

Joint Local Offer

Nottinghamshire had the first joint local offer between its County and District Councils. This was co-produced by the county and the districts.

Do you have a local offer for care leavers in partnership with the District Councils YES

If yes – please give details

Produced with our seven district councils in Nottinghamshire

[Local Offer for Care Leavers | Notts Help Yourself](#)

Publishing the Local Offer

Have you published the Local Offer for Care Leavers? YES

If Yes, how

Printable format (please attached pdf) YES

Online YES

If Yes, where

[Local Offer for Care Leavers | Notts Help Yourself](#)

Downloadable App YES

If yes, please give details (Name/publisher)

Notts Next Steps App (This is Focus)

Have care leavers fed co-produced the Local Offer with corporate YES

If yes, please give details

Involving the Children in Care Council (No Labels), our looked after and care leaver population through contact discussions and feedback via Personal Advisors and 21Plus Service, via Care Leaver Apprentices being part of the development of the Notts Next Steps App and attending the strategic meetings around the local offer.

Who would you like to be the main contact for your care leavers to contact you?

Ideally young people should contact their Personal Advisor for any information on the Local Offer for Care Leavers in the first instance. If they are over 21 years then they can contact the 21Plus Service at 21Plus@nottsc.gov.uk

Duty contact details for our 21Plus, North, Central and South Personal Advisor teams are on the Notts Next Steps App or via the Notts Help Yourself Website.

Do you ensure each young person has ID Documents when they leave care? YES

If yes, do you provide pay for and help the young person gain their.

First Passport YES

Provisional Driving License YES

Birth Certificate YES

Help to get care leavers on the road (accepting this is not always a blanket offer)

Do you in principal assist with:

Driving Lessons YES

Theory Test YES

Driving Test YES

CBT Test YES

If a young person identifies they would like to explore driving lessons then Looked After (17yrs) and Leaving Care will provide the fee and help apply for a Provision License as well as provide books for revising for their Theory Test and fee payment for the Theory Test when the young person is ready to take this. Once the Theory Test is successfully achieved, then Looked After/Leaving Care will explore the provision of driving lessons and also explore with the young person how they will manage the purchasing/rental, maintenance (fuel, repair, MOT, insurance) costs of using a vehicle.

Gym and leisure center access for care leavers

Gym membership for care leavers YES (free via
the Local Offer for Care Leavers)

Free access to swimming YES

Free access to classes YES

If yes up to what age 25

Can care leavers take a friend? YES

This is negotiable with the leisure centre and Leaving Care have identified circumstances where this can be funded via You Know Your Mind funding to assist with a young person's mental and emotional health and well-being.

Who can care leavers contact to apply?

Their Personal Advisor or the 21Plus Service. The Leisure Centre will then contact the young person directly to arrange an introduction session and sign them up as a member (at no cost to the young person).

Council Tax Exemption

Do you provide council tax exemption for Care Leavers? YES

If yes up to what age 25

Is this only available to care leavers from your local authority? YES

There are some examples where this has been negotiated and agreed for care leavers from other neighboring Local Authorities but is entirely at the discretion of the District Council

Please tell us what care leavers must do to apply?

This is automatically logged on their Council Tax records via a service level agreement between the district councils and Nottinghamshire County Council managed by the Leaving Care Service and shared/updated on a monthly basis.

Housing

Social Housing

Do care leavers get priority banding for social housing? YES

If yes up to what age to they get priority 25

And what banding priority do they get Band B for 8 weeks then Band A

Please tell us any further details on how they qualify and what they should do?

Nottinghamshire Care Leavers are able to apply for Social Housing in any of the seven districts (irrespective of any local connections). However, there must be a housing need to access priority banding up until the age of 25 years. If there are exceptional circumstances where a young person needs to move from already identified suitable accommodation then advocacy via their Personal Adviser will allow them to be identified as priority banding.

Practice flats

Do care leavers get to practice independent living? With short term taster flats No

If yes, please give details

In Nottinghamshire we have no dedicated practice independent living flats, but we do have our Supported Accommodation Provision where young people will be supported from Core accommodation provision with 24 hour support, to more cluster housing/shared housing and then on to solo accommodation before applying for social housing (priority) via their chosen district council. They will complete their Ready to Move tenancy packs prior to moving to independence and retain support from their PA, 21Plus or Floating Support if this is required. In addition, we have a homelessness prevention solo accommodation provision via funding from the MHCLG to prevent care leavers having to present as homeless to a district council.

Guarantor in the private rental sector (accepting this is not always a blanket offer)

Do you in principal assist with:

Acting as a guarantor for care leavers in private rented property YES

If yes, please give details

We will assist with this if appropriate to do so. However, we do advocate that young people who are over 18 years should be taking on responsibility for the accommodation provision if they are doing this via private rented, as there are other options in Nottinghamshire where support etc. is provided for young people to assist them with independence if they are not ready for taking on this responsibility.

Deposit in the private rental sector (accepting this is not always a blanket offer)

Do you in principal assist with:

Will your local authority provide a deposit for care leavers in private rented property YES

If yes, please give details

We will assist this this if appropriate to do so for that young person. This is often the case for those young people who are studying at Higher Education or University provision, or those who are in full time employment and not in social housing. We are currently in discussion with our social housing providers and district councils around offering a "payment promise" to avoid issuing cash deposits / monthly payments in

advance for care leavers and that the Local Authority will issue a promise of an amount payable if there is any debt/arrears or damage following the end of a tenancy period.

Setting up home allowance

Do you provide care leavers with a setting up allowance?

YES

If yes, how much?

£2000

Accepting this is not always a blanket offer – would you in principle assist with

Support to pay at least the first year TV License for care leavers?

YES

Support to pay at least the first year home contents insurance?

YES

Support to pay for redecoration costs of a care leavers first flat?

YES

Support with broadband costs for care leavers?

YES

Support with mobile phone costs for care leavers?

YES

Will your local authority pay towards cooking equipment

YES

Work and training

Do you offer any work experience within your local authority for Care Leavers?	YES
If yes, how many per year?	We have no set limit
If no, would you consider it?	N/A
Will your local authority pay for work/interview clothes to help care leavers into work?	YES
Will your local authority pay towards travel to work or training for care leavers?	YES
Do you ring fence any apprentices within your local authority for Care Leavers?	YES
If yes, how many per year?	We have no set limit
How many care leavers are working in your local authority as apprentices?	
<i>We recently had 5 care leavers completing apprenticeships within Nottinghamshire County Council from both Nottinghamshire Leaving Care but also from Nottingham City and Derbyshire.</i>	
If yes, how many per year?	We have no set limit

Please tell us anything else about work and training that you do to support care leavers?

Nottinghamshire Leaving Care Service have recently increased their provision for care leavers around accessing Achievement Advisers from 1.5 FTE posts to 4 FTE posts and an Achievement Adviser Co-ordinator. The Achievement Service works with young people from 16/17 (Looked After) to their 25th birthday (and sometimes beyond if continuing on a post-graduate or higher education provision plan). We have a dedicated Business Engagement Achievement Adviser to work with our East Midlands industries as well as further afield and with Chamber of Commerce partners across D2N2. We launch our Achievement Offer at the end of March 2021 and this will be in the form of an extended Local Offer for Care Leavers (available in print, pdf, website and through our Notts Next Steps App).

Special occasions

Do you pay anything towards Christmas or other religious celebrations for care leavers YES

If yes, please give details

We contact each young person open to Leaving Care in Nottinghamshire (including all our 21Plus young people) to identify their plans for Christmas or other religious celebrations, see what support or assistance they require to facilitate these plans as well as offer Christmas gifts, food vouchers, food hampers as necessary. Our Strategic Partnership Board for Looked After Children and Care Leavers have run a "Christmas Contributions" across the Council and with our colleagues within partnership organisations to ensure that young people have gifts at Christmas as well as donations from supermarkets, local individuals and charities including the MyBag Charity in Nottingham.

Do you pay anything towards birthday celebrations for care leavers? YES

If yes, please give details

We will contact and meet with our young people to mark their birthday and identify what celebrations they are planning. This can include a gift / meal for the young person depending on their circumstances and if they wish to meet with their PA.

Travel

Have Local partners supported you with free travel for care leavers?

Bus YES

This is still under review and negotiation and has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Train NO

Other

If yes, please give details

If no, please give details of what you do?

Nottinghamshire County Council will explore travel costs for young people around accessing employment, education and training, as well as any appointments that they need to attend (health and well-being etc.). This is done on an ad-hoc basis. We have funded a lot of young people in Nottinghamshire to access the You Know Your Mind fund to purchase bikes and safety equipment as part of their ongoing travel/contact with friends and family to support their mental and emotional health and well-being.

Mentoring Schemes

Peer mentors (other care leavers) No

This is being explored under the guidance of our Achievement Offer

Other mentoring scheme YES

If yes, please give details

We have linked with Nottingham Trent University to access academic mentors for those young people who are planning on accessing Higher Education or University courses (at any university and not just NTU). We have access to Work Coaches and DWP Mentoring Circles via our Achievement Advisers as well as exploring access to mentors from the world of industry.

Access to care files

Do young people have to go through the complaints department to access their care files? YES

Do those that access their files get emotional support before, during and after disclosure? YES

If yes, please give details

Access to historical records can often be distressing, complex and not always give the answers that the young person is searching for. Before any young person accesses their care files, the PA or 21Plus PA will discuss this with the young person and identify what information they are seeking and what questions they may want answering, as this may be achieved quicker than the young person accessing copies of redacted case files and recordings. However, if this cannot be answered or the young person wants full access to their records then this is completed and our PAs will link with our Access to Records team and identify a timescale, when this is being shared and will be able to support young people with this, linking them to any professional support or organisations that they identify as being useful as part of their journey into their past.

Access to Corporate Parents

Do care leavers have the opportunity to meet with their corporate parents (councillors) YES

We have a Children in Care (No Labels) Council with Care Leavers who can attend which are regularly attended by Councillors and Senior Directors within Nottinghamshire Social Care.

Do care leavers have the opportunity for mentoring with any of the senior leadership team? YES

If yes, please give details

If a young person wishes to access mentoring then this can / is explored with our Senior Leadership Team or other relevant management.

Participation in Society

Do you have a children in care and care leavers council? YES

If yes, please give details (how many attend and age groups/contact details)

This is organised via the Youth Service to offer a level of independence from the Looked After and Leaving Care Service. The Contact for the Children in Care (No Labels) Council is Pom Bhogal pom.bhogal@nottsc.gov.uk

Do your children in care and care leavers council have their own bank account? YES

Do your children in care and care leavers council do they have their own constitution? NO

If yes, please give details
