**WBCIR:16914 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

This is a request for information regarding the local offer for care leavers.

**Local Authority Details.**

Do you accept responsibility for your local council publishing a care leaver offer? YES~~/NO~~

Has your local authority made care experience a protected characteristic? ~~YES/~~NO

**Publishing the Local Offer**

Have you published the Local Offer for Care Leavers?YES~~/NO~~

If Yes, how

We have sent a hard copy to all care leavers and have published it on our website. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printable format (please attach pdf) YES~~/NO~~

Online YES~~/ NO~~

If Yes, where

[Children in Care Council for care-experienced young people - Wokingham Borough Council](https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-and-families/child-protection-and-family-support/children-in-care-council/) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Downloadable App ~~YES/~~NO

If yes, please give details (Name/publisher)

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Have care leavers co-produced the Local Offer ~~YES/~~NO

If yes, please give details

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

Name Louisa Wiseman

Email [louisa.wiseman@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:louisa.wiseman@wokingham.gov.uk) or [here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk)

Phone **01189746000**

Who is the Director responsible for Childrens Services?

Name Helen Watson

Email [helen.watson@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:helen.watson@wokingham.gov.uk)

**Council Tax exemption**

Do you provide council tax exemption for Care Leavers? YES~~/NO~~

If yes up to what age

25

Is this only available to care leavers from your local authority? YES~~/NO~~

Please tell us what care leavers must do to apply?

They must complete a short form which their PA will support them to do.

**Employment**

Do you offer any work experience within your local authority for Care Leavers? YES~~/NO~~

If yes, how many per year?

Unlimited

Will your local authority pay for work/interview clothes to help care leavers into work? YES~~/NO~~

Will your local authority pay towards travel to work or training for care leavers? YES~~/NO~~

Have you ringfenced any apprentices for Care Leavers ~~YES/~~NO

Are Care Leavers in your local authority working as apprentices? ~~YES/~~NO

If yes, how many per year?

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

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| Care leavers are offered support to write CV’s, interview advice, support with access to work through partner agencies where there are additional needs. Careers information, advice and guidance is provided by both the Virtual School and the Elevate Team, to support with exploring options and next steps. |

**Participation in society**

**Identification and proof of address**

Do you ensure each young person has ID documents when they leave care? YES~~/NO~~

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

First passport YES~~/NO~~

Provisional driving license YES~~/NO~~

Birth certificate YES~~/NO~~

**Getting care leavers on the road**

Do you in principle *(Accepting this is not always a blanket offer)*

assist with driving lessons? YES~~/NO~~

assist with theory tests? YES~~/NO~~

assist with driving tests? YES~~/NO~~

assist with CBT tests? YES~~/NO~~

Have local partners supported you with free travel for care leavers? ~~YES/~~NO

**Access to corporate parents**

Do care leavers have the opportunity to meet with their corporate parents (councilors) YES~~/NO~~

Do care leavers have the opportunity for mentoring with any of the senior leadership team? ~~YES/~~NO

If yes, please give details

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**Children in care and care leavers council**

Do you have a children in care and care leaver council YES~~/NO~~

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| --- |
| If yes, please provide details. (how many attend and age groups/contact details)  Children in care council: Open to 7-15 year olds (split age groups) attended by \*\*\*\* Contact details:  [sarah.desson@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.desson@wokingham.gov.uk)  Care Leaver forum: Open to 16-25 year olds. Attended by 5 care leavers run 4-6weekly. Contact details – [here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk) |

Does your children in care and care leavers council have its own bank account? ~~YES/~~NO

Does your children and care leavers council have its own constitution? ~~YES/~~NO

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| --- |
| If yes, please provide details |

**Health and wellbeing**

Do care leavers get free access to leisure facilities as part of the local offer? YES~~/NO~~

Do care leavers have access to a free gym membership? YES~~/NO~~

Do care leavers has access to free swimming? YES~~/NO~~

Do care leavers have access to free classes? YES~~/NO~~

If yes, up to what age? 25

If care leavers get free access to leisure facilities, can they take a friend for free? ~~YES/~~NO

Who can care leavers contact to apply?

Name Their allocated PA or Duty PA

Email [here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:here4u.duty@wokingham.gov.uk)

Phone **01189746000**

**Special occasions**

Do you pay anything towards Christmas and other religious celebrations for care leavers? YES~~/NO~~

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| If yes, please provide details.  Care leavers will receive a festival allowance or gift up to 21 years. |

Do you pay anything towards birthday celebrations for care leavers? YES~~/NO~~

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| --- |
| If yes, please provide details.  Care leavers will receive birthday money up until the age of 21 |

**Mentoring schemes**

Do you have peer mentors (other care leavers)? ~~YES/~~NO

Do you have any other mentoring schemes ~~YES/~~NO

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| If yes, please provide details. |

**Access to care files**

Do young people have to go through the complaints department to access their care files? ~~YES/~~NO

Do those that access their files get emotional support before, during and after disclosure? YES~~/NO~~

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| --- |
| If yes, please give details |

**Housing**

Do care leavers get priority banding for social housing? YES~~/NO~~

If yes, up to what age do they get priority

From 18 if care leaver is in housing need, and has completed tenancy training \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what banding priority do they get?

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

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| --- |
| All Wokingham eligible care leavers are offered priority banding. PA’s and Social Workers will help identify housing needs through the pathway planning process and will support the care leaver to make an application to the housing register. Care leavers will be discussed at the Young People’s Housing Panel to help progress housing plans jointly across children’s services and housing department.  When making an application to the housing register, individuals will be asked if they are a care leaver.  Care leavers will have opportunity to meet with the young people’s homelessness prevention officer to help develop housing plans were needed. |

Do care leavers get to practice independent living with short term taster flats (practice flats) ~~YES/~~NO

**Private rental sector.**

*(Accepting this is not always a blanket offer)*

Do you in principle assist with:

acting as a guarantor for care leavers in private rented property? ~~YES/~~NO

providing a deposit for care leavers in private rented property? YES~~/NO~~

**Setting up home allowance**

Do you provide care leavers with a setting up allowance? YES~~/NO~~

If yes, how much?

£3000

Would you in principle assist with:

*(Accepting this is not always a blanket offer)*

support to pay at least the first year TV License for care leavers? YES~~/NO~~

support to pay at least the first-year home contents insurance? YES/~~NO~~

support to pay for redecoration costs of a care leavers first flat? ~~YES~~/NO

support with broadband costs for care leavers? ~~YES/~~NO

support with mobile phone costs for care leavers? YES~~/NO~~

Will your local authority pay towards cooking equipment? YES~~/NO~~