



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
2. Births, deaths, marriages and care (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages>)
3. Lasting power of attorney, being in care and your financial affairs (<https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/lasting-power-attorney>)

## Leaving foster or local authority care

Your local council must provide you with support until you're 25. When you leave care there'll be a meeting to help you work out what you're going to do next.

Age	What happens
16	You'll be given a plan to help you make the transition from care to independent life
18	You're no longer in care when you turn 18 but your council must still provide you with some support, including a personal adviser and plan
21	You can continue to get help and advice from the council and a personal adviser until you're 25, if you want to

### What the council must do to help you

The council must:

- give you a personal adviser who stays in touch with you once you've left care
- carry out an assessment to find out what advice and support you need - they must also prepare a plan to make this happen (called a 'pathway plan')
- make sure you've got somewhere to live and enough money (until you turn 18)
- help you to continue living with your foster parent if you want to (until you turn 21)

### Discussing your future

If you're leaving care you'll have a 'statutory review meeting' to discuss your future, including what support you'll need.

### Things to consider before your meeting

These things will be discussed at your statutory review meeting:

- where you're going to live (you can move somewhere where personal support and advice is always available if you want to)
- if you're going to work, get training or continue in education
- how much support you think you'll need from your social worker or personal adviser

### Who should be at your statutory review meeting

The following people should be at the meeting:

- you
- an advocate, if you ask for one (an adult you choose who can help you explain things)
- your social worker
- your carers
- any other people responsible for supporting you (like a mentor or a member of staff from your school or college)
- an Independent Reviewing Officer (a neutral person appointed to make sure everything's done properly)

## Complaining about your statutory review meeting

You can make a formal complaint if you're not happy with how your meeting went. Your social worker or personal adviser from the leaving care service and the Independent Reviewing Officer must tell you how to do this.

## Supporting you in education

You should get a bursary of £1,200 a year if you stay in full-time education. Contact your education provider (your school or college) to find out how to claim the 16-19 bursary (<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>).

You can get a higher education bursary of £2,000 from your local council if you're going on to higher education (for example university).

## When you reach 16

Your local council must write a 'pathway plan' when you reach 16 which helps you prepare for leaving care and says what support you should get.

It must include plans for your:

- health
- education, training and development
- contact with family
- financial management

Your personal adviser must take part in any pathway plan reviews until you're 21, or 25 if you want this support to continue. You must have a review:

- at least every 6 months
- if you ask for one
- if your personal adviser or the council asks for one

## Setting up home allowances

You can get a setting up home allowance (also known as a leaving care grant) to help you buy essential things when moving into your own home. Contact your local council (<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>) to find out how much is available.

## Benefits

You might be able to claim some benefits, like:

- Jobseeker's Allowance (<https://www.gov.uk/jobseekers-allowance>)

- [Housing Benefit \(https://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit/\)](https://www.gov.uk/housing-benefit/)
- [Income Support \(https://www.gov.uk/income-support/\)](https://www.gov.uk/income-support/)

## Related content

- [Foster carers \(https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers\)](https://www.gov.uk/foster-carers)
- [Independent reviewing officers' handbook: young people's guide \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-peoples-guide-to-the-independent-reviewing-officers-handbook\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/young-peoples-guide-to-the-independent-reviewing-officers-handbook)

## Explore the topic

- [Lasting power of attorney, being in care and your financial affairs \(https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/lasting-power-attorney\)](https://www.gov.uk/browse/births-deaths-marriages/lasting-power-attorney)
- [Local councils and services \(https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing-local-services/local-councils\)](https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing-local-services/local-councils)