

Help with **finances** and managing your money



Knowing how to manage your money is an essential part of becoming independent.

We recognize how difficult this is and will help you learn how to do this. Your Personal Adviser, the Post 16 Teacher or the After Care Service at Horizons can help you to access all benefits, student loans and bursaries available to you. Ealing may also offer you additional financial support where needed as set out in the Care Leavers Finance Policy.

ealing.proceduresonline.com

WHAT EALING WILL DO:

Support you to open a bank account and give you advice on savings

Provide you with advice on entitlements and help to claim welfare benefits

Give you information on how to access your Junior ISA, if you have one (a fund of money set aside by the government and the council)

Help you obtain important identification documents, such as a passport and National Insurance number.

Support with getting your status in the UK and British Citizenship/ naturalization where applicable

Provide a 'setting up home/leaving care grant' of £2,000 to help you buy essential things when moving into your own home

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.

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.

Provide money management and pre-tenancy training courses at Horizons

Provide a discretionary Ealing Education Grant for those care leavers going to Higher Education, subject to application and requirements

Consider requests for financial support to access training and work opportunities as detailed in the Care Leavers Finance Policy

WHO TO CONTACT:

➤ **Your Personal Adviser**

➤ **Your Personal Adviser or DWP advisor at Horizons Drop in Centre**

➤ **You can contact your IRO or Personal Adviser for information.**

➤ **Your Social Worker or Personal Adviser**

➤ **Your Personal Adviser**

➤ **Contact your Personal Adviser or the After Care service at Horizons.**

➤ **Contact Horizons for dates.**

➤ **Speak to your Personal Adviser or Post 16 Teacher**

➤ **Contact your Personal Adviser who can make a request to the Care Leavers Funding Panel**

Supporting your relationships

We know that having a network of personal and professional support can really make a difference to how well our care leavers manage their journey to independence.

Some care leavers attending Horizons After Care 'drop in' sessions have told us how valuable informal contact with staff and other care leavers is to them, as well as the content of structured sessions. The support available from your Personal Advisor and the Leaving Care Service is aided by our partners in Health, Housing and other services. We also know that there may be other important people in your life and we are committed to helping you maintain these relationships.

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Help you to maintain or regain contact with people special to you or who cared for you in the past, such as family members or former carers.

» **CONTACT:** Your Personal Adviser

2

Ealing's 'ME peer mentoring project' can link you up with a care leaver as a 'mentor' and also offers a range of opportunities to meet up with other care leavers

» **CONTACT:** Lead Mentor or Post 16 Teacher at Horizons

3

Where relevant, continuing to support your contact with the 'Independent Visitor' you had while you were in care

» **CONTACT:** Your Personal Adviser

4

Help you make sense of your time in care and support you to access your records if you wish.

» **CONTACT:** Your Personal Adviser

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You also have a right to see the information we keep about you including the files and records written about you when you were in care.

» **CONTACT:** In the first instance we recommend you talk this over with your Personal Adviser. Contact Ealing's Data Protection Team if you wish to make a Subject Access Request. dataprotection@ealing.gov.uk

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Give you information on sources of support regarding your identity; such as organisations offering advice and support around your religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexuality, disability or immigration status etc.

» **CONTACT:** Your Personal Adviser. See also 'Life is what you make it' pack for useful contacts

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Healthy Relationships and Domestic Abuse
Young people have recommended we include information and support at the After Care drop in sessions on healthy relationships and domestic abuse.

» **CONTACT:** Contact Horizons for more details.

