



Teignbridge District Council

Support for Care Leavers

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1. Introduction

The following policy outlines the Council's approach to providing support to specified care leavers resident within the Teignbridge area.

The Council has agreed that it will provide support where appropriate by:

- Granting a discretionary reduction in Council Tax under S13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992
- Providing free memberships to the Council's Leisure Centres
- Providing Work Experience placements

2. Definition of Care Leaver for the purposes of this policy

The term care leaver is defined in the Children (Care Leavers) Act 2000 and refers to eligible, relevant, and former relevant children in line with the following:

- The person is someone for whom Devon County Council has acted previously as a corporate parent;
- Relevant children are those young people aged 16 and 17 who have already left care, and who were 'looked after' for at least 13 weeks from the age of 14 and have been 'looked after' at some time while they were 16 or 17; and
- Former relevant children are those young people aged 18, 19, or 20 who have been eligible and/or relevant

Care Leavers can also be classified as a 'qualifying' care leaver. This category applies to young people who:

- (a) Left care after 1st October 2001, after they had turned 16, but who are not 'eligible' or 'relevant' because they did not fulfil the 13 week criteria;
- (b) Were accommodated, but in residential education, mental/health provision private fostering or Special Guardianship; or
- (c) For the purposes of this policy 'qualifying care leavers' will be treated in the same way as 'care leavers'.

Additionally, former care leavers born before 2001 will be designated as a qualifying care leaver for the purposes of this policy.

For a care leaver to receive support under this policy, the Council must receive confirmation that the applicant is a Devon County Council Former Relevant Child. The confirmation must be received from Devon County Council's Education and Families Team. The care leaver must reside within the Teignbridge District Council area to receive support under this Policy. Support will be available up to the age of 25 years.

3. Support offer

Discretionary Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Care leavers are considered a particularly vulnerable group for Council Tax debt. Moving to independent accommodation and managing their finances for the first time is challenging, as care leavers do so without the family support and the wider network that most young people can rely on, and indeed take for granted.

By awarding a discretionary council tax discount, we can help care leavers manage the transition to adulthood offering financial assistance as many parents do as their children move toward independence.

The Council will provide support using its discretionary powers under S13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act.

The Council's Care Leavers Discount policy is available at Appendix A.

Free Leisure Centre memberships

Qualifying care leavers residing in the Teignbridge area will be eligible for a free Jam-Packed Adult Membership. This membership currently includes:

- Gym
- Group Exercise Classes
- Public Swimming
- Indoor Court Hire (Badminton, Table Tennis, Pickle Ball)
- Access to Shaldon Approach Golf
- 10 day booking privileges
- For our full list of membership benefits, please visit the Teignbridge Leisure website: [Teignbridge Leisure - Jam Packed Adult Membership](#)

Members will have access to facilities at all of the Teignbridge Leisure Centres including:

- Newton Abbot Leisure Centre
- Broadmeadow Sports Centre
- Dawlish Leisure Centre

Membership can be obtained by emailing leisurememberships@teignbridge.gov.uk

Or by telephoning our Customer Contact Centre on 01626 361101

Qualifying status will be confirmed with the Revenue and Benefits Service before the free membership package will be awarded.

A qualifying care leaver who already holds a paid membership will be able to request a refund of any membership subscription fees that have fallen due and have been paid with effect from 1st October 2023, being the effective date of this Policy. This excludes any fees paid for non-attendance.

With the exception of payment of membership subscription fees, the standard terms and conditions will apply.

Work Experience placements

Work Experience placements allow people who are looking for employment in a specific field to gain practical experience and insight into the working environment. This experience gained from work placement may help support Care Leavers to move into future employment and independent adulthood.

The type of work will vary depending on the individual service area but it will typically involve a significant amount of observation or work 'shadowing' alongside assisting with day-to-day tasks and duties.

A qualifying care leaver may register their interest in a work experience placement by emailing hr@teignbridge.gov.uk or by telephoning 01626 361101.

Work experience placements are unpaid and short-term, typically of 1 week duration but may be extended subject to requirements and capacity.

Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The Council cannot guarantee a work placement, but every effort will be made to accommodate all reasonable requests, subject to service capacity. The decision of the HR & OD Manager will be final.

This policy does not confer any right to expenses associated with any work experience placement. Devon County Council will consider any reasonable requests for expenses to be paid on a case-by-case basis. Applicants should contact their personal adviser at Devon County Council to approve payment of expenses prior to taking up any work placement offer.

4. Effective Date

The effective date of this policy shall be 1st October 2023

5. Delegated Powers

The Support for Care Leavers Policy has been approved by the Council. However, the Service Lead for Revenue, Benefits and Customer Support; the HR & OD Manager; and Leisure Manager, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member, are authorised to make technical amendments in relation to their area of responsibility as required to ensure the policy continues to meet the criteria set by Central Government and the Council.

6. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years and updated as appropriate to ensure it remains fit for purpose. However, the review may take place sooner should there be any significant changes in legislation.