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I thought at my age it might be too late to come back into education and have the support of the Leaving Care Service but when I contacted the After Care Team, I was allocated a Personal Adviser in the 20+ team. I was told I would have a Personal Adviser in that team until my course finishes. I have also been able to meet with the Post 16 teacher and got support in claiming for bursaries and grants/loans.

- MT aged 23

## THE SUPPORT WE MUST GIVE YOU BY LAW

The Children and Social Work Act 2017, which took effect from 1st April 2018 has placed important new duties on local authorities and partner agencies in relation to care leavers. It includes a requirement to publish a **Local Offer** as well as;

- Offering Personal Adviser support to all care leavers up to the age of 25 if they want this (not just those in education)
- The right to be heard and taken seriously
- Accommodation if you leave care before turning 18
- The option to stay 'stay put' with your former foster carer
- Support to engage in education, employment or training

## Ealing fully supports the seven corporate parenting principles set out in the Children and Social Work Act 2017.

1. To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing of those children and young people
2. To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
3. To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
4. To help those children and young people gain access to and make the best use of services
5. To promote high aspirations and to seek to secure the best outcomes for those children and young people
6. For those children and young people to be safe and have stability in their homes, lives, relationships and education or work
7. To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and living independently

## WHAT IS THE LOCAL OFFER?

We know that it is a **big step** when you move out of care and start living on your own or with others. Just because you are leaving care, or have already left care, **we won't stop caring about you**. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know where and who to go to for **advice and help**.

**This Local Offer** is all about the services and support available to you as a care leaver. It includes information about what we must provide to you by law as well as the extra support we will offer. It applies to you whether you currently live in the borough or not but are an Ealing care leaver.

Ealing Council has a strong commitment to acting as good 'corporate parents' and provide the services that can help you achieve your goals in life, including our award-winning Horizons Centre. We regularly hear from our children in care and care leavers at the Corporate Parent Committee, chaired by the Leader of the Council, and through our Children in Care Councils that represent children and young people's views up to age 25. We will continue to listen to your views to make sure the services we offer are what you need.

Ealing's Horizons Shout Out Council (HSC) for care leavers have helped us to produce this Local Offer. If you need help with reading or understanding anything just ask your Personal Adviser in the the Leaving Care Service, we can provide the information in the most accessible way for you.

You can also find out more about services and support in the 'Life is what you make it' pack, produced in partnership with the HSC and now updated for 2018/19. It can also be found online on the Young Ealing website [www.youngealing.co.uk](http://www.youngealing.co.uk)

To be able to get the support set out in this leaflet, you must have been in care for at least 13 weeks between the ages of 14 and 16 (including your 16th birthday) or for 13 weeks after your 16th birthday. If you are not sure whether you qualify for support, then you can ask your Personal Adviser.

This offer is a Pathway for everyone