

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL

PLEDGE

FOR CARE LEAVERS

We care about you, your life and want the best for you.

You'll have someone by your side

- A Personal Adviser will support you until you're 21 and up to 25 if you are in education or you choose to continue with planned support.
- They'll help with planning your future and being there when you need advice.
- Act in your best interest and behave in a way which shows you matter.
- Review your pathway plan with you, and the support you receive at least every six months.
- Support you to access essential services, help and information that will help you meet your individual needs.

We'll help with your first home

- We'll help you set up your first home.
- We'll give you £3,000 to help you buy furniture, kitchen items and other essentials for your first home.
- We will support you to apply for the housing register.

Support with Education and Work

- We will help with college, training or getting a job.
- We will give you advice on CVs interviews and skills.

Looking after your health and wellbeing

- We care about your health and happiness, and we will provide support for your physical and mental health.
- Help you access mental health support, doctors, dentists and well-being services.
- Help you to join clubs, the gym and meet new people.
- Understanding and respecting your cultural beliefs, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and identity needs is important to us.

Your voice matters

- Your voice matters in every decision about your life.
- We will listen to you and understand what you want to achieve in life.
- We will value and listen to your experiences.
- We will involve you in plans for your future.
- You'll have opportunities to share your views and help shape services.
- Help you to access independent advocacy if you need it.
- Ensure you have access to interpreters if needed and support you to access immigration advice if you need it.



We will always believe in your future

- We will celebrate your achievements
- Stand by you, even when things are tough
- We have high aspirations for you and your future and will help you to reach your potential
- Support you to develop any interests you have.

If you cannot reach your Personal Advisor you can call the 16+ and Leaving Care Team duty phone number on **01635 503115**, available **Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm**.

You can find West Berkshires Care leavers offer here:

[Leaving Care Offer - West Berkshire Council](#)

The email ListenToMe@westberks.gov.uk can be used by care leavers contact us if you're not happy about something, or have any questions, or maybe you have some suggestions! Your email is forwarded on to whoever you would like your email sent to e.g. Social Worker, Personal Advisor, Independent Reviewing Officer or a Service Manager etc, who will then respond to you.

Become - Charity for Care Leavers

Become is a national charity for children in care and care leavers. They offer a wide range of support, including help with higher education, finding employment, participation opportunities, coaching, social events and a care advice line (0800 023 2033).

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