

# Housing Advice

## Homelessness and Leaving Care

Most young people who have been in care and have left care are entitled to help if they become homeless. The help you are entitled to will usually depend on your age and personal circumstances.

The council that last looked after you remains responsible for you even if you move to a different area. The council must continue to give you any help you need, even if you move to another area, for example emergency housing or support.

The Harrow Care Leavers Charter sets out the help and support available for 16 to 25 year old care leavers in Harrow, in line with The Children's Act 1989. The charter can be found here: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/24197/care-leavers-charter>

## Personal adviser

Before you leave care you are given a Pathway Plan setting out what support you might need to live independently. Your Allocated Case Worker will help you with application forms, life skills and accessing education, training or employment. They will stay in contact with you and provide ongoing support and help, as outlined in the Harrow Care Leavers Charter.

If you are homeless or at risk of homelessness you should contact your Allocated Case Worker at Harrow Council, or at the council that last looked after you.

## Financial support for care leavers

Most 16 or 17 year old care leavers are not eligible for benefits but Harrow Children's Services team will help you as outlined in the Harrow Care Leavers Charter.

You can usually only claim benefits if you are a 16 or 17 year old care leaver and you are also a single parent or unable to work because of a disability or illness. When you turn 18 you are entitled to claim benefits. You should be able to claim Universal Credit if you need to.

Find out more from Turn2Us about benefit rules for care leavers here

<https://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Care-Leavers-and-Benefits/Who-is-a-Care-Leaver>

If you are 18 or over you can check your eligibility for benefits using the calculators featured here:  
[www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](http://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### **Single room rate**

If you are single, under 35 years of age and living in private rented accommodation then the maximum amount of help you can be awarded for housing costs through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit will usually be based on the shared room rate of the Local Housing Allowance for Harrow. If you are under the age of 22 and have been in care, you will be entitled to the one bedroom rate. The current rates can be found here: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/benefits/local-housing-allowance>

### **Council tax discount for care leavers**

There is a council tax discount for some young people aged between 18 and 26 leaving care in Harrow and you can apply for this online: <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-discount-care-leavers>