

## **Leaving Care - Jargon Buster**

An explanation of some of the words you will hear used as a young person leaving care.

### **Eligible Child**

A 16 or 17 year old who is still in care and who has been in care for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14.

### **Relevant Child**

A 16 or 17 year old who, after 1 October 2001, has left care but was in care on or after their 16th birthday and has been in care for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14. This includes young people who happened to be in the youth justice system or in hospital on their 16th birthday.

### **Former Relevant Child**

An 18 - 21 year old who was an Eligible or Relevant Child. This includes young people over the age of 21 who are in education or training for as long as agreed in their pathway plan.

### **Qualifying Child**

A young person aged between 16 and 21 who has left care but 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 1 October 2001. This includes young people under the age of 24 who are in education or training.

### **Advocate**

A person who listens to your point of view and speaks to Social Care for you.

### **Careers Service**

The agency that helps young people under 18 to find education, training and employment.

### **Connexions**

The agency that works with 13 -19 year olds to support them in all areas of their lives particularly education and future aims. They can also offer support with things like relationships, benefits and other areas important to young people.

## **Connexions Personal Advisor**

Not to be confused with a care leavers personal advisor, this is a worker allocated to any 13 - 19 year old who requires support around education, future aims or other relevant issues.

## **Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority**

The organisation responsible for paying compensation to people who have been awarded money as a result of harm caused by another's criminal action towards them.

## **Lone Parent**

A person with sole practical and financial responsibility for bringing up their child.

## **Needs assessment**

A close look at your situation, your needs and what support you may need before reaching independence.

## **Pathway plan**

A plan about your immediate and long term future that follows from your needs assessment. This should cover; personal support, accommodation, education and training, employment, family and social relationships, practical and other skills, financial support, health needs. You should play a key role in devising your pathway plan.

## **Personal advisor**

The worker allocated to care leavers to ensure that the things in their pathway plan are carried out and to be available to offer support. May also be known as leaving care workers. This person may not necessarily be a social worker.

## **Policy**

A written statement produced by Social Care that outlines expectations of services it provides and ways of working.

## **Priority need**

A term used by the Housing Department to identify a homeless person who has rights to council housing because of age, having a child, leaving care or prison, illness or disability, or escaping violence.

## **Review**

A meeting to look over previous assessments and decisions made about your care to check that things are still relevant and/or needed, and to make changes if necessary.

## **Setting up home grant/leaving care grant**

A payment given to care leavers to buy essential items when they move into independent accommodation

## **[UK Border Agency](#)**

The organisation that arranges accommodation and vouchers/money for asylum seekers.