

Care Leavers

Homelessness Advice Pack



Care leavers

If you are a care leaver with a local connection to Luton, you may be able to get help with housing, although this will be dependent on your age and circumstances.

- **The council that last looked after you remains responsible for you even if you move to a different area. This council must continue to give you any help you need, for example emergency housing or support.**

The Luton Care Leavers Charter sets out the help and support available for 16 to 25 year old care leavers in Luton. The charter can be found [here](#).

Personal advisor

If you are homeless or at risk of homelessness you should immediately contact your allocated personal advisor at Luton Borough Council or the council that last looked after you.

Most care leavers in Luton should not need to approach a homeless service as this will be prevented by a planned move into independent living with your personal advisor from the Leaving Care Team. They will support you in developing life skills, accessing education, training or employment.

As a care leaver you will receive **wrap around support** from your personal advisor up until the age of 25.

- Wrap around support means your personal advisor will liaise with other council services (housing, transport, health) and partners (schools, colleges etc) on your behalf to ensure you can achieve your goals.

Your personal advisor can also support you with things like:

- Assistance with transportation if you are moving house.
- Sourcing furniture and white goods if you move into a property.
- Access to your Care Leavers Grant.
- Assistance with putting down a rent deposit via the council's Rent Deposit Scheme.
- Assistance with rental payments (The Prevention Fund) if you are threatened with eviction.
- Your full exemption from council tax as a care leaver.

Financial Assistance

As a care leaver you are entitled to financial support and advice. This will differ per person, and it is therefore essential that you speak with your personal advisor to discuss what kind of support you might require.

A helpful summary of the financial assistance Luton Borough Council can provide to care leavers has been compiled on our website. You can access it [here](#).

Accommodation

If you would like to explore your housing options as a care leaver in the first instance, please speak to your personal advisor or social worker. They will be able to advise on which housing options might be appropriate when you turn 18.



Useful contact information

If you have been under the care of Luton Borough Council's Children's Services and are over 18 you can contact the 18+ Team for further support and advice via:

Telephone **01582 547820**

Emergency duty team **0300 300 8123**

The Luton Directory contains many organisations who can support you if you are homeless or are at risk of homelessness. The directory can be accessed [here](#).

Further useful links

- [Homelessness advice on the Luton Directory](#)
- [Penrose](#) – advice on homelessness, mental health issues and more
- [Noah Enterprise](#) - support for people struggling against homelessness and exclusion
- [Severe weather shelter](#) - Noah provides an emergency night shelter in winter
- [Signposts](#) - providing residential and supporting services if you're unable to find suitable accommodation
- [Mary Seacole Housing Association](#) - supported accommodation to single homeless people in Luton
- [Luton Foodbank](#) - eradicating food poverty in Luton
- [Food First Luton](#) – an online tool mapping where individuals in need can receive food and access warm spaces across Luton
- [Budgeting loan](#) - GOV.UK
- [Luton, supporting you](#) - We want to make sure that you get the help and support available to you during the current cost of living crisis
- [Benefits calculators](#) - these can be accessed via [TURN2US](#), [Entitled To](#) and [Policy in Practise](#)