

**BURY CHILDRENS SERVICES
CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICE
UNIVERSITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY – CARE LEAVERS**

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Departmental Policy Guidelines

Issued	February 2021
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For Review	February 2022
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PPD 524(05)

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Pathway Plan and post 16 PEP's will set out plans for Higher Education in consultation with the Social Worker, Personal Advisor and Virtual School. A good deal of planning is needed between the young person, Social Worker, Personal Advisor and other educational advisors to ensure the best possible choices are available to the young person. This education and career planning support should help young people recognise the relevance of their studies to their future career and life chances and should encourage young people to reflect regularly on their skills, strengths and aspirations.
- 1.2. At any time after the age of 18, the young person can discuss with their allocated Personal Advisor any ambitions to access Higher Education course and appropriate advice will be given.

2. FUNDING

2.1 Higher Education Entitlement

Once accepted onto a university course we will pay the annual contribution of up to £6,200 to be used towards your student accommodation and living costs.

An additional maximum annual contribution of up to £2,500 will be paid if you are studying and living within the Borough of London.

The Local Authority will have discretion if there is a recurrent or repeated year.

The Local Authority will fund up to a maximum of £150 contribution towards the costs of graduation which can be used to fund the event, a celebratory meal or the costs of photographs.

2.2 Holiday Accommodation

If a young person requires Holiday Accommodation the amount available will be up to a maximum of £1,960. Young people may use this money to return to former placements. This is a discretionary payment, subject to assessment of need, and will need to be planned with your Personal Advisor.

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2.3 Duration of Funding

We will pay the normal duration of the course with the additional year for a foundation course or PGCE.

3. TRANSFERRING COURSES

It is expected that the young person will discuss transferring courses with their tutor and Personal Adviser within a reasonable time scale to ensure the continuation of study.

4. ATTENDANCE MONITORING

Young People will be expected to discuss with their tutor and Personal Adviser any difficulties they are having with attendance and/or coursework. This is to ensure that extra support may be sought.

In order to retain funding we will need to receive confirmation that you are attending from your College/University.

5. ACCOMMODATION

- 5.1. Whilst the allocated Personal Advisor/ Care and Support Service will deal directly with the Halls of Residence or landlord to pay a young person's rent, it is the responsibility of the young person to ensure that they take care of the property and eventually secure the return of the deposit.
- 5.2. If the young person lives in Halls (which people generally do in the first year) their utility bills are included (gas, electric, water), however they do have to buy a TV licence.

6. FURTHER GUIDANCE NOTES

- A student can apply for a Maintenance Loan from Student Finance. They will also have to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan. This can be done on the same form.
- The application forms, PN1 (New Students) and PR1 (Continuing Students) are downloadable, however they recommend applying on line. An application for finance has to be made each year.
- The Student Finance website can be accessed through www.direct.gov.uk. This has lots of information as well as being

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the place to apply. There are downloadable guides that are very good and are easy to understand.

- Applications can usually be made from mid-March. The website will advise of the date and also the date the applications have to be in by. If a student changes their course they will need to inform Student Finance.
- Payments are made in three instalments – one at the start of each term.
- The amount a student will receive for their Tuition Fee Loan will cover their fees and will be paid directly to the university (there are a few exceptions but the university website would say if a course has higher than usual fees).
- A student will receive a financial notification letter and can keep track of their application on line.
- A student should also usually get some sort of bursary (a one off payment) from the university – this varies depending on what university they are at. They will get details of this from the university once they are enrolled there.
- Some universities have a support worker for Care Leavers to go to if they need any advice or support – whether they use this or not is up to them.
- Certain courses pay an annual bursary. These are usually NHS courses or Social Work courses. These are not applied for in the same ways as grants and loans. The website will explain how to apply and has links to the relevant sites.
- If the student is a parent with a dependent child they may be able to apply for additional help for childcare costs. The website and guides will let them know what they can apply for.
- All universities have an Access to Learning Fund. Whether students are allocated anything from this is the decision of the University itself. They can give money as either a grant or a loan and in a lump sum or in instalments. Students need to apply to the Student Services Department when they have started their course.

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- Disabled students can claim additional allowances. These are to cover such things as special equipment or support/helper. These are known as Disabled Student Allowances (DSAs) and an assessment has to be undertaken before any money is awarded. These allowances are grants not loans.

Higher Education Bursary - Leaving Care Act

The 2008 Act amended Section 23C of the 1989 Act to introduce a requirement for local authorities to pay a Higher Education Bursary to former relevant children who pursue a Higher Education course in accordance with their Pathway Plan. The new duty is in addition to their duty to provide assistance for education and training under Section 23C (4) of the 1989 Act. The Children Act 1989 (Higher Education Bursary) (England) Regulations 2009 deal with the payment arrangements which local authorities need to put in place to former relevant children who pursue such a course of higher education. The regulations set the amount of the one-off higher education bursary at £2,000. They prescribe the meaning of higher education for the purpose of determining eligibility for the bursary and set out the broad framework for arrangements in relation to the timing of payments and the circumstances in which payments may be withheld or recovered by a local authority.

The required payment of £2,000 is included in the payments to young people for their accommodation and living costs.