



CARE LEAVERS CONNECTED



Your Support Worker



For a young person to be considered a care leaver, they need to be aged between 16 and 25, have been looked after by the local authority for a period of at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and have left care sometime after their 16th birthday. In Northumberland, we want all young people to live happy and healthy lives and have the necessary life-skills, confidence and experience to enable them to thrive into adulthood.

A LEAVING CARE SUPPORT WORKER

You all should know who your leaving care support worker is as you never know when you may need them. They're not there to tell you what to do but rather offer you guidance and support which will help you make important decisions in your life.

You might want to ask for their opinion/support when it comes to things like -

Health & Well-being • Relationships • Education, Employment & Training • Accommodation • Setting Up Home • Participation in Society • Practical Support • Pathway Planning • Care Leavers Rights • Important Documents



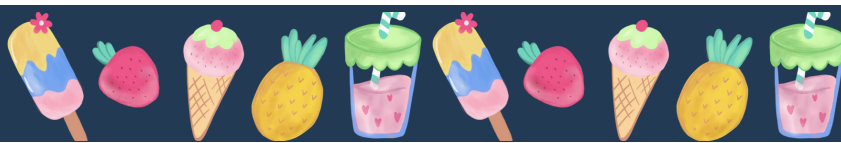
what they will & won't do

They will...

- Help with forms
- Support with applying for benefits
- help you prepare for work & education
- Make referrals for specialised support e.g. drug misuse, mental health issues
- offer practical help to set up a home
- Request food parcels (3 a year if needed)
- Give you budgeting support
- Support you in a crisis
- Support with grant requests to access financial support
- Listen to what you want

They won't.....

- Be there 24 hours a day however if you leave a message they will get back to you
- Give consent for tattoos, piercings, holidays (not once you're 18!)
- Provide money for everyday items (its up to you to save)
- Solve all your problems at once but we will try to help you solve them one at a time



meet the team

Holly



"I learn so much from meeting with all my young people and love getting to know them. I have been especially proud when they have gone on to University and found jobs. They are always making me laugh with their funny stories too. Some young people I've known for 5 years now which is such a long time - they make the job a pleasure to do".



Kristi

Kristi loves a good craft session and she is always making something, she uses her creativity and forward thinking to help young people find solutions to their problems.

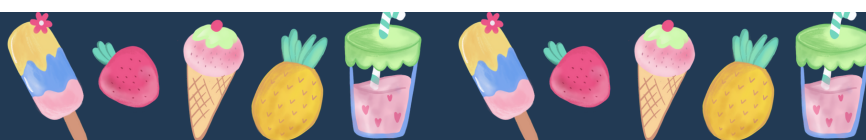
Kelly

Kelly has worked as a leaving care support worker for over 3 years, she is a kind and considerate member of staff who always wants to do her best for the young people she supports.



Emma

THIS IS MY 3RD YEAR OF BEING A LEAVING CARE SUPPORT WORKER. THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH TO LEARN AND I'M STILL CONSTANTLY LEARNING NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE I WORK WITH. I LOVE MY JOB, IT CAN BE DEMANDING BUT I LIKE A CHALLENGE. I CAN'T STRESS ENOUGH THAT I WANT TO HELP EVERYONE I WORK WITH AND SEE THEM DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT AND SUCCESSFUL WITH THEIR GOALS IN LIFE. IT'S A JOY TO BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS - WHETHER BIG OR SMALL - THEY'RE ALL SO DESERVED



meet the team cont...

Sarah



THIS IS MY THIRD YEAR WORKING IN THE LEAVING CARE TEAM AFTER PREVIOUSLY WORKING IN EDUCATION. I HAVE WORKED WITH TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR A LONG TIME NOW AND CAN HONESTLY SAY THIS IS WHAT I GENUINELY LOVE DOING. I LOVE SUPPORTING MY YOUNG PEOPLE INTO THEIR INDEPENDENT LIVING AND HELPING THEM ACHIEVE GOALS. THE JOB DOES COME WITH ITS CHALLENGES AND LIKEWISE, I LIKE TO BE THERE TO SUPPORT THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN TIMES ARE HARD OR THINGS DON'T GO TO PLAN AS THEY EXPECTED.

Caroline



I'VE BEEN A LEAVING CARE WORKER FOR NEARLY 5 YEARS. I LOVE MY JOB AND MEETING YOUNG PEOPLE. I GET GREAT JOB SATISFACTION FROM MY YOUNG CARE LEAVERS ACHIEVING THEIR PERSONAL GOALS NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL. WORKING IN CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS I HAVE WITNESSED THE WORRY AND UNCERTAINTY EXPERIENCED BY YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN THEY REACH 18 AND TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE, SO I ALWAYS STRIVE TO SUPPORT MY YOUNG PEOPLE TO BEST OF MY ABILITY AND ADVOCATE ON THEIR BEHALF.

what people say about their support worker

I have to say I really appreciate all the support I received from her. She was one of a few I've been supported by that I've really felt has gone above and beyond. She was a great support in everything from a general chat in between visits to believing in me when I was at my lowest or a pep talk about an essay for uni when I doubted myself and giving me the confidence to raise concerns and write complaints with my living situation. Having her as my 18+ team support worker was great, she was bubbly, supportive and easy to get along with. She always checked up and followed up on me whenever she knew there'd been issues. Having someone like her felt like there was always someone there and I had faith that she'd always try to help where possible. I'm very grateful.

I have had my new support worker since the start of the year. I was assured by my last one that she was great and she's certainly lived up to that. I know that there's someone at the end of the phone who is very caring and supportive; who'll arrange a visit and try to the best of their ability to help me through any issues I have. She's approachable and easy to get along with and I really appreciate having her to support me. Thanks, to her and the team.

Written by a care experienced young person from Northumberland

She is the best worker I have ever had, she doesn't judge me and she gets that I don't always want to talk.

There is no support that I don't get.

She makes time to listen to me.

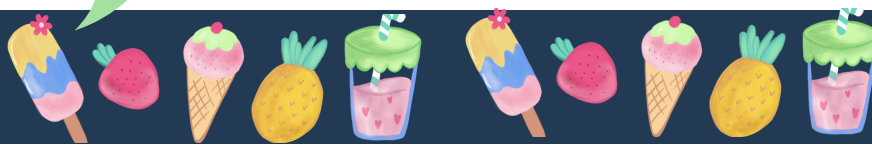
I have had my worker for just over a year. During this time I have had trouble with housing, clothing and transportation.

All of these issues have always been addressed to a more than satisfactory standard. I can easily go to my worker with no hesitation over the issue and already know that my problem will be sorted out as fast as possible.

Just a big thank-you. I am confident with my independence now & that wouldn't have happened without my support worker.

They really helped me when needed, they aided my transition to adulthood after being in care. She is always there to answer any questions I have.

I would like to thank both of these women for helping me so much, they have been great and more like friends than a worker.



Care Leavers Forum

The Care leavers Forum runs each month and young people are welcome to join us, we either meet at Ashington Children's Centre or we plan an outing, this is a great way to get to know each other better and also have your views listened too. If you would like to come along please speak to your support worker or contact Louise on 07966331532.



IN JUNE WE WENT
TO CLIP N CLIMB



Check out these websites for advice, services and entitlements

kooth

**Mind Of
My Own**

Use the QR code to view
the full Care Leavers Local Offer



Get Involved

We would love for you to be involved in the creation of our next newsletter - whether you are a keen photographer, writer, graphic designer or just have something to say, please get in touch with us at:
participation@northumberland.gov.uk

