

Wrexham County Borough Council
Social Care Department

Financial Support Policy
for Care Leavers

December 2019

This document is available in Welsh



Financial Support for Young People

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out everything local authorities (councils) in Wales have to do to help people in need of care and support.

The Act is split in to 11 sections. Part 6 of the Act helps to make sure that young people who have been looked after have the support to move from being looked after to living independently. The advice and support that care leavers receive depends upon their age and care leaving status.

To receive support from a local authority as a care leaver, a young person must have been looked after by a local authority for a set period of time within a set age range. At the moment this is a period of 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 years.

The Act sets out different levels of support which are called categories. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

<u>Category 1*</u>	A 16 or 17 year old who is looked after by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement and have been looked after for a period of more than 13 weeks.
<u>Category 2*</u>	A 16 or 17 year old who has chosen not to be looked after anymore by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement but still want support from Leaving Care
<u>Category 3*</u>	Any Care Leaver over 18 who still wants support from Leaving Care.
<u>Category 4*</u>	A Care Leaver aged 18 to 24 who reconnects for support to go back in to education or training.
<u>Category 5*</u>	A young person aged 16 to 21 who has been previously been looked after under a Special Guardianship Order.
<u>Category 6*</u>	A young person aged 16 – 21 years old who at some point were looked after by Social Care but returned home before the age of 14 years old.

*If you are unsure about what the categories mean or which category applies to you, please contact your Social Worker or Personal Advisor.

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 states that as absolute minimum, local authorities must:

- provide a leaving care maintenance allowance (to the same amount as Income Support / Job Seekers Allowance / Universal Credit)
- provide a suitable and appropriate placement / accommodation or enough money to secure the accommodation (up to the age of 18)
- appoint a Personal Advisor for young people in categories 1, 2, 3 and 4

A pathway plan should also be developed for young people in categories 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Further details of the financial support available to young people are available in the information leaflets below, broken down in to the categories explained above:

[Category 1](#)

[Category 2](#)

[Category 3](#)

[Category 4](#)

[Category 5](#)

[Category 6](#)

A full version of the WCBC Financial Support Policy can be made available upon request.

For more information on the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, there is a Young Person's Summary available online: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/social-services-and-well-being-wales-act-a-young-persons-summary.pdf>

Financial Support for Young People

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 1 Care Leavers are children aged 16 or 17 who are looked after by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement and have been looked after for a period of more than 13 weeks. The table below lists the support that is available to Category 1 children - 16/17 year olds that are still Looked After by the Local Authority.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be made directly into their bank accounts. However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young people where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for category 1 care leavers – children aged 16 or 17 who are looked after by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement and have been looked after for a period of more than 13 weeks.

	16/17 Year Olds in foster care	16/17 Year Olds in residential care	16/17 Year Olds in Supported accommodation / Living Independently
JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children’s Social Care	Fostering allowances are received. With the exception of sick and disabled young people and lone parents – who can claim IS or ESA	Allowances paid to the young person via residential care provider	Up to level of Job Seekers Allowance up to 18 unless earning or receiving training allowance above £50 per week. Thereafter for every £2 earned £1 will be deducted. Any requests for clothing need to be made through finance panel.
Cost of accommodation	Foster Carer receives fostering allowances	Payment made directly to residential care provider	Paid direct to Housing provider. Supported Lodgings - £20 self-rent per week Semi Independent Placements - £10 self-rent per week
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Up to max of £2,000
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals.
Support for accessing employment and training	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.
One-off HE Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Decision made at finance panel and approved by Head of Service.
Post Graduate Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Driving Lessons	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five

	five lessons and the cost of one driving test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.	five lessons and the cost of one driving test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.	lessons and the cost of one driving test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID
Birthdays & Christmas	In accordance with agreed fostering rates	In accordance with agreed fostering rates	£50 for 18 th and 21 st Birthdays and £25 for other Birthdays and Christmas' up until their 18 th Birthday.
In Custody / Hospital	SC will supplement wages from Young Offenders Institution (YOI) by £5 per week, paid on a monthly basis towards toiletries and confectionary. SC will also pay £5 per week for every week they are in custody to be paid as a clothing grant (up to max £200). Young Person will also receive Birthday and Christmas allowances (as above).	SC will supplement wages from Young Offenders Institution (YOI) by £5 per week, paid on a monthly basis towards toiletries and confectionary. SC will also pay £5 per week for every week they are in custody to be paid as a clothing grant (up to max £200). Young Person will also receive Birthday and Christmas allowances (as above).	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis

Financial Support for Young People *Category 2 Care Leavers*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 2 Care Leavers are children aged 16 or 17 who have chosen not to be looked after anymore by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement but still want support from Leaving Care.

The Local Authority must safeguard and promote the well-being of young people in category 2 by:

- providing them with enough money to live on
- ensuring they have suitable accommodation
- providing support to them in relation to education, training or employment

The table below lists the support that is available to Category 2 children - 16/17 year olds who have discharged themselves or no longer wish to be Looked After.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be made directly into their bank accounts. However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young people where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for category 2 care leavers – children aged 16 or 17 who have chosen not to be looked after anymore by Social Care under a Statutory or Voluntary arrangement but still want support from Leaving Care			
	16/17 Year Olds in foster care	16/17 Year Olds in residential care	16/17 Year Olds in Supported accommodation
JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children’s Social Care	Fostering allowances are received. With the exception of sick and disabled young people and lone parents – who can claim IS or ESA	Allowances paid to the young person via residential care provider	Up to level of Job Seekers Allowance up to 18 unless earning or receiving training allowance above £50 per week. Thereafter for every £2 earned £1 will be deducted. Any requests for clothing need to be made through finance panel.
Cost of accommodation	Foster Carer receives fostering allowances	Payment made directly to residential care provider	Paid direct to Housing provider. Supported Lodgings - £20 self-rent per week Semi Independent Placements - £10 self-rent per week
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Yes	Yes	Yes
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Up to max of £2,000
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals.
Support for accessing employment and training	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.
One-off HE Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Decision made at finance panel and approved by Head of Service
Post Graduate Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Driving Lessons	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five lessons and the cost of one driving	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five lessons and the cost of one driving	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five lessons and the cost of one driving test.

	test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.	test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.	YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID
Birthdays & Christmas	In accordance with agreed fostering rates	For out of county residential placements, the amount will be included as part of the contract between the residential provider and Local Authority. The amount awarded to the child will be determined by the residential care provider's policies.	£50 for 18 th and 21 st Birthdays and £25 for other Birthdays and Christmas' up until their 18 th Birthday.
In Custody / Hospital	SC will supplement wages from Young Offenders Institution (YOI) by £5 per week, paid on a monthly basis towards toiletries, confectionary and clothing. Young Person also able to submit a clothing request up to a maximum of £100 in a 6 month period. Young Person will also receive Birthday and Christmas allowances (as above).	SC will supplement wages from Young Offenders Institution (YOI) by £5 per week, paid on a monthly basis towards toiletries, confectionary and clothing. Young Person also able to submit a clothing request up to a maximum of £100 in a 6 month period. Young Person will also receive Birthday and Christmas allowances (as above).	Not applicable
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis

Financial Support for Young People *Category 3 Care Leavers*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 3 refers to any Care Leaver over 18 who still wants support from Leaving Care.

The Local Authority must, for category 3 young people, support them if their well-being requires it by:

- helping with the cost of living near the place where the young person is or will be employed, training or in education
- making a grant to help with the cost of education or training
- paying a higher education bursary
- providing or paying for suitable holiday accommodation for young people in higher education / university

The table below lists the support that is available to Category 3 Care Leavers.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Notes

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be paid directly into their bank accounts.

However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young People where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for category 3 care leavers – any Care Leaver over 18 who still wants support from Leaving Care.			
	Category 3 - Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	Category 3 in Education	Category 3 in Higher Education
JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children’s Social Care	Support to claim JSA/IS/UC	Support available to claim Universal Credit up to age of 21. UC will be paid until the end of the academic year in which they reach 21 or until the end of the course, if the course ends before they reach 21until	Young person supported to make applications for any grants, loans and bursaries available.
Cost of accommodation	Support to claim Housing Benefit/LHA Bridging support in line with JSA / UC rate per week for a max of 5 weeks subject to attending appointments.	Support to claim Housing Benefit Bridging support in line with JSA / UC rate per week for a max of 5 weeks subject to attending appointments.	Supported lodgings paid up until end of college / university. SC will provide suitable accommodation or pay enough to secure the accommodation. Accommodation costs for up to 12 weeks per year in line with current rent.
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Not applicable	Yes	Not applicable
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Up to max of £2000	Up to max of £2000	Up to max of £2000 £1,200
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service.	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service.	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service
Support for accessing employment and training	Not applicable	Up to £250 per annum. Not for those in HE who receive a bursary.	Not applicable
One-off HE Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	£2,000 distributed throughout length of course (£222 per semester)
Post Graduate Bursary	Not applicable	Not applicable	Considered by management. Up to a maximum of £500.
Graduation Costs	Not applicable	Not applicable	Up to maximum of £150

Driving Lessons	Not applicable	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five lessons and the cost of one driving test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.	SC will pay for a provisional driving license and one theory test or compulsory motorbike test. Once theory test is passed SC will then fund five lessons and the cost of one driving test. YP needs to be engaging in education, training or employment before accessing this support.
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID	Birth certificate and valid photo ID
Birthdays & Christmas	£50 for 18 th and 21 st Birthdays and £25 for other Birthdays and Christmas' up until their 18 th Birthday.	£50 for 18 th and 21 st Birthdays and £25 for other Birthdays and Christmas' up until their 18 th Birthday.	£50 for 18 th and 21 st Birthdays and £25 for other Birthdays and Christmas' up until their 18 th Birthday.
In Custody / Hospital	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and European Nationals (over 18)	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until they have either leave to remain or settlement status.	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until they have either leave to remain or settlement status.	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until they have either leave to remain or settlement status.
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis

Financial Support for Young People *Category 4 Care Leavers*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 4 refers to care leavers aged 18 to 24 who reconnect for support to go back in to education or training.

The Local Authority must, for category 4 young people, support them if needed by:

- helping with the cost of living near the place they are or will be receiving education or training
- making a grant to help with the cost of education or training
- paying a higher education bursary
- providing or paying for suitable holiday accommodation for young people in higher education / university

The table below lists the support that is available to Category 4 Care Leavers.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Notes

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be paid directly into their bank accounts. However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young People where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for Category 4 Care Leavers – care leavers aged 18 to 24 who reconnect for support to go back in to education or training.

JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children's Social Care	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. Young person supported to make applications for any grants, loans and bursaries available.
Cost of accommodation	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved the following support will be available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported lodgings paid up until end of college / uni - Suitable vacation accommodation will be provided or SC will pay enough to secure the accommodation - Accommodation costs for up to 12 weeks per year in line with current rent
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Not applicable
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Not applicable
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service.
Support for accessing employment and training	Not applicable
One-off HE Bursary	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – £2,000 will be provided and distributed throughout length of course.
Post Graduate Bursary	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – up to a maximum of £500.
Graduation Costs	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – up to a maximum of £150.
Driving Lessons	Not applicable
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Not applicable
Birthdays & Christmas	Not applicable
In Custody / Hospital	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.
Pregnancy,maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	Not applicable
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and European	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide

Nationals (over 18)	the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until they have either leave to remain or settlement status.
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis

Financial Support for Young People *Category 5 Care Leavers*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 5 refers to a young person aged 16 to 21 who has been previously been looked after under a Special Guardianship Order.

If the Local Authority considers a young person in category 5 to need support, they must support them by:

- helping with the cost of living near the place where the young person is or will be employed, seeking employment, training or in education
- making a grant to help with the cost of education or training
- providing accommodation

The table below lists the support that is available to Category 5 Care Leavers.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Notes

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be paid directly into their bank accounts.

However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young People where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for Category 5 Care Leavers – a young person aged 16 to 21 who has been previously been looked after under a Special Guardianship Order.

JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children’s Social Care	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. Young person supported to make applications for any grants, loans and bursaries available.
Cost of accommodation	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved the following support will be available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported lodgings paid up until end of college / uni - Suitable vacation accommodation will be provided or SC will pay enough to secure the accommodation - Accommodation costs for up to 12 weeks per year in line with current rent
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Not applicable
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Not applicable
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service.
Support for accessing employment and training	Not applicable
One-off HE Bursary	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – £2,000 will be provided and distributed throughout length of course
Post Graduate Bursary	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – up to a maximum of £500.
Graduation Costs	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved – up to a maximum of £150.
Driving Lessons	Not applicable
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Not applicable
Birthdays & Christmas	Not applicable
In Custody / Hospital	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad’s to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and European Nationals (over 18)	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until

	they have either leave to remain or settlement status.
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis

Financial Support for Young People *Category 6 Care Leavers*

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 sets out different levels of support for care leavers which are called 'categories'. Each category is entitled to different kinds of support.

Category 6 refers to a young person aged 16 – 21 years old who at some point were looked after by Social Care but returned home before the age of 14 years old.

If the Local Authority considers a young person in category 6 to need support, they must offer advice, guidance and assistance to the young person. The Local Authority may also help by:

- helping with the cost of living near the place where the young person is or will be employed, seeking employment, training or in education
- making a grant to help with the cost of education or training
- providing accommodation

The table below lists the support that is available to Category 6 Care Leavers.

Acronyms Explained:

SC – Social Care

HE – Higher Education

JSA – Job Seekers Allowance

ESA – Employment Support Allowance

IS – Income Support

UC – Universal Credit

NEET – Not in Employment education or training

N/A – Not Applicable

Notes

Method of payment – In the first instance, foster carers should support young people in opening a bank account as it is intended that most payments will be paid directly into their bank accounts. However, SC may, on occasions, pay young people by other methods i.e. cheque or cash.

Young People where there is a Warrant without Bail out for their arrest – SC are unable to provide financial support and would encourage and support the young person to present themselves to the police.

Financial Support for Category 6 Care Leavers – a young person aged 16 – 21 years old who at some point were looked after by Social Care but returned home before the age of 14 years old.

JSA / IS / UC / ESA / weekly allowance from Children's Social Care	Not applicable
Cost of accommodation	For HE Purposes - Financial assessment of need considered by management. If approved the following support will be available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported lodgings paid up until end of college / uni - Suitable vacation accommodation will be provided or SC will pay enough to secure the accommodation - Accommodation costs for up to 12 weeks per year in line with current rent
EMA (16-19) in education or training in Wales	Not applicable
First Homes Grant (available until 21 and if not spent applications considered until 24)	Not applicable
Accommodation Bonds & Advance Rentals (up to age of 21)	Where there is no alternative - SC will consider financial support in the form of accommodation bonds and advance rentals. Decision made at finance panel and approved by a Head of Service
Support for accessing employment and training	Not applicable
One-off HE Bursary	Not applicable
Post Graduate Bursary	Not applicable
Driving Lessons	Not applicable
Photo ID / Birth Certificates	Not applicable
Birthdays & Christmas	Not applicable
In Custody / Hospital	A financial assessment of their needs will need to be undertaken to ascertain if financial support is required.
Pregnancy, maternity and paternity (up until age 21)	SC will pay a grant of £100 for maternity clothing and £35 for hospital bag before admission. The above offer will be matched for young Dad's to contribute to the costs of early essential items for the baby.
Family contact – birth parents or ex foster carers (not in employment and up to age 21)	SC will assist with transport costs on two occasions each financial year up to a max of £20 on each occasion
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and European Nationals (over 18)	Where young people have no recourse to access public funds, the Social Care Department will fund accommodation costs and provide the young person with a weekly allowance in line with UC / JSA until they have either leave to remain or settlement status.
Contingencies and emergencies	SC will consider all requests for emergency financial support on an individual basis