

# Help with accommodation/housing

We will encourage you to stay in care until you are 18. Most young people still live at home with their families at this age. If you choose to leave care before age 18, the law says we must ensure that you have suitable accommodation.

We know how important it is that you know where you will live once you leave care. Your Personal Adviser will discuss options with you. We will consider your age; personal circumstances; your wishes; and your needs as set out in your Pathway Plan. Your Personal Adviser will help you to find suitable accommodation and provide support to you as you move on.

## Options:

- If this is what you and your foster carers want, support you to remain with your foster carers under a 'Staying Put' arrangement until you are 21
- Supported accommodation if you are assessed as needing this in your pathway plan
- Support to identify and access different independent housing options including social housing or a private tenancy.

Care leavers aged 18-20 years are treated as a priority need group in homelessness legislation and Ealing Homeless Persons Unit can be approached directly or you can ask your Personal Adviser or the Aftercare service for help should you need to.

We are working together with housing services to strengthen our corporate parenting response to care leavers housing needs.

**“ If you need a hand come to Horizons ”**

## Ealing will also offer

1

Care Leavers who are not eligible for social housing can access a one-off **one month's rent** and **one month's deposit** to secure private rented accommodation where this is needed (up to aged 21). We will also consider paying reasonable agency fees if needed upon a request to the Care Leavers Funding Panel.

2

A one-off 'setting up home/leaving care grant' of £2000 if you move into an independent living situation. Details of what this should pay for is set out in the Care Leavers Finance Policy.

3

Care leavers up to aged 21 living in and out of borough are exempt from paying council tax. You must claim all relevant benefits if you are entitled to them.

4

Care leavers between the ages of 21-25 years living in Ealing will be exempt from Council Tax from April 2019. All available benefit and council tax claims must be made.

5

Help for you to claim housing benefit/universal credit and fill out housing forms.

6

Advice about holding down a tenancy, including avoiding rent or Council Tax arrears, paying bills and budgeting.

7

Help in a Housing Crisis e.g. threat or loss of tenancy

Contact Personal Adviser or After Care Duty at Horizons – Tell us urgently!

You can also contact Ealing's Housing Advice service on **020 8825 8888**

8

If you are in Higher Education, a discretionary Ealing Education Grant, which can then be used to fund your vacation accommodation if we are not directly providing this for you.

## Who to contact

Personal Adviser to make application to Care Leavers Funding Panel

Personal Adviser

Personal Adviser or After Care Service at Horizons or Ealing Council Tax Support Scheme

Personal Adviser or After Care Service at Horizons or Ealing Council Tax Support Scheme

You can also contact a welfare benefits adviser at Horizons – check the centre for details.

Horizons Centre and ask about the Pre-Tenancy Training Course

Customer Service Centre, Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, Ealing W5 2HL  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Personal Adviser or Post 16 Teacher