and the other people that support you to understand your needs and the best way to support you.
- Your Personal Adviser will visit you every 2 months as a minimum. This will up until the age of 21.

## PATHWAY PLANNING

- You will have a Pathway Plan that will include what you need, your goals and how your goals can be achieved. Your Pathway Plan will be put together with you and any other professionals you want to include.
- If you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), with your consent your PA will have a copy of this and will take time to understand your Education, Health and Care needs.
- Your Personal Adviser will include your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or other support plans you may have into your pathway plan, where applicable and with your consent.



## HOUSING

- Your Personal Adviser will work with all the professionals around you to make sure you have a safe and accessible home that meets your needs.
- Your Personal Adviser will be involved in planning for you transition from Children's Services to Adult Services and we will work closely with adult services to ensure the best support is available to you.
- If appropriate, before you are 18, you can stay in the training flat to support your independence.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- You will have access to the financial entitlements outlined in the Money Matters booklet.
- Your Personal Adviser can support you to find out information and get advice around benefits such as - Personal Independent Payments (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Universal Credit (UC). They can also help you apply for these benefits, if you would like this support.
- Your Personal Adviser can provide you with advice and guidance on budgeting and help find additional support in this area for you if needed.
- You may be entitled to child in care savings and if so, you will be supported to access these.

## EDUCATION/ EMPLOYMENT

- You will be provided with six months free internet via the National Databank to support you in exploring education/employment opportunities.
- If appropriate, you can be referred to the Through Care Education and Employment panel to support you to access educational opportunities or employment opportunities suited to your needs.
- Your Personal Adviser may send you work and voluntary opportunities that might be right for you.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- You will have access to the 'Ask Jan' membership via the Rees foundation to support your emotional wellbeing
- If you need some extra support to access appointments and support your Personal Adviser can discuss this with you.
- Your Personal Adviser can support you to attend appointments if deemed necessary and this something you would want.



## SOCIAL LIFE AND INDEPENDENCE

- You will be able to access a free gym membership. If you live in Coventry this will be access to CV Life gyms.
- You can access the Through Care activities that take place every month.
- Your Personal Adviser can support you to access travel training to help travel to places you want to visit, if this is something you would want.
- You may be able to access free travel on West Midlands buses.
- You will be able to access Lifelong Links support to support you with maintaining or building relationships with people in your life now and people you may have lost contact with.
- Every year we have the Care Leavers Awards – this a big event to celebrate all Care Leavers in Coventry and you will be invited.

## PARTICIPATION AND VOICE

- We actively seek the views of care leavers with disabilities or additional needs. There is a Care Leavers Forum that takes place every month where young people can share their views and help shape the Through Care Service. You can attend in person or virtually.
- We will support to make a referral for the Barnardos advocacy service or similar, if you would like this.
- The Through Care service will ensure information is available in accessible formats to you.

If you are a care leaver with a disability or would like more information about the support available, please contact your Personal Adviser or you can contact our Care Leaver Disability Champion

[DutyThroughCare@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:DutyThroughCare@coventry.gov.uk)

024 7678 7808

[www.coventry.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/care-leavers](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/childrens-social-care/care-leavers)

# USEFUL CONTACTS

Name:

Number:

Email:

## THROUGH CARE

024 7678 7808

DutyThroughCare@coventry.gov.uk

## ADULT SOCIAL CARE

024 7683 3003

ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

## COVENTRY MIND

<https://cwwmind.org.uk/coventry-2/>

## SCOPE

0808 800 3333

helpline@scope.org.uk

## GRAPEVINE

024 7683 1040

<https://www.grapevinecovandwarks.org/contact/>

## REES FOUNDATION

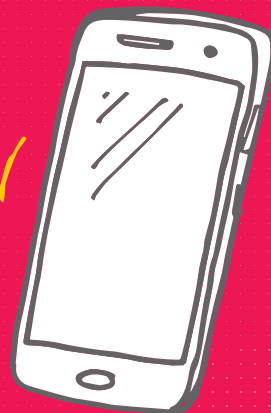
0330 094 5645

contactus@reesfoundation.org

## MIND OUT

<http://mindout.org.uk/>

Hello!



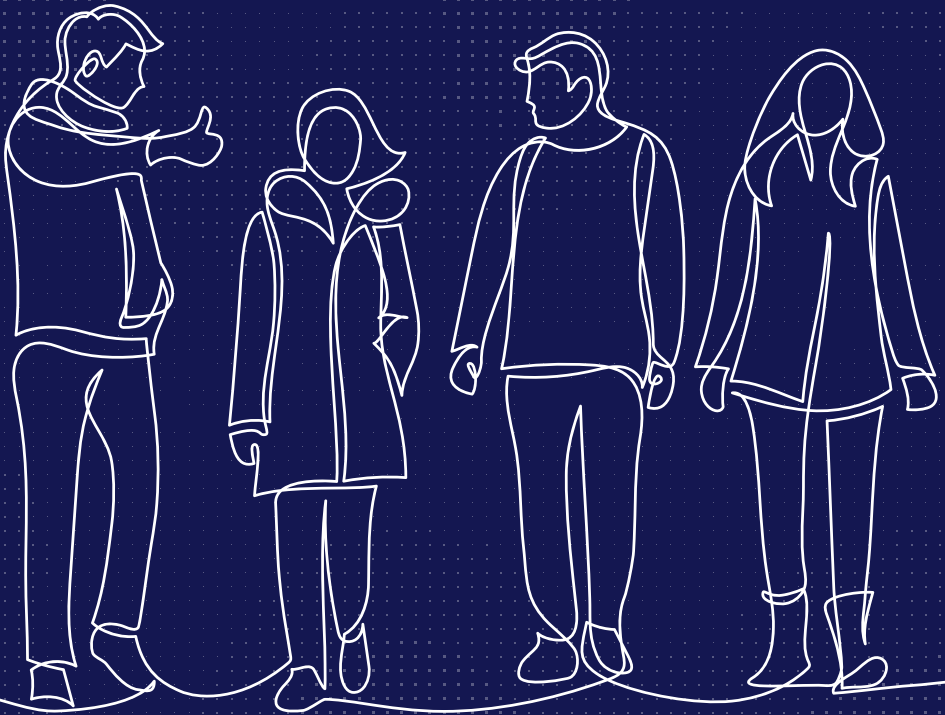


## **BENEFITS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/disability>

## **BARNARDOS ADVOCACY**

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-young-people>



**\*If you are over the age of 25 you will still be able to contact the Through Care Service on the number listed above\***

