



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 091554
Date 14 September 2015

Foster Care

Request and response in 'blue':

I would like to request the following information please under the freedom of information act

1. How many children have left foster care in Wolverhampton between September 2014 and August 2015 because they have become 18
14
2. How many of those leaving care as above dates have gone on to study at university starting in September 2015
From the cohort list we have 1 care leaver who has transitioned to university starting September 2015
3. What do the authority do financially to support these adults in getting to and whilst at university
The Local Authority offer financial support for travel costs attending University open days. When at University we offer financial support in the forms of a care leaver bursary, accommodation costs, holiday accommodation, financial support with travel home during the holiday periods.
4. What has been the cost to the authority for doing this
The cost to the Local Authority is dependent on what is agreed and required by the care leaver and will depend on their living/ accommodation arrangements and the duration of this per academic year, where they are studying and the cost of travel home. The annual costs for accommodation is maximum £6000.00 per year, £666.66 per year bursary and holiday/ vacation costs are usually with a host/supported lodgings averaging £90.00 per week. The cost of a personal allowance is £57.90 if required.
5. Can I have a breakdown of money allocated to each individual care leaver going to university, bursaries, grants, loans or other financial incentives
**The current available funding for this academic year is:
£666.66 care leaver bursary provided by the LA
£6000.00 per year Accommodation costs LA provide
£90.00 per week Vacation/ holiday accommodation LA provide**

Financial support with travel, cost will depend on location of the University LA provide

Tuition fee costs up to £9000.00 per year (dependant on the care leavers circumstances)

Personal allowance £57.90 (dependant on the care leavers circumstances)

In exceptional circumstances financial support can be requested that may otherwise result in hardship.

From University or SFE:

University hardship fund dependant on the care leavers circumstances

Scholarship (this is dependent on the University) usually covers tuition costs and accommodation costs

Care leaver bursary from the University (this is dependant of the University)

Average £2000.00 per year and £1000.00 when the degree is completed

Care Leaver Grant £3387.00 per year non repayable

Student finance £9000.00 tuition fee loan - REPAYABLE

Student finance £ 4813.00 Maintenance loan outside of London - REPAYABLE

Student finance 7315.00 Maintenance Loan inside London - REPAYABLE

6. What provision is in place for former foster carers to keep children they have had in their care post 18 and is there financial allowance

The local authority has a staying put policy. This policy enables young people who are in a stable, supportive foster placement the opportunity to pursue education, training and employment, without the disruption of having to move to independence during this critical period of their lives. The benefits are primarily about extending a familial relationship where the young person continues to experience security and stability. Young People who are in foster care are able to benefit from Staying Put regardless of whether they are in education, training or employment before turning 18 years old. Staying Put carers will be provided with a week's allowance, totalling £255.00. However whilst a proportion of the funding will be provided by the Local Authority some of the payment will be made up from:-

- Any housing benefit entitlement the young person is able to claim
- A set contribution of £25.00 from the young person is required from personal funds or income

7. Is this allowance paid to foster carers when they are at university to enable students to return home at weekends

A new draft policy is in place which refers to an allowance paid to the staying put carers to allow a young person to return home during term time.