

Wrexham County Borough Council
Children's Social Care
Department

Reconnecting to Care Policy

March 2019

This document is available in Welsh



Purpose of the Policy

To set out the care and support offered to care leavers (up the age of 25) who wish to reconnect to care. To include:

- Arrangements about how young people can resume contact
- Details of the support available for education and training
- Information about the level of financial support available

Key Actions

Legislative Framework

1. The Care Leavers (Wales) Regulations 2015 define 'care leaver' status as a child that has been looked after by a local authority for a period or periods amounting in all to 13 weeks which began after the child reached the age of 14 and ended after the child reached the age of 16.
2. Care Leavers are categorised under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 as follows :
 - Category 1 – Young People currently looked after aged 16 or 17
 - Category 2 – Care Leavers under 18
 - Category 3 – Care Leavers over 18
 - Category 4 – Care Leavers who reconnect to care for education or training
 - Category 5 – Young People who left care under a Special Guardianship Order
 - Category 6 – Young People who did not qualify as a Care Leaver
3. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Part 6 – Codes of Practice) sets out clear guidance in relation to the support that should be offered to Care Leavers that wish to reconnect to care.

Reconnecting to Care for Education and Training

4. Where a young person previously entitled to leaving care services wishes to take up additional education or training beyond the age of 21, but before the age of 25 (defined as a Category 4 Young Person), The Children's Social Care (CSC) Department will provide that young person with support from a personal adviser.
5. The personal adviser will discuss the education or training course with the young person, ensuring it is suitable for their skills and capabilities and how it will ultimately help them achieve their

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Part 6 Code
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ambitions.

6. A pathway plan **must** be re-instated with a focus on the care and support the young person will need to meet their education or training goals.

Financial Support

7. Where the personal adviser feels the education / training is suitable for the young person and they are therefore in need of care and support, the CSC Department can provide financial support for the duration of the education or training, as follows:

- For Higher Education courses a bursary, up to a maximum of £2000 distributed throughout the length of the course and vacation accommodation (or the means to secure it) for the young person up to the age of 25.
- For Post Graduate courses – a bursary, up to a maximum of £500
- The young person will also be supported to claim any benefits or grants, loans and additional bursaries they may be entitled to.
- Further financial support may also be available from CSC – details can be located in the Financial Support Policy

8. Care Leavers can also apply for a grant from the ‘St David’s Day’ Fund, which has been set up to help young people leaving care progress towards adulthood and independent living. Care Leavers can apply for funding, up to a maximum of £500 per person from this grant for their education, housing, employment or general health and wellbeing.

Reconnecting to Care for Information, Advice and Assistance

9. Care Leavers may have a requirement to reconnect to care / contact the department for information, advice and assistance.
10. The CSC department has a duty to assess if the person needs support and if satisfied that the support is required, the CSC department **must** advise and assist the young person.
11. This support may be emotional, practical or financial.
12. All requests for financial support will be considered on an individual basis by the CSC Resource Panel, in line with the statutory duties set by Welsh Government. Further details of the types of financial support that may be available and the statutory duties placed on local authorities in relation to providing financial support to care leavers can be found within the Financial Support Policy.

How to resume contact

For further information on the support available or to resume contact, care leavers can contact their old personal adviser or they can contact the Leaving Care Service.

Telephone: 01978 295610

Email: leaving.care@wrexham.gov.uk

Facebook Group: [Wrexham Care Leavers](#)

Alternatively, young people can come in to the INFO Shop:
INFO Shop
Lambpit Street
LL11 1AR

Complaints

If you are unhappy with what any person working with you has done, you have a right to make a complaint.

Write to: Complaints Team
Wrexham County Borough Council
Guildhall
Wrexham
LL11 1AY

Email: complaints@wrexham.gov.uk

Telephone: 01978 292087

For further information on the complaints procedure, please visit:
http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/top_navigation/complaints/socialservices.htm

This information can be made available in other languages and / or alternative formats upon request.

4.37
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4.37
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Support
Policy*