

Care leavers

Information on how we can help 17 year olds who are currently in a social services care placement that is due to expire once they turn 18.

Applying to Barnet Homes for assistance

If you have been looked after by the local authority when you were between 16 and 17 years old, this placement will come to an end when you turn 18. A referral under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1996 will be made by social services to the Housing Options team.

You will be allocated a housing officer who will invite you to come for an assessment where they will look at your eligibility and housing need. It is important you bring all the documents they request to this appointment. These are:

- Your passport or birth certificate
- Details of your work or education – so we know where suitable areas are
- Evidence of any medical conditions we should be aware of
- 6-month recent bank statement

Together you will put a Personalised Housing Plan in place. This will outline the steps you will both take to relieve your homelessness.

Your case worker will then process your case. 17- and 18-year olds leaving care will be generally placed into Band 2, our second highest priority band. Once you have been placed into this band, you will be nominated for suitable social tenancies.

If we are unable to place you into a property before your care placement expires, then you will be given emergency temporary accommodation until a suitable property is sourced. Every effort will be made to ensure that you are placed in an area that is suitable for you.

You do not have to be working or in education to qualify for assistance, but if you do not have an income, you will need to sign up for Housing Benefit to cover the rent once you have been placed into a suitable property. This is also the case if you need to access temporary accommodation.

Other services that can help

Barnet Social Services

The Onwards and Upwards Care Leavers Service supporting young people in care and those who have left care from the age of 16 to 25.

Online: www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-and-democracy/policy-and-performance/website-policies/privacy/children-and-families/Care-Leavers.html

Barnardo's Advocacy Service | 020 8509 3432 or 0808 800 0017

Barnardo's London Children's Rights Service provides an advocacy service. Advocates support children and young people to understand their rights and help them be involved in decisions about their lives. Ages 5-25.

Online: www.barnardos.org.uk

Contact via email: advocacy2@barnados.org.uk

Live Unlimited | 020 8359 2325

Charity that supports looked after children and care leavers in Barnet, providing enrichment activities and small grants.

Online: www.liveunlimited.org.uk/

Barnet Citizen's Advice Bureau | 0300 456 8365

Advice service helping with benefits, debt, employment, housing, relationship breakdown and more.

The Care Leavers Foundation | 01678 540598

Care leavers charity that provides small grants to care leavers between the ages of 18-29, but particularly age 20+.

Online at: www.thecareleaversfoundation.org

New Horizon Youth Centre | 0207 388 5570

Centre for 16-21 year olds, offering referrals to accommodation, advice, education, and employment support.

Address: 68 Chalton Street, NW1 1JR

Shelter | 0808 252 7645 (emergency) 0808 163 1462 (non-emergency)

Housing and homelessness advice charity, helping with homelessness, evictions, private renting, benefits and more.

Online: <https://england.shelter.org.uk/>

Homeless Action in Barnet | 0208 446 8400

Day centre services, advice, and information.

Address: 36B Woodhouse Rd N12 0RG

Hours: 9:00-15:00 Monday to Friday

Outreach Barnet | 0203 115 1185

Short-term support for housing-related support needs.

Referral form: <https://www.outreachbarnet.org.uk/referrals/>