

Support with education, training and employment

We want you to achieve your goals in life! We will ask you how you are doing and be ready to celebrate your progress and achievements at our annual Education Awards Ceremony. Many of our former care leavers have gone to achieve amazing things and being in care has not held them back.

There are lots of options available to you in education, training and employment. Whatever you decide is the path for you, we will offer you the right advice and support. Different kinds of financial help and practical support will be available to you depending on the route you choose. Some things to note:

- If you are in education or training from the ages of 16-19 you may be eligible for up to £1200 from the Governments 16-19 Bursary Fund. Ask your Personal Adviser or the Post 16 teacher about this. www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund
- You may also be eligible for a Discretionary Learner Support Fund payment if you are at college/in training and facing financial difficulty. Ask your college/training provider for more information.
- If you are considering returning to education after 21 you are entitled to support from Ealing's Leaving Care Services. To access support contact your Personal Adviser or the After Care Service.
- Ealing may be able to help with finance for some of the extra costs concerned with taking up education, training and employment, depending upon your circumstances.

TRAINING, APPRENTICESHIPS AND WORK BASED OPPORTUNITIES

Ealing can also offer you a range of opportunities for training, apprenticeships or volunteering/work. You can contact your Personal Adviser or the After Care Service to find out more or get in touch with Ealing Connexions Service.

Traineeships

Traineeships are pre-employment programmes – they are for you if you are not yet ready to enter employment and training and want to improve your employability skills or work experience. Traineeships last from six weeks to six months – with content tailored to your individual career needs. Traineeships can offer essential work preparation training, literacy & numeracy skills and work experience is provided so that you can learn real workplace skills. You will normally gain Level 1 or Entry Level qualifications such as awards, certificates or diplomas. You will usually learn about a work related subject (eg. motor vehicle, customer service etc) within your traineeship. You will also study Personal & Social development and improve on your English, IT & Maths. Traineeships prepare young people for future careers by helping them become 'work ready'. They were introduced for 16-23 year olds and young people with an EHC (Education, Health and Care) plan up to academic age 25.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available at level 2 and Advanced Apprenticeships are available at Level 3 and 4; you can now also opt for Degree Apprenticeships which are at higher levels (5&6). Apprenticeships offer you the opportunity to earn while you learn. They involve both on and off-the-job training. As well as working for an employer, you'll spend some time at a college/university or with a training provider. By doing an apprenticeship you will gain qualifications such as an NVQs/Degrees alongside Functional Skills. Apprenticeships are open to anyone who is over 16 and not in full time education. More information and apprenticeship opportunities can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Ealing Apprenticeships

Ealing Council's Apprenticeship programme provides an excellent opportunity for young people aged 16+ to develop skills, gain work experience and complete qualifications. The scheme is open to people who live or have studied in Ealing within the last three years and who meet the criteria for Ealing Council applicants. Vacancies are advertised in April and September each year. For more information: www.ealing.gov.uk/apprenticeships

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great chance to do something worthwhile and gain transferable skills and real life work experience. If you are studying, in part time employment, or out of work, volunteering is an excellent way to gain valuable experiences that can help you to: build confidence, showcase your skills and abilities and enable you to demonstrate these to potential employers. Although you won't get paid, it can look good on your CV or job/college/university applications and can help you become more employable and you may be entitled to expenses. If you're keen on a particular area of work but can't find a job vacancy, volunteering for something similar might be a good next step. Contact your Personal Adviser if you want to find out more about volunteering.

FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION:

The Virtual School team of qualified and specialist teachers based at Horizons will make sure you have an appropriate school/education place and can offer additional 1:1 teaching and support; advocacy at school and support with your Personal Education Plan (PEP).

We also provide out of hours study support sessions at Horizons to help you catch up on school work and get ready for your exams.

We provide Post 16 information and advice sessions – about your studies in general and options for further or higher education or alternatives.

We will help you apply for the Governments 16-19 Bursary Fund if you are eligible.

If you want to go to University, we will help you choose the right course and university that matches your talents, interests and abilities. We will also assist you to apply for tuition fee and maintenance loans and bursaries directly from the university.

Ealing also offers the Education Grant – this is a discretionary grant of up to £3500 in Year 1 (on top of the Government's one-off £2000 HE Bursary) and up to £5500 per year in Years 2 and 3 (subject to requirements set out in the Ealing Education Contract).

The Ealing Education Grant covers your accommodation costs during the vacation periods. Most young people with the support of their Personal Adviser have a budget plan to ensure that by working and/or claiming grants /loans alongside the Ealing Education Grant they are able to cover their accommodation costs for the entire year.

To find out more about the support we can offer with your education, contact the Post 16 teacher at Horizons

Help is there for you to achieve your goals