
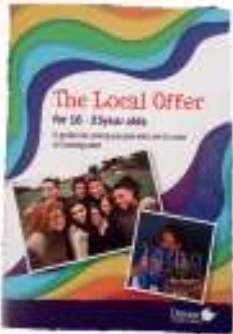





The Local Offer for 16-25 year olds





An Easy Read guide for young people who are leaving care

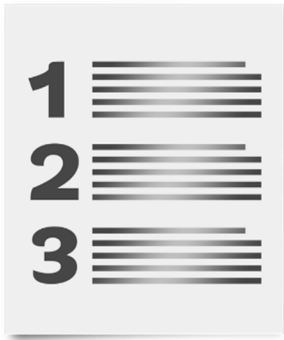
| The Local Offer | |
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|  | <p>This document explains what support Devon County Council offers to young people aged 16-25 years old who are in care or leaving care.</p> |
|  | <p>The support and services available are called the 'Local Offer'.</p> |
|  | <p>Everyone is different which means this document about the Local Offer may not include all the support available to you.</p> |



| Personal Advisor | |
|-------------------------|---|
| | <p>When you are aged 16, Devon County Council will arrange for a Personal Advisor to work with you. Your Personal Advisor's job is to help you prepare for being an adult.</p> |
| | <p>Your Personal Advisor will offer you the support and advice that you need to understand choices and make decisions. You can have a Personal Advisor until the age of 25.</p> |
| | <p>Your Personal Advisor can help you with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding somewhere to live.• Training or job opportunities• Your health and wellbeing.• Sorting out your money.• Your independence skills. |



| The Pathway Plan | |
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|  | Your Personal Advisor will spend time finding out what is important to you, what your future goals are and what support you need. |
|  | This information is put in a document called a Pathway Plan. |
|  | Read on to see what might be included in your Pathway Plan. |
| Your Home | |
|  | Devon County Council wants to make sure you have a safe place to live. Your Personal Advisor will help you to understand your housing options. |



Listed below are some of the housing options for young people.



Staying Put

If you are in foster care you might be able to stay with your foster carers until you are 21. This is called 'staying put'.



Semi-independent living

This means having your own room, but you might share the kitchen and living space with others. A key worker will be at the home to help you when you need it.



Independent living

This means living in your own home. You will need to be able to pay all your bills and have the skills needed to live on your own. Your Personal Advisor can help you get ready for this.



You might need a 'guarantor'. This is someone who can sign documents to say that you are able to pay your rent. Your Personal Advisor can be your guarantor if it is right for you.



Living with family or friends

When you are 18, you might decide you want to live with family.



You might decide you want to live with friends.

Speak to your Personal Advisor if you want to live with family or friends.

Education, Training and Employment



Devon County Council has a careers service called Step forward. Step forward can provide education and careers support and advice.



There may be some financial help available if you decide to stay in education. Your Personal Advisor can give you more information.

Health and Well Being



Until the age of 18 you will be offered a yearly health assessment by a Children in Care nurse.



At the age of 18 you will be given a 'health passport', this is a summary of your health information.



You will be helped to register with health services such as a doctor, dentist, and optician where you are living.



| | |
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|  | <p>There is advice and support available to you from youth workers at Space youth service and Devon County Council's Participation team. They also organise events and groups that you can go to.</p> |
|  | <p>Devon County Council may be able to help you keep or get back in contact with people who are special to you or who cared for you in the past.</p> |
| <p>Finances (Money)</p> | |
|  | <p>Devon County Council will help you to manage your money and will support you financially, this means helping to pay for some things.</p> |
|  | <p>Some of the ways that Devon County Council can support you financially are explained below.</p> |



Identification

Devon County Council will pay for identification that has a photograph of you on it. This could be a passport.



Keeping in Touch

You could receive up to £100 to help you stay in touch with people that are important to you.



Driving Lessons

If you are under the age of 24, Devon County Council may pay for 10 driving lessons and your first driving test. Your Personal Advisor can tell you more about this.



Independent Living

If you are living independently you may be given money to help you buy things. This might include clothing and things for your home. Your Personal Advisor will explain what is available to you.



| Celebrations | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Devon County Council will support you to celebrate special occasions throughout the year such as your birthday and going to care leaver events.</p> |
| Identity | |
|  | <p>Devon County Council will support you around things that are important to your identity. This might be about your culture, sexuality, gender or religious beliefs.</p> |
| Contribution to Society | |
|  | <p>Devon County Council will support you to be an active part of society and have your voice heard. This might be helping you to register to vote and letting you know about clubs and groups you may wish to join.</p> |