

The Local Offer

What is the Local Offer?

Local authorities (LA) have a legal duty to support young people making the transition from care to adulthood and they should ensure that young people with care experience know what services and support are available to them. They do this by publishing a local offer (LO).

Usually, each local authority's LO will be published on their website and can be found by simply searching 'care leavers local offer' on their homepage. The LO sets out care leavers' 'statutory entitlements', as well as other support available.

What should the Local Offer include?

The LO includes information on services and support available to care leavers who are moving into adulthood or are in adulthood and starting independent living. Information should be provided on:

- Health and wellbeing.
- Relationships.
- Education and training.
- Employment.
- Accommodation.
- Participation in society.

Is the Local Offer the same for each local authority?

The local offer differs according to each local authority. To find out what a local authority offers, it is best to go directly to their website. It is important to note that the LO is a working document that can change each year.

How will the Local Offer help when planning to go to university?

The LO has a section dedicated to education and training and this section is a useful place to start to find out what a young person's LA can offer them when planning to go to university. For example, there is usually a higher education bursary available to those who are going to start higher education.

When is a good time to start looking at the local offer, if a young person is planning on attending university?

It is never too early to look at the local offer with the young person you are supporting to learn and understand what support and services is open to them, especially in relation to education. Often schools start discussing higher education early, for example from year 8/9 onwards and some schools and settings will start this discussion in primary school.

Useful links

Local Offer guidance: Guidance for local authorities

[Local Offer guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Care leaver Local Offer - comparison of local authorities

[Care Leaver Local Offer \(careleaveroffer.co.uk\)](https://careleaveroffer.co.uk)

Information on universities and their offer to care leavers

[Proper - Become \(becomecharity.org.uk\)](https://becomecharity.org.uk)