



## Contact us

If you would like more information, please contact the After Care Team who will be able to help you:

T: 0161 770 6598

E: [careleavers@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:careleavers@oldham.gov.uk)

Write to: After Care Team,  
Unit 7 – 13 Whitney Court,  
Southlink Business Park,  
Oldham, OL4 1DB.

Or visit

[www.oldhamyc.com/CICC/](http://www.oldhamyc.com/CICC/)

[www.oldham.gov.uk/careleavers](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/careleavers)

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, large print or audio please contact your social worker.



# Care leavers

Your guide to what **support** is available



Making the transition from leaving care into independence may seem daunting, even scary, but **we are here to help you. We offer a range of support services to make the transition easier.**



## Who we are

**We are the After Care Team and we provide support, advice and guidance to young people who are in care or who have previously been in the care of the local authority, and are aged 16–21 years or up to 25 years if they are in education or training.**

**We work with care leavers helping them to plan for their future and make the transition into adulthood.**

## Who is a care leaver?

The level of support you will receive depends on your legal status as a care leaver. Your legal status will fall into one of the following categories:

**Eligible child** – Someone who is aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still looked after.

**Relevant child** – Someone aged 16 and 17 who has been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who has left care.

**Former relevant child** – Someone aged over 18 who was previously in the ‘eligible’ or ‘relevant’ groups. Former relevant children will receive support until at least 21 or longer if they are in education or training.

**Qualifying child** – Any young person aged between 16 and 21 years who has left care but who was in care on, or after, their 16th birthday and had spent less than 13 weeks in care since the age of 14 or had left care before 1st October 2001. This includes young people under 25 who are in education or training.

## How do I get support?

When you are 16 your social worker will undertake an after care assessment with you. This is an assessment of all the skills you have, as well as the things that you may need to learn to enable you to eventually live independently.

If you have left care and would like support, please call the After Care Team on 0161 770 6598 or email [careleavers@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:careleavers@oldham.gov.uk) and we will arrange an assessment to see how we can help you.

The assessment will be used to develop a pathway plan with you. Your pathway plan will contain details of what support you can expect and any skills that you need to develop.

Every six months a review meeting will be held to look at the plan and see if it is offering you the support that you want and need. There will be an Independent Reviewing Officer chairing the meeting to make sure that your opinions are listened to.

## What support do we offer?

### Education, employment and training

We can advise you and help you access support around employment, education and training.

### Housing

We work closely with First Choice Homes, local housing associations and supported accommodation providers to help you find available accommodation that best meets your needs.

We can then work with you and with local support agencies to make sure that you are offered the support you need to sustain your accommodation.

### Health and wellbeing

We can help you access health services like doctors and dentists. We can also advise you about accessing support about emotional health, relationships and sexual education.

### Family and social

We can offer help and support around contact with your family.

### Financial support

We can help you open a bank account and access the financial support you are entitled to. We can also offer advice around how to handle your money and budgeting.

### Practical support

We offer practical advice such as decorating your flat, applying for benefits, how to shop on a budget and how to cook cheap healthy meals.

The above list is only an example of the kind of things that we are often asked about. Everyone’s needs are different, so if you need help with anything else please just ask. We will do our best to help you.