

BARNSLEY LOCAL OFFER FOR CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE



Table of Contents

1 Introduction	2
2 The Purpose of the Barnsley Local Offer for Care Experienced Young People	3
3 Our Offer to Care Experienced Young People	3
3.1 A Personal Advisor	3
3.2 Your right to be heard and taken seriously	4
3.3 Access to you Files	5
3.4 Leaving care before 18 years of age	5
3.5 Support to engage in education, employment or training	5
3.6 Accommodation	6
3.7 Health and wellbeing	7
3.8 Finances	8
3.9 Relationships	8
3.10 Participation in Society	8
4 Who can Help - Key Services and Contact Details:	9
4.1 Your Personal Advisor	9
4.2 Out of Hours Help in an Emergency	9
4.3 Housing Advice	9
4.4 Education, Employment or Training Support	9
4.5 Barnsley Leadership for Children's Services	9
4.6 The Care4Us Council	10
4.7 Advocacy Support	10
5 Other Local & Available Services for Young Adults	10
5.1 Sexual Health	10
5.2 Mental Health Services	10
5.3 OASIS	10
5.4 Be Well Barnsley	11
5.5 Targeted Youth Services	11
5.6 Care Leavers as Parents	12
5.7 Childcare	12
5.8 Youth Offending Team	12
5.9 Youth Council	12
5.10 Alcohol and Substance Use	12
5.11 BSARCS – Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services	12
5.12 IDAS	13
6 Useful Contacts & Information for Care Experienced Young People	13

1 Introduction

This document describes the support that Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council offers our care leavers. It sets out the legal, statutory entitlements that Barnsley care experienced young people can expect of us, as well as information about the additional help and support that Barnsley Council, together with our partners will provide to you as a care leaver.

Barnsley takes its corporate parenting responsibilities very seriously for children in care and care leavers, referred to in this document as care experienced young people. The question and welcomed challenge that we must always ask is, *‘would this be good enough for my own child?’* We want all our care experienced young people to have the support they need to achieve their aspirations and goals; to be happy and healthy; to have positive relationships and experiences, with maximum opportunities to achieve maximum outcomes for the future.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 also requires local authorities to have regard to seven corporate parenting principles when discharging their functions in relation to looked-after children and care experienced young people. The local offer should set out what support all local authorities will provide (not just Children’s Services), having regard to the corporate parenting principles.

Barnsley Council is fully committed to achieving these principles which are:

- To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and well-being of children in care and care experienced young people
- To encourage children in care and care experienced young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of children in care and care experienced young people
- To help children in care and care experienced young people to gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by us and our relevant partners
- To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for children in care and care experienced young people
- For children in care and care experienced young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
- To prepare children in care and care experienced young people for adulthood independent living
- To prepare care experienced young people for adulthood and independent living.

This Local Offer has been developed in direct consultation with care experienced young people in Barnsley. Our offer and this document will be reviewed on an annual basis and the test of its success will be measured against what care experienced young people tell us and their direct experiences of services.

Our care leaver offer is available on line at <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/children-in-care/leaving-care/> in paper format and may be translated where English is not the first spoken language of a care experienced young person.

2 The Purpose of the Barnsley Local Offer for Care Experienced Young People

This document tells you about all the support that we have in Barnsley for you as a care experienced young person. 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.

Barnsley's care experienced young people have helped develop this local offer. We will continue to ask and listen to your views to make sure the services that we offer, are what you need.

To be able to get the support set out in this document, you will have been in care for a period of at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting to 13 weeks) which began after age 14 and included some time after your 16th birthday. If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, ask your Personal Adviser.

Your Personal Adviser will talk with you about the information in this document.

3 Our Offer to Care Experienced Young People

3.1 A Personal Advisor

You will be able to ask for support from your Personal Adviser (PA) up to the age of 25, whether you are in education or training or not.

Your Personal Adviser is there to help you to prepare to live independently and to offer advice and support after you leave care. Personal Advisers should talk to you about what support you need and record this information with you, in your pathway plan.

Your Pathway Plan is written by your Personal Adviser with you and in consultation with important people in your life. It sets out your assessed needs, views and future goals, and identifies exactly what support you will receive from us. We will review your pathway plan with you regularly so that it is kept up-to-date.

The amount of support that you receive from your Personal Adviser will depend on your needs, what you want and your circumstances.

Future Directions, our Leaving Care Team will consider with you what extra support you may need. You might for example, need extra support because:

- You have special educational needs or a disability.
- 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.

Your Personal Advisor is based at Future Directions, our Leaving Care Team:

18 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2 HG Tel: 01226 775550.

The offices are centrally based in Barnsley Town Centre close to the bus/rail station.

There is a duty worker available on the above number 08.45 am to 5.00 pm if your allocated worker is unavailable.

Jayne Shaw is the Team Manager who can be contacted on 01226 775550 if you are having any difficulties

3.2 Your right to be heard and taken seriously

You have a right to be involved in all decisions about your plans for leaving care. You have a right to support from an independent advocate if you want to challenge decisions about the support we give you.

Independent advocates can inform you about your rights and help you to be heard in meetings. They are separate from Children's Social Care Services.

Children's Rights/Advocacy team

The Children's Rights Team are based in The Targeted Youth Support Service and provide independent advocates for all children and young people in care and care experienced young people.

Advocates are people who'll listen to you and help you get your point across if you feel people aren't listening to you, if you're unhappy with any decisions made about you, or if you just want something to change. They'll also support you if you need to make a complaint.

Children's Rights can also help you if:

- You want some help in saying the things you need to say to those who make decisions about you.
- You are unhappy about the way you are being treated by social services or you are worried about plans being made.
- You need information and advice and want to know your rights.
- You need help to make sure you understand what people are saying and make sure people listen to you.
- You want particular people at your meetings.

Advocacy support is available from the Children's Rights Team who can be contacted directly on 01226 753406. If you are in any doubt your Personal Advisor will be able to offer you support in accessing an independent advocate.

Care4Us Council

The Care4Us Council is supported by dedicated participation workers for children in care and care experienced young people within the Targeted Youth Service. All its members are children and young people who are in, or have been in, care. You too can be part of the council. It gives you a chance to meet the Executive Director for People, the Service Director for Children's Social Care Services, the Lead Cabinet Member for Safeguarding and Children's Services, local councillors and service

managers, to talk about things that are important to you and to other children and young people living in, or leaving care.

To contact the Care4Us Council contact the Targeted Youth Support Team on (01226) 775270

3.3 Access to you Files

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. As a care experienced young person you can request access to your files through the Subject Access Request (SAR) process. <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/information-and-privacy/request-to-see-your-personal-information/>

You will be fully supported by your Personal Advisor when receiving your files, who will also support you in understanding your past. If you wish to do this, please talk with your Personal Advisor about how to do this.

3.4 Leaving care before 18 years of age

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 aged 18, we will assess your needs and provide a range of suitable housing and supported housing provision for 16 and 17 year olds.

3.5 Support to engage in education, employment or training

We are deeply committed to your education as we believe that you can, with support, achieve your full potential, your dreams and ambitions. We will ensure that you have the highest levels of support and assistance to achieve your goals in life.

You will be supported by your Personal Adviser, who will support you all the way and will be ready to proudly celebrate your achievements with you.

We will offer you:

- Careers information and advice is available from our Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (TIAG) Service. Information and advice includes things such as help to develop your CV, advice about job interviews, including what you might wear. This will be through a TIAG advisor allocated to you.
- Barnsley's I Know I Can (IKIC) is a Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Project which is about building confidence; creating dreams and aspirations; raising qualification levels; strengthening life skills; using help and support; taking ownership and developing a real '*I Know I Can*' attitude
- I Know I Can provide Pathways to Success, a menu of opportunities for young people to develop their employability & transferable skills. This includes engagement / employability programmes, traineeships, apprenticeships and graduate/undergraduate opportunities (including care leavers and young people with SEND to 25 years
<http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/pathways-to-success/>
I Know I Can provide a variety of options that are available to young people post 16 – 19 years. This includes mainstream providers, such as general further education

colleges and schools, Special schools, Independent Specialist Provider – day and residential placements, Employment with Training/Apprenticeship.

A Curriculum Map enables young people to find suitable Provision in Barnsley and identify steps they need to take to achieve their goals. <http://ikic.co.uk/post-16-providers-2/post-16-provision/>

- Support to purchase a Travel Card for travelling to training, school/college, apprenticeships or job interviews.
- Support to buy tools, equipment, essential clothing, and books.
- Support you to join your local library
- The chance to attend and help organise celebration events when young people achieve education, training and employment milestones.

Support to go to University

We will support you if you choose to go to university, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, travel costs at the start and end of term, and making sure you have somewhere to live during the holidays. You will be supported by your Personal Adviser with choosing the right course and university that matches your talents and interests.

In Barnsley we will ensure that if you are in higher education you will have:

- Your accommodation costs paid directly to your hall of residence or other suitable accommodation on a termly basis by direct payment to the accommodation
- Assistance in purchasing any equipment required for your course by accessing any funding for your course and ensuring any deficit is paid by Future Directions
- Any travel costs associated with contact with family/former carers are assessed and paid directly to you or reimbursed to you
- We will provide you with somewhere for you to stay during University, or Higher Education, holidays (or funding for this if you would prefer to make your own arrangements)
- Support you when you are choosing to go to university, such as helping you obtain tuition fees and maintenance loans, travel costs at the start and end of term. We will pay all costs associated with visits to university and ensure that any university loans are explained and applied for promptly. If your loan is not available at the start of your course, we will ensure that your fees are paid and that you have an allowance pending the receipt of the loan
- We will help you choose the right course and the university that matches your talents and interests.
- A bursary of £2,000 over the cost of the course to help with the cost of books and materials. This is paid annually at the start of each semester
- Care leavers are a priority group for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund administered by FE colleges, which pays a bursary of up to £1,200 a year to support vulnerable young people to participate in education

3.6 Accommodation

If you are aged over 18 your Personal Adviser will help find you suitable accommodation. This might involve:-

- If this is what you and your foster carer(s) want, we will support you to remain with your foster carers under what is called a 'Staying Put' arrangement. This can last

until you are aged 21.

http://www.proceduresonline.com/barnsley/cs/p_stay_put.html

- If you do not wish to remain in a Staying Put arrangement, but later change your mind, we will support this to happen up to aged 21 subject to agreement of your former foster carer
- We know it can be very hard having your own place for the first time. We will do whatever we can to ease the pressures on you and from the 1st April 2018 Barnsley Council exempts all care leavers from paying council tax
- We work with Barnsley Homes and Housing Services and Providers to provide you with suitable housing, taking into account your needs and wishes, including supported accommodation if you are not ready or don't want to have your own tenancy
- Ensure that your Personal Advisor visits within a week of you moving into a new home, and then visits at least every 2 months after that, but more often, if this is what you need
- Visit you regularly in your home and help fix any minor repairs and check that you are maintaining your home
- Help you arrange practical support with moving into and furnishing your new home
- Ensure that we access rent deposits and bond guarantee schemes if using the private rented sector and not use your Setting Up Home allowance for this purpose
- Review where you are living through the Pathway Plan Review process after 28 days and at least every 3 months after that
- Help you to claim housing benefit/universal credit if you are eligible and not in employment
- Advice about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent arrears, paying bills and budgeting
- Support you if you have a housing crisis, including helping if you are threatened with or lose a tenancy

3.7 Health and wellbeing

We want you to be healthy and well! Below are some of the ways your Personal Adviser can support you to stay healthy and look after your physical and emotional health. We can:

- Give you information on eating healthily
- Give you information on healthy living, like stopping smoking and alcohol consumption
- Give you information on accessing local leisure, exercise and sports facilities
- Give you information on getting help to pay for prescriptions
- Support you to register with a GP
- Support you to register with a Dentist
- Support you to register with an Optician
- Support you to attend any appointments
- Support you to transition from CAMHS to Adult Mental Health Services
- Give you information about counselling and Adult Mental Health Services that are available locally
- Give you help with transport costs when attending health appointments
- Give you information about sexual health services

- Work with you to develop a 'health passport' containing key information from your childhood (for example, when and if you have had immunisations) and your current health needs.

3.8 Finances

You will be supported by your Personal Adviser with budgeting. We will try to help you financially, including:

- Payment of £57.90 per week, or the equivalent of benefit, if you are 16-19 living in semi-supported accommodation and unable to access benefits
- Providing a leaving care grant to help you buy essential things when moving into your own home to a value of £2,000. Your PA will help get you the best deals on carpets, white goods and other essential household items
- Giving you exemptions on paying Council Tax from the 1st April 2018
- Providing or telling you about relevant money management courses
- Helping you to get a job
- Support to purchase a Travel Card
- Information on how to access your Junior ISA or Child Trust Fund. A letter will be given to you by your PA who will support you to access this funding and transfer the money to your own account
- Support to open a bank account
- Support to gain important identification documents, such as a passport and/or provisional driving licence, before your 18th birthday
- Support to get your National Insurance number
- Exceptional financial support in emergencies. This will be by direct payment from Future Directions or by request for funding if over £500
- Providing a financial gift of £30 at birthdays and Christmas or other celebrations.

3.9 Relationships

We know that consistent, stable relationships are really important for care experienced young people. We will try to enable you to keep the same Personal Adviser, wherever this is possible. You will be supported by your Personal Adviser, who will offer you additional practical and emotional support if you need it, including:

- Providing you with a mentor/peer mentor
- Help to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, like former foster carers, Independent Visitors or social workers
- Support to re-connect with family where it is in your best interests
- Support to access counselling
- Support to make new friends, through social groups, interests and activities
- Support you in building healthy relationships and staying safe

3.10 Participation in Society

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

- Providing information on groups, activities, facilities 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
- Offering work experience
- Informing you about voluntary work that we think you may be interested in
- Informing and possibly helping with the cost of leisure activities
- Giving you advice and helping you to challenge any discrimination you face as a care leaver.

4 Who can Help - Key Services and Contact Details:

4.1 Your Personal Advisor

Your Personal Advisor is based at: 18 Regent Street, Barnsley, S70 2 HG
Tel: 01226 775550.

The offices are centrally based in Barnsley Town Centre close to the bus/rail station. There is a duty worker available on the above number 08.45 am to 5.00 pm if your allocated worker is unavailable.

4.2 Out of Hours Help in an Emergency

The Emergency Duty Team (EDT) is contactable on 0844 9841800 for urgent help in a crisis outside of office hours. Your Personal Advisor will update EDT if there are things which are happening in your life which might need a response out of hours or at weekends.

If you think you are not getting the support you need, please get in touch with your social worker/personal advisor first to let them know what you want so that they can help.

If this does not work, or you are unhappy with the response, you can always get in touch directly with the Future Directions Team Manager, Jayne Shaw 01226 775550 who will try to resolve any difficulties.

4.3 Housing Advice

Barneslai Homes - General Enquiries 01226 775555
(Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturday 8am – 1pm).

4.4 Education, Employment or Training Support

Targeted Information, Advice and Guidance (TIAG) Service

Wellington House, Barnsley. Tel: 01226 775270

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/children-in-care/barnsley-virtual-school/children-in-care-stuff-for-you/your-aspirations/>

Barnsley I Know I Can <http://iknowican.co.uk>

4.5 Barnsley Leadership for Children's Services

Jon Banwell, Head of Service for Children in Care - jonbanwell@barnsley.gov.uk

Mel John-Ross, Service Director - melaniejohn-ross@barnsley.gov.uk

Rachel Dickinson, Executive Director for People – racheldickinson@barnsley.gov.uk

Cllr Margaret Bruff, Lead Member for Safeguarding and Children's Services - CllrMargaretBruff@barnsley.gov.uk

4.6 The Care4Us Council

To contact the Care4Us Council contact the Targeted Youth Support Team on (01226) 775270

4.7 Advocacy Support

The Children's Rights Team can be contacted directly on 01226 753406

5. Other Local & Available Services for Young Adults

5.1 Sexual Health

Spectrum Integrated Sexual Health Service provides all methods of contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and support, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. The main site is located in Barnsley city centre at Gateway Plaza, Sackville Street; Barnsley S70 2RD. Clinics are also available in some GP surgeries.

For more information and to book an appointment online visit-

<http://spectrumhealth.org.uk/services/sexual-health/>

Or you can call Spectrum Barnsley on 0800 055 6442. Your GP may also be able to provide contraception. In addition, your GP or local pharmacy may also be able to supply free emergency hormonal contraception ("morning after pill").

5.2 Mental Health Services

Not all young people will require or feel able to access mental health services. Care experienced young people can access their Personal Advisor or someone else they feel comfortable with, like a mentor, a participation worker, their carer, for emotional support and who will support them in accessing other services, if they feel this is necessary.

If you're concerned about your mental health you can ask for help from the Mental Health Service. You can refer yourself or ask your GP. You may then be referred onto a mental health team for support, as detailed below.

Community mental health teams are for adults over 16 years of age who are experiencing acute or long term mental health problems. The teams are organised by GP and area and are open between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. There is a single point of access for new referrals on (01226) 645000.

5.3 OASIS

OASIS (Opening up Awareness and Support and Influencing Services) is a Chilypep group based in Barnsley that aims to empower young people to shape mental health services.

The group meets every Thursday 5pm-7pm at Horizon college and discuss campaign ideas, awareness posters and put together their own Mental Health First Aid Kit.

If you'd like to get involved with the group, you can contact project worker Chantelle by email at Chantelle.Parke@chilypep.org.uk

5.4 Be Well Barnsley

A FREE service funded by Barnsley Council and delivered by PSS (Person Shaped Support) a social enterprise charity whose aim is to help and support people to find new and practical ways to get the most from life.

You can be supported by your very own Be Well Advisor or join one of many groups held locally to you. Choose What Works For You! The team of Be Well Advisors are local people who will help support you to make the changes you want to make to improve your health by;

- Giving up smoking
- Eating a healthier diet
- Losing weight
- Becoming more active
- Reducing stress and improving your mood
- Drinking more sensibly

<https://bewell-barnsley.com/>

5.5 Targeted Youth Services

Our Targeted Youth Support Service brings together a range of agencies who work together to help young people who are taking risks or experiencing difficulties get back on the right path. Support may be needed at any point in a person's life and families may need help in making positive changes. Through early help or the early identification of an issue, we can offer a range of support to prevent problems from getting worse. The service supports children and young people from 8-19 (and those up to 25 with additional needs) and is made up of staff from Barnsley Council, NHS, Lifeline, South Yorkshire Police and the Probation Service, working together to support young people to make a positive transition into adulthood.

Support includes:

- Health and emotional support e.g. confidence building, self-esteem, anger management
- Risk taking behaviour including sex, drugs and alcohol
- Sexual health advice, contraception and STI screening
- Promoting positive relationships
- Diversion from crime and anti-social behaviour
- Staying safe - including internet and social media safety
- Support to encourage volunteering and active citizenship
- Signposting to find work, education and training opportunities

To contact the Targeted Youth Support Team call (01226) 775270

5.6 Care Leavers as Parents

The Barnsley Early Help offer, either through universal or targeted services, is based on individual need, which is identified through an early help assessment of the whole family. Parents may self-refer for universal services or to access information, guidance and signposting.

For children, young people and families who face more challenges and may have multiple needs, targeted services provide additional capacity and expertise to address their needs. A programme of targeted group provision and one to one support is available through our family centres.

Contact the Family Information Service on 0800 0345 340

5.7 Childcare

If you would like to talk to someone about your options and find out what childcare is available in your area, contact the Families Information Service on 0800 0345 340

5.8 Youth Offending Team

Youth Offending Team, McLintock's Building, Crookes Street, Barnsley S70 6BX

(01226) 774986 Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm

5.9 Youth Council

The youth council is a group of young people, aged 12 to 19, who live in Barnsley. These young people are elected by their peers every two years to represent the views of all young people living in the borough, at a local, regional and national level.

Two members of the youth council are also elected to represent Barnsley on the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. They attend regional meetings and national events, including an annual debate in the House of Commons. There aren't any children in care on the youth council at the moment, but the chairperson of the Care4us council regularly feeds into the youth council and United Kingdom Youth Parliament.

5.10 Alcohol and Substance Use

Lifeline - Barnsley Young Person's Service work with individuals, families and communities to prevent and reduce harm, to promote recovery, and to challenge the inequalities linked to alcohol and drug misuse'

Tel: 01226 705980

McLintock's Building, Crookes Street, Barnsley enquiries.lifeline.localities@gmail.com

5.11 BSARCS – Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services

BSARCS (Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Services) is the only group in Barnsley offering specialist services to people whose lives have been affected by rape, sexual abuse, sexual assault or any kind of sexual violence.

They work with women, men, children and young people who live in the Barnsley area.
Tel: 01226 320140.

The Core County Way, Barnsley S70 2JW

National Helplines
For Women 0808 802 9999
For Men 0808 800 5005

5.12 IDAS

IDAS is the largest specialist charity in Yorkshire supporting anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence. Their services include refuge accommodation, community based support, peer mentoring, group work and access to a free, confidential out of hours' helpline.

Local offices Barnsley 01226 320 112
Domestic Abuse Helpline: 03000 110 110
Rape Support Line: 0300 111 0777

6. Useful Contacts & Information for Care Experienced Young People

The Care Leavers' Association www.careleavers.com

The Children's Society www.childrenssociety.org.uk/careleavers

The Children's Commissioner for England www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Coram Voice www.coramvoice.org.uk

Shelter www.youngpeopleoutcomes.shelter.org.uk

Rees Care Leavers Foundation www.reesfoundation.org

Become www.becomecharity.org.uk

The National Care Leavers Benchmarking Forum (Run by Catch 22)
www.catch-22.org.uk

Rotherham & Barnsley Mind Tel: 01226 211188.
YoungMinds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/>