



Children and Young People's Services

Financial Procedures for Care Leavers

POLICY/PROCEDURE APPROVAL			
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Young people in care should expect the same level of care and support from their Corporate Parent as any reasonable parent gives their children.
- 1.2 Children and Young People who are in the care of Cheshire West and Chester (CWAC) are encouraged to learn appropriate life skills to assist in their preparation for leaving care. A key skill for young people when making this transition is learning how to budget for the costs of daily living.

2 AIM OF PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The aim of this procedure is to set out the nature and level of financial support CWAC will provide to enhance the life chances of young people leaving their care in order to assist them to make a successful transition to adulthood.
- 2.2 CWAC recognise that an early emphasis on financial literacy and financial capability is essential to ensuring that children and young people leaving our care are given a solid foundation upon which to build their lives.

3 FINANCIAL PLANNING

- 3.1 Every young person leaving the care of CWAC will receive an assessment of their needs, including financial, prior to and not beyond them reaching age 16 and 3 months in accordance with the CWAC Planning for Transition To Adulthood Policy. That assessment will cover all aspects of the young person's transition to adulthood including health, education, training, employment and financial needs. A Pathway Plan will be prepared within 28 days following the completion of the assessment which will be reviewed at a minimum level of every 6 months.
- 3.2 CWAC will provide all eligible and relevant young people with a financial package of support which will be at least equivalent to the prevailing Income Support/Jobseekers Allowance benefit rate. This will include the provision of a suitable and appropriate placement/accommodation (including the provision of foster or residential placements where maintenance is included) or the financial means to secure other forms of accommodation (up to the young person reaching age 18).
- 3.3 In all cases, allowances will be based upon the assessment of need and be set out within the young person's individual Pathway Plan. That plan must highlight any conditions for payments including how payments will be made, the frequency of payments and when the financial plan will be reviewed. At times, payments may be restricted, supervised or suspended dependent upon the young person's ability and their willingness to support the agreed

pathway plan.

- 3.4 All young people **MUST** supply their bank or building society details to their worker so that these can support the electronic payment and management of financial support through CONTROC, within Liquid Logic.

4 DEFINITIONS AND LEVELS OF ENTITLEMENT

Eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) looked after,b) aged 16 or 17 year, andc) has been a CIC for at least 13 weeks (or periods amounting in total to 13 weeks) which began after they reached age 14 and ended after they reached age 16.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. All maintenance and suitable accommodation costs whilst in placements.2. Eligible care leavers living independently - as per Relevant care leavers.
Relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) not looked afterb) aged 16 or 17, andc) was, before they last ceased to be a CIC, was an eligible child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintenance and suitable accommodation costs until eligible to claim state benefits at 18th birthday.2. <u>Assistance</u> in order to meet needs in relation to education, training or employment.
Former relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) aged 18 or above, and eitherb) has been a relevant child and would be one if he/she were under 18, orc) Immediately before he ceased to be a CIC at age 18, was an eligible child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Maintenance/accommodation- via access to employment or, universal benefits.b) If his/her welfare requires it as set out within the pathway plan, the local authority can make a financial <u>contribution</u> towards:c) Meeting the expenses in living near a place of current or planned employment. These duties will continue until the former relevant young person reaches age 21 or, where their pathway plan sets out a programme of education or training which extends beyond their 21st birthday and will remain so long as they continue to pursue that programme.
Former relevant-EET	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) aged under 25,b) in relation to whom the duties in 23C(2)(3) and (4) no longer apply, andc) He has informed the local	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Maintenance/accommodation- via access to employment or, universal benefits.2. If welfare requires it & within the pathway plan, the local

authority that he wants to pursue or is pursuing a programme of education or training.

authority can make a financial contribution in:

- Pursuance of education or training.
- relation to securing vacation accommodation if in full-time further/higher education and;
- In the form of a course bursary (subject to conditions).

Qualifying

- a) aged as least 16 but under 21,
- b) with respect to whom a special guardianship order is in force (or was in force when they reached 18) and was a CIC immediately before the making of that order, or
- c) at any time after reaching the age of 16 but whilst still a child was, but is no longer, a CIC, accommodated or fostered.

1. The local authority may, subject to an assessment of need, provide additional assistance which could include, in 'exceptional circumstances', a cash payment only where there is a necessity to protect and such support cannot be obtained from any other agency/body.
2. Where the person is in full time further or higher education, is under the age of 25 and qualifies for advice and assistance, or would have done if under the age of 21, the authority will provide assistance in relation to securing vacation accommodation.
3. Such assistance will only extend until the age of 21, or 25 and where the young person is engaged in education or training.

5 MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS

- 5.1 The minimum level of maintenance payments made to eligible and relevant care leavers will be the equivalent of the prevailing level of income support or, job seekers allowance. Those young people not engaged with education, training or employment will only be entitled to receive the minimum level of maintenance allowance.

6 ACCOMMODATION

- 6.1 CWAC seeks to ensure that all eligible and relevant young people are placed within suitable accommodation in accordance with the guidance set out in Appendix 1. Where a young person chooses to live in accommodation which, following an assessment, the local authority deem unsuitable, this will be recorded within the Pathway Plan. The social worker or Young Person

Adviser will ensure the young person continues to receive all appropriate support and that the accommodation position is subject to regular review.

7 DISCRETIONARY PRIORITY NEEDS

7.1 CWAC is committed to supporting young people leaving care to enhance their life chances and make a successful transition to adulthood. Relevant and former relevant care leavers can, following an assessment of need, request additional discretionary financial support in priority areas set out below. Any additional support provided will form part of the Pathway Plan and, in extreme circumstances, may be temporarily withdrawn where the young person ceases to act in accordance with their agreed Pathway Plan or, there is concern that monies being provided are being misused.

7.2 Areas of priority need include:

- Education, training and employment related costs e.g. travel, materials, equipment, tuition;
- Health needs (other than those provided by universal services);
- Social activities, hobbies and outings;
- Child care (other than those provided by universal services);
- Clothing;
- Deposits and advanced rent on private lettings.

7.3 All priority payments will be subject to the discretion of the Team Manager of the Leaving Care Team within their delegated authorizing limits and payments levels will as set within CWAC.

8 CONTRIBUTIONS

8.1 Young people who are in employment and in supported lodgings or unregulated accommodation provided by CWAC will be expected to contribute to the cost of their accommodation from their earnings. The amount they pay will be worked out according to the amount they earn and agreed within a review of their Pathway Plan. All planning should ensure that young people in employment retain a minimum amount equivalent of Job Seeker's allowance, an additional £10 per week incentive PLUS the cost of their travel and subsistence e.g. lunch.

8.2 Young people fully engaged with required independent program's of support and relevant projects and placed one of CWAC supported living options, will be required to make a contribution of £10 per week from the agreed maintenance allowance to meet the cost of utility expenses.

8.3 Young people can choose to pay their contribution through a variety of means according to their individual circumstances. They may choose to pay their landlord directly or pay the council through a bank account or in cash each week through a paying in book to be signed by either worker or

identified responsible adult. Payments will be accounted for and regular statements provided to the young person.

9 EET INCENTIVES

- 9.1 Where a relevant or former relevant care leaver is engaged with education or training as detailed within their Pathway Plan, they would be expected to claim all available education allowances and incentives. Where, following an assessment of their financial needs, such claims do not result in any additional funding, relevant and former relevant care leavers will be entitled to receive an additional £10 per week incentive PLUS the cost of their travel and subsistence e.g. lunch, to attend their place of education/training. Payments will be paid retrospectively through CONTROC and monitored by their social worker or Young Persons Adviser and only remain whilst the young person continues to attend.

10 UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM SEEKING CHILDREN (UASC)

- 10.1 Unaccompanied Asylum seeking Children will receive the same levels of financial support as all other children and young people in the care of CWAC. Maintenance and accommodation support may be extended beyond the 18th birthday if, due to their emigration status, the young person cannot access universal benefit support.

11 CARE LEAVERS IN CUSTODY/HOSPITAL

- 11.1 If a young person is on remand or serving a custodial sentence, they will be fully maintained within that establishment and so will not be entitled to a personal allowance. Young people in custody may have the opportunity to earn pocket money/weekly allowance but, where this is not available to them, the Leaving Care Service will consider paying a small allowance each month equivalent to the EET incentive programme e.g. £10 per week. Requests for priority payments for items such as clothing and educational equipment will be considered in line with current procedures for other care leavers.
- 11.2 In order to maintain and facilitate contact with family and professionals it is possible to send stamps and stationery to the young person for their use whilst in custody. Individual institutions will need to be contacted for information about their internal procedure for this.
- 11.3 Assistance with arrangements for release will be considered in accordance with relevant procedures and entitlements.
- 11.4 Where an eligible or relevant care leaver is being detained in accordance with the Mental Health Act or, for a significant period due to an accident or general health need, similar arrangements as in 11.1 should apply.

12 LONE PARENT

- 12.1 Care leavers who become single parents are entitled to access benefits, from 11 weeks prior to the due date of birth, and are not then eligible for maintenance payments from the Leaving Care Service. Single parents who are also care leavers should be able to access housing benefit, but if their claim is refused and an appeal fails, the Leaving Care Service will continue to support the cost of accommodation until their 18th birthday when the appropriate benefit claims should be submitted.

13 CARE LEAVERS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS

- 13.1 Eligible and relevant Care Leavers with complex needs retain the same entitlement to support under the Leaving Care Act 2000 as all other young people and are entitled to extended advice and support until the age of 24. This includes the provision of a Pathway Plan and access to all relevant financial support, where funding is not available from benefits or other care packages.
- 13.2 Those young people requiring residential care or high level support will have access to benefits and funding through the Adults Services Teams, so they do not require additional leaving care support. There should be no duplication of funding and any community care entitlements from the Adult Services Team override those within the Leaving Care Act 2000.
- 13.3 CWAC Transfer Protocol between Adult Services and Children and Young Peoples Services (CYPS), Children with Disability team (CWD); sets out arrangements for financial responsibility and the transfer of such responsibility. CYPS maintain financial responsibility for costs until the end of the academic year in which the YP reaches their 19th Birthday. Following this ALL costs are transferred to Adults Services.
- 13.4 Where additional statutory benefits are paid to eligible and relevant care leavers as a direct result of their additional needs, those benefits will be included within the assessment of need only where they are paid to meet a specific need e.g. transport.

14 YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING WITH PARTNERS

- 14.1 If a young person moves to live with their partner, they will continue to receive the level of assistance as they would if living on their own. However, other benefits such as Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance or Housing benefit, assistance will be restricted to general support with education, health, leisure, social relationships and employment. In these circumstances, financial assistance would be restricted to support, within the framework

outlined in this document; with the exception of maintenance and accommodation costs. These will not normally be paid from leaving care funds, as the partners' co-habiting will have responsibility and access to family benefits.

15 CARE LEAVERS WHO RETURN HOME

- 15.1 Where, following a statutory review, a young person accommodation under s20 CA 1989 returns to live with their parent/s or a person with parental responsibility, the parent/s/carer will be responsible for the young person's welfare and maintenance. Where requested, the Leaving Care Service can assist the parent in negotiating any financial contribution to be made by the young person towards their maintenance.
- 15.2 The Leaving Care Service will provide practical advice and support for a period of 6 months after the young person returns to live with a parent (or somebody with parental responsibility), after which time their case will be closed. If the arrangements at home break down after that six month period and before the young person's 21st birthday the Leaving Care Service will reassess and agree with the young person and family whether, and what, further assistance is necessary.
- 15.3 Any relevant or former relevant young person, who returns to live with a parent on a full-time basis, will be ineligible for assistance with the following, for the duration of the period they remain living with this parent:
- Assistance with accommodation costs - The Leaving Care Service do not pay rent when a young person lives with a parent or someone with Parental Responsibility. This includes properties where a young person may have a separate bedroom but shares communal facilities such as a bathroom or kitchen with a parent or person with parental responsibility for them. Also the Leaving Care Service does not pay rent when a young person resides in a property which is owned by a parent or somebody with parental responsibility.
 - Maintenance allowance - Young people who return to live with their parents do not receive a maintenance allowance from the Leaving Care Service. The parents are expected to claim Child Tax Credits and Child Benefit and the young people is expected to engage in a course of education or training which renders them entitled for post 16 Child Benefit (see for more information on Child Benefit post 16 see www.direct.gov.uk) OR to seek employment. Other benefits may be able to be claimed and the allocated social worker or YPA should advise the parents and young person about this prior to them moving in together.

16 Setting Up Allowance

- 16.1 A young person cannot access this allowance whilst residing with a parent or somebody with parental responsibility for them.
- 16.2 This allowance is payable to cover the practical needs of care leavers moving into accommodation. The maximum allowance payable is £2,050 .00 (this allowance will be reviewed annually). However the initial average outlay is £1.500 and this money could include money for a housing deposit.
- 16.3 This is a **discretionary allowance** and based on need, granting the full allowance will not be the norm. The allowance may be used flexibly to support the young person's continuing Pathway Plan, for example:-
- Young people may want to retain furniture and possessions used by them in residential or foster care placement. In such cases the 'donor' would be reimbursed from the allowance.
 - The young person should have access to parts of the allowance through a flexible agreement until the date they reach 21 or complete education programme.
 - For many care leavers the transition into independence is a phase of their life characterised by problems and crisis. This should be acknowledged by careful management of the payment of the allowance according to the ability and maturity of the young person in question.
- 16.4 All expenditure against the Setting up Allowance **MUST** be through CONTROC for budget management purposes. Receipts and a running total of the current outlay of this Allowance must be held on the case file to account for expenditure incurred.

17 COURSE RELATED EXPENSES

- 17.1 Financial assistance for those attending 6th form and Further Education courses is available through the education provider. All efforts should be made to secure such assistance which may be through grant or loans. The young person should be encouraged to get advice from Connexions and from the college financial department.
- 17.2 In exceptional circumstances the Team Manager may authorise reasonable costs eligible and relevant young people with respect to:
- Registration and examination fees;
 - Specified course equipment e.g. textbooks essential for the completion of the course; or
 - Specified specialist clothing (e.g. a lab coat);
 - Activities required to meet curriculum; and
 - Public transport between accommodation and course centre

- 17.3 Support will only be provided when the criterion below has been met:
- Proof of acceptance on agreed course, plus timetable and proof of attendance must be supplied.
 - The social worker or YPA is expected to monitor the young person's attendance each term and review in line with the Pathway Planning process.
 - Course equipment, including laptops, textbooks and specialist clothing must be specified in writing as essential for the completion of the course.
 - Activities required to meet curriculum (e.g. outings) are payable direct to the education provision.

18 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOMMODATION

- 18.1 As part of the local authority's wish to support care leavers going into higher education, former relevant young people can negotiate assistance (based on relevant Halls of Residence / local rented accommodation rates, whichever is less) to help subsidise their accommodation costs whilst attending their place of higher education. CWAC will not take responsibility for the full costs.
- 18.2 There is no statutory requirement for authorities to pay for the accommodation and living expenses of former relevant young people in higher education. Care leavers in Higher Education have access to, and will be expected to apply for, student loans along with any other young person in full-time higher education.

19 HIGHER EDUCATION BURSARIES

- 19.1 Where a former relevant young person is attending a course of higher education that is at least two academic years duration and fits the criteria set out within the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998 (4), CWAC will pay a bursary. Arrangements for paying their bursary will be agreed and set out within the Pathway Plan subject to the following conditions:
- the first installment to be paid by 31st December of the first academic year or, not more than four weeks after the start of the first year, whichever is the later; and
 - The final installment must be paid before the end of the final year of the course or, not more than four weeks after the start of the fourth year of the course, whichever is the earlier

20 SUPPORT BETWEEN 21 AND 25 YEARS

- 20.1 Where a young person who was previously entitled to leaving care services resumes a programme of education or training after the age of twenty one, they are able to request continuing support from the Leaving Care Service.

- 20.2 Where a young person has no parental contact or, where the parent does not have the capacity to provide assistance, the Leaving Care Service may, in exceptional circumstances, provide additional assistance in cash or kind in accordance with the same requirements detailed above for relevant care leavers aged under 21 years.
- 20.3 A duty social worker will make an assessment of the appropriateness of the education or training course in meeting the young person's aspirations and detail the practical and financial support required. The social worker will then produce a new Pathway Plan detailing the support that the care leaver needs and the support required to meet the education or training goals agreed. These goals may range from the completion of a basic skills course, so that the young person has the numeracy and literacy skills needed to compete in the jobs market, or support to enable the young person to complete a recognised postgraduate qualification.
- 20.4 Following the completion of the Pathway Plan, the young person will continue to receive support from a YPA who will remain responsible for reviewing the Pathway Plan and providing such advice, support and assistance agreed within that plan.

21 VACATION ACCOMMODATION

- 21.1 Financial support can be provided for vacation accommodation for care leavers in Higher Education up to the age of 25, if an assessment of their needs justifies the need. This will be to a maximum of the single person rent level for the area where the young person wishes to spend their vacation. There is an expectation that the care leaver will supplement their loans and grants wherever possible by part-time employment.
- 21.2 The local authority will only assist in contributing to the cost of one type of accommodation during this time. We will not pay for both rent at higher education accommodation and accommodation elsewhere. Social workers and YPA should confirm that the young person is attending higher education, in order for the criteria for the term break provision to be met. Proof of such attendance must be obtained from the young person or the education provision e.g. attendance records or coursework marks.

22 BIRTHDAY GRANTS AND CARDS

- 22.1 All relevant and former relevant young people will receive a birthday card from the Leaving Care Service on their birthdays. On significant birthdays only i.e., 18th and 21st, relevant and former relevant care leavers will also receive a birthday grant. The allocated social worker or YPA will be responsible for administering these arrangements. Outside of these arrangements the YP will not receive yearly birthday Grants but they should still receive Birthday Cards from their s/w and/or their YPA.

- 22.2 £215.74, is the total of the Birthday Grant. This can be paid direct to the young person as a lump sum or paid in instalments throughout the year (1st April – 31st March). Relevant children not co-operating with action in the Pathway Plan – Children’s Services will purchase a card and gift to the value of £50

23 GIFTS AT TIMES OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

- 23.1 All relevant and former relevant young people will receive a grant at the time of a significant religious festival of their choice, e.g. Christmas (Christian), Urdu (Muslim), The Birthday of Guru Nanak (Sikh), Hanukkah (Jewish) or Diwali (Hindu) though the young person may identify with another. The Pathway Plan should identify which festival they wish to celebrate and ensure that grants are provided in good time and the details recorded accordingly.
- 23.2 £215.74 is the total cost of the festival allowance. This amount can be paid direct to the young person as a lump sum or paid in instalments throughout the year (1 April – 31 March). Relevant care leavers not co-operating with action in the Pathway Plan: Children’s Services will purchase a festival gift and card to the value of £50 for these relevant children.

24. HOLIDAY ALLOWANCE

Relevant care leavers co-operating with their pathway plan, can request financial support to contribute to the overall cost. If contribution is agreed, the amount can be paid direct to the young person as a lump sum or paid in instalments throughout the year (1 April – 31 March). Relevant care leavers not co-operating with their Pathway Plan will not be considered able to apply for a holiday allowance.

25 COMMUNITY CARE GRANTS

- 25.1 Benefits are available to some care leavers who are moving into independent accommodation and who are over 18 or single parents or have a disability. These Grants can be applied for numerous times in a person’s life as long as they don’t have other significant Social Fund debts. When considering the purchase of any items from a young person’s Setting up Grant, consideration must be given to applying for a community care grant in the first instance, particularly for goods such as carpet or decoration which a young person may not be able to take with them to subsequent properties. These can be applied for online at www.direct.gov.uk.

26 EMERGENCY PAYMENTS

- 26.1 Young people will be supported to manage their maintenance effectively to meet their day-to-day needs. Where relevant and former relevant care leavers request additional support they should be advised to access Budgeting or Crisis loans if they are able to (see www.direct.gov.uk for more information).
- 26.2 The Leaving Care Service may, subject to an assessment of need, provide some time limited practical assistance in the form of emergency payments for food and clothing, etc. Where the young person has need of emergency financial support these can be loaned from their usual allowance and repaid at an agreed rate over an agreed period. Should it appear that there are patterns to the request or, the young person consistently appears to be unable to manage their budget, action including formal budget advice and training will be required before any further payments are made.
- 26.3 In general, young people should always be encouraged to save part of their weekly maintenance to ensure that they can meet the cost of bigger items or, have money available in the event of an emergency. Any additional support received, should be recorded in the Pathway Plan alongside arrangements to ensure improved money management.
- 26.4 Where an emergency payment is being considered the following conditions will apply:
- The reason for making a payment and the young person's circumstances must be fully assessed together with the young person's other available means.
 - Making a payment should be part of an overall support plan and contract to ensure the young person managers within the agreed levels of maintenance provided for all care leavers.
 - The amount paid out must ideally be made through CONTROC and recorded on the electronic record immediately so that if further requests are made this information is available to any YPA worker dealing with the request.

27 STAYING IN PLACEMENT POST 18

- 27.1 Former relevant young people who wish to remain with their foster carer after the age of 18 will be enabled to do so as long as the carer and young person wish the arrangement to continue and the young person is continuing on an approved course of education, training or employment. Agreement to Staying put post 18 years of age has to be presented and agreed by resource panel. *(Please refer to Planning Transition to Adulthood for Care leavers Procedure for further guidance)*
- 27.2 The continued payment of the basic 16 plus allowance will be paid to the

Foster carers until the YP reached the age of 18years. The relevant fee banding payment will be considered post 18 subject to the outcome and recommendations of the financial assessment.

- 27.3 Where the former relevant care leaver requests to remain in their foster placement post 18, a financial assessment will be completed and they will be required to submit all appropriate benefit applications. Once the level of benefit entitlement is known, the Leaving Care Service may 'top up' the level of benefits received to the previous level of foster allowance received immediately prior to their 18th birthday. Such arrangements will need to be agreed and recorded within the Pathway Plan and Senior Manager Approval has been given. This arrangement will cease on or before the young person reaches age 19. It then remains the YP and their carers responsibility to determine, how much 'Housekeeping' from their full entitlements they think is reasonable to give to support their living costs' there.
- 27.4 It is essential that the Supervising Social Worker from Provider Services is fully involved in any planning including the revision of the pathway plan. Such arrangements may affect a carer's fostering status and they may require presentation to the foster panel. It may also be necessary to consider the impact of any new arrangements upon any other children within the placement.

28 PAYMENTS

- 28.1 CWAC developed a variety of flexible payment systems to meet the differing needs of care leavers at different stages of their independence. All young people will be encouraged and supported to open bank accounts and in most cases, all regular payments will be made via this banking system, through CONTROC. If it appears automated payments have not been received, young people will be expected to provide receipts and evidence before any additional payment is made.
- 28.2 For young people still in the process of learning to budget effectively, allowances may be made in cash, and can be made more frequently than weekly. Where a young person has poor self-management skills, vouchers, direct payments, supervised spending and provision in kind may be used. Discretionary allowances may be withheld or restricted if there is evidence that they may not be used appropriately.
- 28.3 All financial arrangements will be subject to a continuous assessment of need and recorded within the Pathway Plan. That plan must also highlight any attached conditions e.g. how payments will be made, the frequency and when these arrangements will be reviewed.

29 SUPERVISION OF SPENDING

- 29.1 Young people should be supported and encouraged to control the

management of all their financial requirements. It is recognized that at times, some young people may have difficulty undertaking this function and they may be asked for evidence of their spending e.g. receipts, etc,

- 29.2 Where there are concerns that finance might be used for purposes other than those agreed in the young person's Pathway Plan, other methods of payment may be necessary to ensure the monies provided are being used appropriately and this could include supported shopping and payment management systems. Where a young person objects to such arrangements and an agreement cannot be reached, they should be encouraged to submit their concerns in writing to the Team Manager of the Leaving Care service.

30 FURNITURE REMOVAL, STORAGE AND COSTS

- 30.1 Relevant and former relevant care leavers can request a one-off grant from the Leaving Care Services to support the cost of a move into independent living. A contribution towards the removal expenses for all subsequent or additional moves will require the agreement of a Senior Manager
- 30.2 CWAC is committed to ensuring that young people's personal belongings and other possessions are not transported in bin liners. Accordingly, social workers and YPA should ensure that children and young people have access to a suitcase, holdall or gym bag to transport their belongings when moving placement.
- 30.3 In the event of storage being required for longer periods (e.g. due to prolonged homelessness, a custodial sentence or period of detention under the Mental Health Act) 'in-house' storage facilities and other funding streams must be explored. In certain circumstances, the option of selling furniture and purchasing new at a later date must be discussed with the young person.
- 30.4 During the period where assistance with storage is being provided, the young person will retain overall responsibility for the storage of their possessions, regardless of their circumstances.

31 CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION AND INHERITANCE

- 31.1 Where an eligible or relevant care leaver receives income in respect of criminal injuries or from the estate of a deceased person, CWAC will hold these monies in trust until the young person reaches age 18. Immediately following their 18th birthday, all monies held including interest payments will be made available to the young person. All young people will be provided with advice, encouragement and assistance to enable them to choose a suitable savings account within which to deposit all funds. (Please refer to Criminal Injuries Compensation for CIC).

Care Planning, Placement & Case Review (England) Regulations (2010)

The factors set out in the Schedule below will need to be taken into account in assessing whether any accommodation arranged for a relevant or a former relevant care leaver is “suitable”.

SCHEDULE 2: Regulation 9

Matters to be considered in determining the suitability of accommodation for relevant care leavers:

1. Accommodation:

1.1 Facilities and services provided:

- a) How many rooms are there in the property?
- b) Are there enough facilities being provided for the number of people who will be sharing the house?
- c) Furnished or unfurnished? If furnished - is the furniture in a good state of repair?
- d) How is the property heated?
- e) Access to utilities and services.
- f) Is the house free of damp and/or mould?

1.2. State of repair:

- a) Is the property fit for habitation?
- b) Are there any outstanding repairs?
- c) Is there a clear and effective system of reporting repairs?

1.3. Safety

- a) Does the landlord possess a current gas safety certificate; fire safety for the property?
- b) Is the accommodation secure - burglar alarms/locks on the windows?
- c) Have the previous tenants all returned their keys?

1.4. Location

- a) Is the area convenient for access to education, training, employment?
- b) Proximity to public transport?
- c) Community safety - is the area safe at night (including information about local crime characteristics)?

1.5. Support

- a) How will housing related support respond to the child have assessed needs?

- b) Where accommodation is to be provided in a domestic setting (not with former foster carer) how have hosts been selected, assessed and trained.
- c) Was assessment subjected to independent scrutiny? Who by?
- d) How are supported lodgings providers supervised? What arrangements are in place for keeping their suitability under review?

1.6. Financial arrangements:

- a) Is the property affordable post 18?
- b) Does the young person have access to any financial support e.g. Community Care Grant/SUHG?
- c) Does the young person require additional support to attend EET?

2. Relevant Young Person:

- a) Does the young person understand the nature of their rights and responsibilities set out in their tenancy agreement?
- b) Has the tenancy been independently scrutinised and the young person been provided with independent advice about the implications of their accepting this tenancy.
- c) Does the young person understand how the position of accommodation and related support is intended to respond to their assessed needs as set out in their pathway plan?