Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers
What is Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers?

Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers tells you about all the services and support that we have available for you as a care leaver. We know that it is a big step when you move out of care and start living on your own or with others. We want to make sure that you feel safe and supported and know how to get the advice and help you need.

To find out more about this offer go to www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/careleaverslo, this will be kept up to date with the latest offers.
Is it for me?

Being your legal ‘corporate parents’ means Nottinghamshire County Council and the seven district councils in Nottinghamshire must provide you with certain support and services by law. However, we and other organisations in Nottinghamshire, provide these things and more because we know it is the right thing to do and we want to help you find your way.

We want to support you and offer every opportunity you need to be the best you can possibly be, and to achieve your goals.

If you’re not sure whether the offer applies to you, get in touch with Nottinghamshire’s Leaving Care Team or ask your personal adviser if you have one.

You can contact Nottinghamshire’s Leaving Care Team by phone or email:

- For Bassetlaw (Worksop and Retford), Newark and Sherwood (Newark-on-Trent, Edwinstowe, Southwell and Ollerton) and Mansfield (Mansfield Woodhouse, Market Warsop) Contact: 0115 804 1236 or LeavingCareDuty@nottscc.gov.uk

- For Ashfield (Selston, Hucknall, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield), Broxtowe (Beeston, Stapleford, Kimberley and Eastwood), Gedling (Arnold, Carlton, Calverton, Ravenshead, Newstead), and Rushcliffe (West Bridgford, Bingham, Cotgrave, Radcliffe-on-Trent, Ruddington, Keyworth, East Leake) Contact: 0115 854 6318 or LeavingCare.South@nottscc.gov.uk

- If you are aged 21 to 24 you can contact the 21Plus Service at: 0115 804 4154 or 21plus@nottscc.gov.uk
Personal advisers
We will make sure you have a personal adviser from your 18th birthday until your 21st birthday. After that you will have access to support and advice until you are 25 years-old.

To find out more about personal advisers and the Leaving Care Team go to www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/isitforme

Your Pathway Plan
We will help you decide what you want to achieve when you leave care, including your future goals and what help you’ll need from us – this is called your Pathway Plan.

To find out more about your Pathway Plan go to www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/isitforme

Independent Advocates
You have the right to be heard - an Independent Advocate can tell you about your rights and help you to get your point of view across in meetings. If you would like an Independent Advocate call Freephone 0808 901 9488 or email advocacy@childrenssociety.org.uk or ask your personal adviser to help you get one.

The Care Leaver Covenant
Want to know what other organisations are offering to care leavers? Then take a look at www.mycovenant.org.uk where businesses, charities and Government departments are pledging their services, support and opportunities to you. These include apprenticeships, work experience and free or discounted goods and services.
If you have a disability or special educational needs
There is a specific ‘Local Offer’ that describes the help you can expect in your local area. www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk

If you are an Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker
If you identify as a former unaccompanied asylum-seeking child or are awaiting leave status from the Home Office, there may be some elements of this offer that you are not entitled to. Please discuss this with your personal adviser. We will make sure that you have the support you need and that this is recorded in your Pathway Plan.

If you are in custody, about to leave custody or under a period of probation supervision
Your care leaver champion in the prison, resettlement worker or probation worker will make contact with your personal adviser to make sure you get the support you need to successfully move forward and/or complete your Court Order(s).
Our setting up home offer includes

- Helping you find somewhere to live, and supporting you to manage your own tenancy and bills.
- Helping you to stay with your foster family until you are 21, if that’s what you want.
- If you are in the middle of a course when you turn 18, and you wish to stay with your foster family until the end of the summer term to finish your course, then we will try and arrange this.
- If you have children of your own, we will provide you with accommodation.
- Helping you to find housing in an emergency.
- You not having to pay Council Tax until you are 25.
- You being a high priority on district council housing waiting lists and usually being offered a property within eight weeks (it might take longer) if you have a housing need.
- You being able to apply for a local authority home anywhere in Nottinghamshire (excluding Nottingham City).
- We may be able to pay your tenancy deposit and/or act as your guarantor.
- Giving you advice and support to help you stay on top of your rent and bill payments.

For more information about the setting up home offer visit:
www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/settinguphome
Our money offer includes

- Supporting you to contact the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to make sure you are receiving the benefits you’re entitled to.

- Helping you in an emergency - we understand that managing money when you first leave care isn’t easy and that sometimes things go wrong.

- Supporting you financially to set up your first home with the Home Establishment Grant (HEG).

- Helping you to access your Child Trust Fund or Junior ISA, if you have one.

- Supporting you financially while you are at university, including £3,465 a year towards your fees, a £2,000 grant and paying for your accommodation all-year-round.

- Providing financial support to cover essential costs such as travel, books and exams whilst you’re at college.

For more information about the money offer visit: www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/money
Our health and happiness offer includes

- Supporting you to look after your health and wellbeing.
- If you regularly see a health specialist, they will help you to make sure you are supported by adult health services when you turn 18.
- If you’re having support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), your worker will help you get support from mental health services for adults, if you need them.
- Giving you your “Important Health Information” document.
- Making sure information about your health is considered in your Pathway Plan.
- Giving you information about local health services and support (you can find this on the local offer website - www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/health).
- If you have a disability, your Social Worker will work with you to plan for leaving care.
- Providing free and/or discounted access to district council-owned leisure centres in your area - coming soon!

For more information about the health and happiness offer visit: www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/health
Our training and jobs offer includes

- Having access to an Achievement Adviser to work out what your education, training and/or employment goals are, and to build your confidence and skills towards getting the job you want (age 18 to 21).

- Exploring (and when possible providing you with) work experiences to help you decide the kind of job you’re interested in.

- Encouraging and helping you to secure appropriate training and/or employment, or a place at college or university if that is what you want.

- Helping you to secure an apprenticeship if this is what you want. As a care leaver you are entitled to a £1,000 bursary when you start your apprenticeship.

- Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and some of our district councils are offering apprenticeship vacancies specifically for care leavers.

- NCC guaranteeing all care leavers an interview when applying for an apprenticeship, as long as you meet all the “essential criteria” for the job.

- NCC paying care leaver apprentices the National Living Wage.

- Helping you access help with the cost of childcare while you are learning or working.

For more information about the training and jobs offer visit: www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/training
Our family and relationships offer includes

- Helping you to create a strong and safe support network.
- Helping you to understand your time in care and life history.
- Offering personal relationship support.
- Helping you find services that offer support with your individual identity needs (including sexuality and/or gender identity).
- Offering advice about being a care leaver, and helping you to challenge any discrimination you may face as a care leaver.
- Helping you to find support if you are pregnant or have a child/children in your care.

For more information about the family and relationships offer visit: [www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/family](http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/family)
Things to do

Our things to do offer includes

- Taking you on a yearly free residential or day trip to one of our outdoor and environmental centres.
- Offering you free access to Nottinghamshire County Council’s youth centres and activities until your 22nd birthday.
- Offering you free access to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- Supporting you to join Nottinghamshire’s Children in Care Council, so you can get involved in making things better for children in care, and care leavers like you.
- Helping you to get all your essential identity documents together e.g. birth certificate, passport, national insurance number (when appropriate).
- Helping you to maintain and/or explore your faith and ethnicity.
- Celebrating important life, faith, and cultural events with you.
- Providing free and/or discounted access to district council-owned leisure centres in your area - coming soon!

For more information about the things to do offer visit: [www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/lactthingstodo](http://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/lactthingstodo)
If you would like to find out more about the offers available in your area or for the contact details of useful organisations, visit Nottinghamshire’s Local Offer for Care Leavers at www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/laccontacts

The most up-to-date information about offers and the support available to you will always be published online first, so keep an eye on the website for any new offers which may interest you.

www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/careleaverslo

The local offer app will soon be available, so you’ll be able to easily check for the latest offers and access the offer off-line when you need to. Information about the app will be online as soon as it is available. Your personal adviser will also let you know when it’s available.

If you’ve got any ideas on how to improve the offer for care leavers, please email quality.improvementgroup@nottscc.gov.uk