

## Leaving Care Status - Eligible Children

*I'm 16 and in care. I live with foster carers. I have left school and I want to get a job. If I can't I might go back to college. I won't be able to get job-seekers allowance because I am living with my foster carers who are expected to support me. But I am an Eligible Child (their term not mine!) and Social Care have to support me whether I go to college or not.*

You are still in care and Social Care must continue to pay for your needs as they did when you were younger.

The law says that they must also:

- Make an assessment of your needs
- Prepare a pathway plan with you to say how they will meet your specific needs now you are older and in preparation for the time when you leave care. This will include things about your health, education, any other needs you have and how they will pay for all of this
- Appoint you a personal adviser

*I'm 17 and I'm an unaccompanied asylum seeker. I arrived in this country when I was 15 and was accommodated by the local authority. When I was 16 I was moved into a hostel. I cannot claim income support and housing benefit because I am an Eligible Child and Social Care must pay for this.*

Social Care must pay for your housing whether it is with foster carers or in semi-independence or in a hostel. They must also pay your weekly money although this may go directly to your carers. You cannot claim benefits unless you are a **lone parent** or a **young person with disabilities or ill-health**.