

Financial support for 16-24 year olds 2014-15



Brighton & Hove
City Council

This support detailed below is for 16-17 year old young people in care (“Eligible” young people) and 16-17 year olds who were in care sometime after their 16th birthdays but no longer in care (“Relevant” young people) and applies from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

Accommodation – Where you are living

If you live with **foster carers** or in a **children’s home** they provide:

- pocket money
- personal and clothing allowance
- travel costs
- Birthday and Christmas (or other festival such as Eid al-Fitr) presents and holiday costs

In **supported lodgings** you get a personal allowance of **£37.50** a week and a **weekly or monthly bus pass**. All your meals are provided and you don’t pay towards household bills.

In **Sussex Central YMCA, Foyer, Stopover or other young people’s hostels**, you get an allowance of **£57.50** a week and a weekly or monthly bus pass.

If you go back to live with **your mother or father** before you are 18 we will continue to support you according to your needs.

If you live in **supported lodgings, a hostel or flat** you get a 17th birthday allowance of **£50** and an 18th birthday allowance of **£100**. For Christmas you get an allowance of **£50** and if you practise another religion this can be paid for your festival such as Eid al-Fitr.

Emergency payments to cover lost or stolen allowances will usually be kept to one payment every 6 months and these will usually be supermarket vouchers.

Further Education, Training & Employment

For all Further Education courses and some training schemes you can claim an Education Bursary from your college or training provider.

Books, equipment, special clothing, field trips, exam fees and internet access that you need for your course are paid. If you don’t have access to a computer, one will be provided* for full-time courses where it’s needed for completing coursework.



*** A one off computer fund of up to £500 will be provided. This will include software and printer. You can choose to top this up from your own money.**

- If you’re on a course of more than 16 hours a week and can’t get the bursary, we’ll pay £30 a week incentive allowance.
- If you’re on a course of less than 16 hours and not getting the bursary, we’ll pay £20 a week for 10 weeks.
- After 10 weeks, this can go up to £30 a week depending on how many hours a week you are training.

These incentives are paid on the same attendance conditions as the Education Bursary.

Where a **Traineeship** pays less than **£57.50** a week you will get a top up to this amount.

We’ll pay for interview clothes or special clothes needed for work.



If you are on the minimum wage of **£3.72** an hour we'll pay a top up of **50p** an hour to encourage you to stay in that job.

Any expenses you have when doing voluntary work will be repaid.

Higher Education



If you are thinking of a university education please let your Social Worker know and note it in your Pathway Plan so planning can be put in place.

Other Financial Support

We'll pay for any special costs that will help you follow your religion, culture or race or with your English if it is not your first language.

You'll get a **"Listen Up" card** that gives you free use of swimming and sports facilities at the Prince Regent, King Alfred and Withdean centres. If you have to pay for costs like gym induction, these will be repaid. It can also be used for free entry to Brighton Pavilion and Brighton & Hove Museums and Art Gallery exhibitions.

You'll be encouraged to complete a Health Assessment every year with our Nurse and for this you'll get a voucher for £10. You'll also get a £10 voucher when you have both your 6 monthly dental checks done in the year.

When agreed with your Social Worker or Personal Adviser, you will be paid for travel or other costs that help you to have regular contact with your family.

Financial support for 18-24 year old young people

Most young people who have been in care get **their** income from employment, training providers, education grants, Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support and Housing Benefit. However additional financial support is available as explained in this leaflet. This applies from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

If you are over 21 and no longer receiving our support but want to get back into education or training, we may be able to help. This will depend on a full assessment and may be different from the support detailed below.

A separate leaflet "Education & Training Support 21-25 year old Care Leavers" is available which gives more detail.

If you are already on an education or training course as agreed in your **Pathway Plan** then support will be provided as detailed below.

Further Education & Training

When you are in full-time Further Education and Income Support stops on your 20th birthday (or at 21 if the course started before you were 19) we'll pay a weekly living allowance of **£57.50** (Income Support level) from the start of the Autumn Term to end of the Summer Term (including over Christmas and Easter holidays)



Your rent will be paid by Housing Benefit if your Personal Adviser confirms to the Housing Benefit office that your weekly living allowance is at the same level as Income Support.

For Further Education courses and some training schemes you can claim either **an Education Bursary** or **19+ Learner Funds** from your college.

- If you're unable to claim either of these and you continue in full-time Further Education (more than 16 hours a week) we'll pay you **£30** a week incentive allowance on the same attendance conditions as the Education Bursary.
- If you're on a training course of less than 16 hours a week and can't get the bursary, we'll pay you an incentive allowance of **£20** a week for 10 weeks.
- After 10 weeks, this could go up to **£30** a week depending upon the number of training hours a week and will be paid on the same attendance conditions as the Education Bursary.

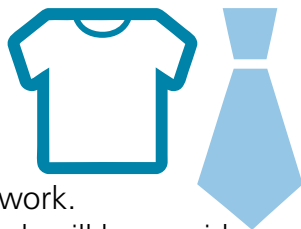
We will pay for books, equipment, special clothing, field trips, exam fees and internet access that you need for your course and either a weekly or a monthly bus pass during term time. If you don't have access to a computer, one will be provided* for full-time courses where it is required for completing coursework.



*** A one off computer fund of up to £500 will be provided. This will include software and printer. You can choose to top this up from your own money.**

Employment

If you are on the minimum wage of **£5.03** an hour we'll pay a top up of 50p an hour to encourage you to stay in that job. We'll pay for interview clothes or special clothes you need for work. Any expenses you have when doing voluntary work will be repaid.



University

For students still at university who started their courses **before September 2012**, you will continue to have the same financial

support as detailed in our 2011/12 information leaflet.

For all other students you will receive:

- a **Higher Education Bursary** of **£670** at start of academic year,
- the **government maintenance grant** of **£3387*** claimed via online application on **www.gov.uk**
- **Rent** on your flat, or a shared house or your hall of residence for **52 weeks a year**.

Additionally we will pay for all required books, equipment, special clothing, field trips, exam fees, a computer and software (up to £500) and internet access for your course.

Travel costs to and from university at the start, mid and end of term will be paid as well as any removal costs.

You will need to take out a loan from the Student Loan Company to cover payment of the tuition fees. However many universities give a fees discount or cash bursary to young people who are care leavers under the National Scholarship Scheme or Access to Learning Fund. You will be responsible for repaying any loan you take out.

Other Financial Support

We will pay for any special costs that will help you follow your religion, culture or race or with your English if it is not your first language.

You are entitled to a **Setting Up Allowance** up to a maximum of **£2100** to help you set up home. You'll need to agree what you need with your Personal Adviser well before you move and to find out costs of each item so these can be approved. We expect that most furniture and white goods (fridge, cooker, washing machine) will be of good quality from reliable charity shops. This will make your allowance go much further.

The allowance is also available to young people with disabilities who are not able or ready to live independently.

We will pay for any documents you will need including replacement birth certificate, passport and provisional and full driving licences.

We will pay for removal costs and for a TV licence and home contents insurance policy for the first year in your own accommodation.

Thank you to the members of the 16 Plus Advisory Board for their views and comments which contributed to this leaflet.

The aim of the 16 Plus Advisory Board is to help improve the care system for all children and young people. The young advisers of the Board would like to hear what you have to say about being in care. They can be contacted by: Text: 07775 221386 or email: **16plusadvisoryboard@brighton-hove.gov.uk**



Translation? Tick this box and take to any council office.

ترجمة؟ ضع علامة في المربع وخذها إلى مكتب البلدية. Arabic ☐

অনুবাদ? বক্সে টিক চিহ্ন দিয়ে কাউন্সিল অফিসে নিয়ে যান। Bengali ☐

需要翻譯? 請在這方格內加別，並送回任何市議會的辦事處。Cantonese ☐

ترجمه؟ لطفاً این مربع را علامتگذاری نموده و آن را به هر یک از دفاتر شهرداری ارائه نمایید. Farsi ☐

Traduction? Veuillez cocher la case et apporter au council. French ☐

需要翻译? 请在这方格内划勾，并送回任何市议会的办事处。Mandarin ☐

Tłumaczenie? Zaznacz to okienko i zwróć do któregośkolwiek biur samorządu lokalnego (council office). Polish ☐

Tradução? Coloque um visto na quadrícula e leve a uma qualquer repartição de poder local (council office). Portuguese ☐

Tercümesi için kareyi işaretleyiniz ve bir semt belediye bürosuna veriniz Turkish ☐

other (please state) ☐

This can also be made available in large print, Braille, or on CD or audio tape