

# GREATER MANCHESTER CARE LEAVERS GUARANTEE



# INTRODUCTION

The Greater Manchester Care Leaver Guarantee is all about providing support and opportunities to our young people that have been in care. All 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities along with a wide range of partners have joined together to create a series of entitlements and offers that we hope will help you live happy and healthy lives and to achieve your goals. The information you find here will tell you what those entitlements and offers are and how to access them.

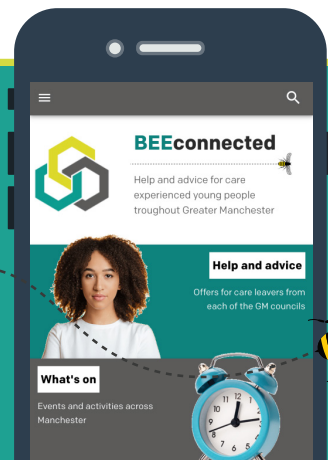
To be a care leaver, you must be aged between 16 and 25 and have spent at least 13 weeks (continuously

or in total since the age of 14) and at least one day following your 16th birthday being cared for by your local authority.

You can always ask your Leaving Care Service, either via your Personal Advisor or Social Worker, for support to access any of these offers. If you would like to be involved in improving the offer please speak to a member of your Leaving Care Service about the various way to participate such as your local Care Leaver Forum or the Greater Manchester Participation Network.

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# FREE BUS TRAVEL

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If you are aged 18-21, live in Greater Manchester and are a care experienced young person you may qualify for free travel on buses in Greater Manchester.



The pass comes in the form of a 'get me there' photocard, with a £10 administration fee, and is applied for through the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) website.

With the card you can get free bus travel across Greater Manchester, helping you get around, see your friends, and get to college, school, and work.

The card also entitles you to Our Pass Exclusives, a range of offers, discounts and experiences in Greater Manchester.

You can find out if you are eligible and apply online at the TfGM website: **[tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/care-leavers](https://www.tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/care-leavers)**

For any questions, call the TfGM Customer Contact Centre on **0161 244 1000**



# THE PRINCE'S TRUST

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## Team Programme

Team is a 12-week personal development programme, delivered in partnership with The Prince's Trust and Groundwork, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Salford City College.

If you're unemployed and aged between 16 and 25, you can meet new people and gain new skills on the Team programme.

Over 12 action-packed weeks, you would take part in a number of exciting challenges, meet new people and gain all sorts of new skills that will help prepare you for your next steps.

You can find out more about the Team Programme in Greater Manchester here: **[manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/course/team](https://manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/course/team)**

## Explore Programme

The Prince's Trust Explore programme offers a mix of group activities and one-to-one support to develop the skills and confidence you need to move forward.

The Prince's Trust run a range of exciting and interesting activities to develop personal and key life skills. Covering music, drama, science, technology, cooking, sports and a range of adventurous activities, you're already a step closer to achieving your personal goals.

Further information can be found on our Greater Manchester website: **[manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/young-person](https://manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/young-person)** or get in touch directly at **[GreaterManchester@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:GreaterManchester@princes-trust.org.uk)**



## Development Awards

Development Awards can help to cover the cost of course fees, tools or equipment to help you achieve your goals.

The Prince's Trust can offer up to £500 per young person if they are a care leaver.

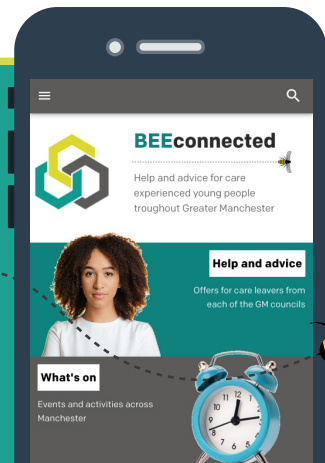
### These awards can be granted for things such as:

- Course materials, such as books, equipment etc
- SIA Cards
- Funding for courses
- ID, such as passports or driving licenses
- Travel cards
- Clothing for work or interviews

Please visit the Development Awards section of the Trust's Greater Manchester website:  
**[manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/course/development-awards](https://manchester.princes-trust.org.uk/course/development-awards)**

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# HELP WITH PRESCRIPTIONS

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You may be able to get support towards the cost of prescriptions if you have to pay for them now.

All 10 councils in Greater Manchester have a scheme in place to support with the cost of prescriptions.

If you are prescribed medication, it is important that you are able to access it to either get better if you have been unwell or keep you well if you have an ongoing health problem.

To check if you can get free prescriptions, you can contact your local health team for looked after children and care leavers or talk to your Personal Advisor and they will help you arrange for your prescription charges to be paid.

Each area in Greater Manchester has a slightly different scheme but most care leavers under 25 years can get help toward their prescription costs.



# HELP WITH HOUSING

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Greater Manchester Housing Providers (GMHP) is a partnership of social housing providers who work in all 10 Greater Manchester council areas.

GMHP have committed to support care leavers and care experienced young people through a series of practical pledges that will help them transition to successful lives as they move into their own homes.

## **These pledges include:**

- Pre-tenancy training to prepare young people to manage their home
- Support when needed once they have moved into their home to make sure their tenancy is a success
- Help with decorating and sometimes furnishing their homes before they move in
- Providing a variety of housing for care leavers, including supported housing, specialist housing schemes and permanent homes
- An enhanced employment and training offer, including access to apprenticeships, in-work support and opportunities with GMHP members
- Support to young people to manage their finances and increase their income
- Help to get to know your communities
- Hearing the voice of young people to review and develop the pledges further so they meet



As social housing providers GMHP want to make sure that you have the best start you can to live independently. GMHP have experienced staff working in all their organisations who will help and support you make your new homes a success.

Young people who want to live in homes provided by GMHP need to be registered on the housing list in their local area. This is done with the leaving care team.

Every GMHP member has details on their website of how to register for a home .

You can find out more about GMHP online here:  
**[gmhousing.co.uk/](http://gmhousing.co.uk/)**

### **All 10 Local Authorities in Greater Manchester have agreed that;**

- Your Housing Provider will work with care leavers to give them the knowledge and support they need so the move into their own home is a success. Practical help including, managing a tenancy, paying bills, and budgeting can be provided.
- All Care Leavers are exempt from paying council tax
- All Care Leavers aged 18-21 are entitled to a £2,000 housing allowance when they move into their property.

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# UNIVERSITY VISITS

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## University of Salford

The University of Salford offer bespoke 1-1 visits for care experienced young people who want to learn more about higher education and what's available to them. These are open to young people in Year 9 and above and can be tailored specifically to your needs and what you want to find out more about.

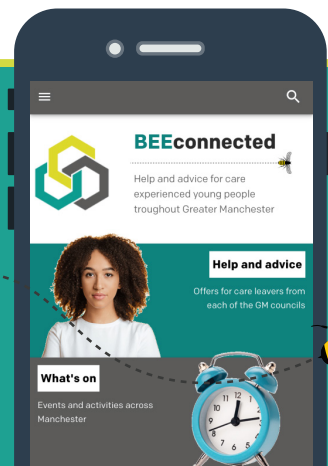
The bespoke campus visits give you the chance to have your questions and worries about higher education answered.

For younger people it helps you see where you can go after you turn 18, and for the older students it can help reduce a lot of worries you might have about how feasible higher education is.

You can find out more online here at [gmhigher.ac.uk](https://gmhigher.ac.uk) and can contact the Outreach team at the University of Salford by emailing [outreach@salford.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@salford.ac.uk)

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## University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University

The University of Manchester can help arrange visits for small groups of care-experienced young people and their supporters who may require additional help in applying and studying at university.

Campus visits are bespoke and can be tailored to the needs of individuals.

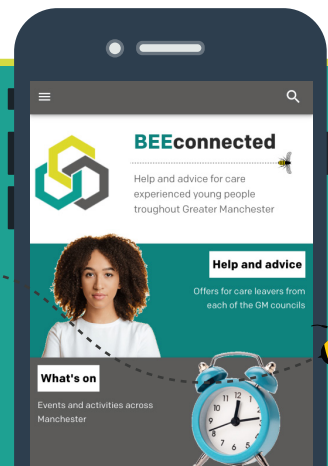
During a campus tour, you'd be shown around the University, told about particular support available for care experienced students and informed about activities you can get involved with in the future.

Young people can come from Year 9-Year 13 and must be accompanied by an adult.

Find out more online here at [gmhigher.ac.uk/events/bespoke-targeted-learner-campus-visits/](https://gmhigher.ac.uk/events/bespoke-targeted-learner-campus-visits/)  
or contact [wecare@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wecare@manchester.ac.uk)

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UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

# SUCCESS4LIFE

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## University of Salford

At the University of Salford Success4life is an annual 7-week project for care experienced young people in Year 10 from all over Greater Manchester. The project focuses on building resilience, confidence, and teamwork through activities run on the University of Salford campus and at exciting venues around the city.

Success4life gives you the opportunity to meet people from all over Greater Manchester, and to have some time away from school and home to have fun and develop some new skills.

To attend Success4life you must be in Year 10 and be nominated by a teacher or local authority staff with a consent form completed by a parent or carer.

You can find out more online here  
**gmhigher.ac.uk**  
and can contact the Outreach team at the University of Salford by emailing **outreach@salford.ac.uk**



## University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University

The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University's Success4life programme is for care experienced young people in Years 8 and 9 and focuses on your future and all the options that are open to you.

This is open to all care experienced young people in Year 8 and 9, as long as they can get to the sessions each week at The University of Manchester.

On the programme you will be working with positive role models who are students at the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University.

This project helps to build your strengths, skills and confidence. The project focuses on group work and will aim to motivate and inspire you as well as raising awareness of higher education and the options available to you post-16.

You can find out more by emailing  
**wecare@manchester.ac.uk**



*I have been going to Success4Life at the university...it has really helped me to feel more confident. Last year I was dreading my English presentation, this year has been much easier because I have learned to express my views in front of others".*



## Wigan and Leigh University Centre

### **Success4life Summer School**

The Success4life summer school is aimed to help you through the transitional process from high school to college, apprenticeship or employment. There lots of fun activities such as escape rooms, games and challenges which will help you to develop essential skills such as teamwork, confidence and communication skills.

There will be support to help you navigate through your options to make better decisions about your future.

By being on campus and working closely with university staff and students you may see some of the benefits of higher education.

This summer school will be a great opportunity to make new friends, have lots of fun and experience new challenges!



# SUPPORTING THE SUPPORTERS

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This free-to-attend, continuous personal development event is aimed at professionals and supporters of care-experienced young people, including social workers, foster carers, personal advisors and designated teachers.

Run by the University of Manchester the event shares the most up-to-date information about the support available to young people who are care experienced in the run up to, and whilst at university.

By attending this event, we hope supporters will feel more confident advising the young people they support. Through interactive talks and workshops, supporters will find out about all things higher education including the benefits of attending higher education as well as how to apply and tips for navigating the admissions process.

Information will also be provided on the specific support available to care-experienced students, available funding and you will have the chance to meet current students who have been through the care system, as well as hearing from care experienced graduates reflecting back on their experience of their journey to and through university.

For more information email [wecare@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:wecare@manchester.ac.uk)

# GET ONLINE GREATER MANCHESTER: FOR CARE LEAVERS

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is working with partners to provide care leavers in Greater Manchester with free data connectivity for 12 months, devices and free training.

You can access the scheme by completing the Care Leavers Digital Support Application which should be completed with support from your personal advisor.

You can access the application form here:

**[contactus.salford.gov.uk/?formtype=DISAF](https://contactus.salford.gov.uk/?formtype=DISAF)**



# ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET

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The Adult Education Budget funds skills and training for people aged 19+ in Greater Manchester. The Adult Education Budget has contracts with 35 lead providers, including a number of Greater Manchester Councils, Further Education Colleges, and Training Providers.

Care Leavers studying on an Adult Education Budget-funded course can receive additional support funding to help you taking part or continuing in learning.

You can find out more online:

**[greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/aeb](http://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/aeb)**



# GREATER MANCHESTER APPRENTICESHIPS & CAREERS SERVICE (GMACS)

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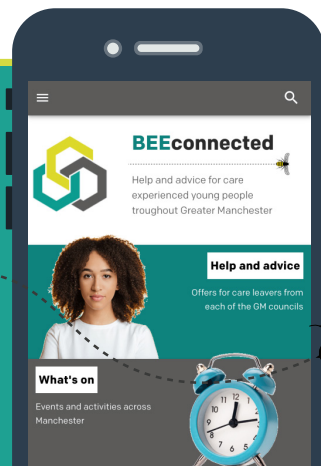
The Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers Service (GMACS) is a website to help you explore and design your next steps before leaving school.

The site brings together different stages of the career planning process, helping students navigate the choices open to them and develop the tools to start working life. It showcases what Greater Manchester can offer and provides a direct way to apply for courses, jobs and apprenticeships

You can find out more on the website here: [gmacs.co.uk/](https://gmacs.co.uk/)

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# WORKING WELL – WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME

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Working Well provides support for unemployed people with health conditions or disabilities. It is also designed to help people who have been out of work for a long time as well as those who might need some specialist support.

Work and Health Programme have a commitment for 5% of the people taking part to be from priority groups including care leavers. This means there can be a simpler eligibility criteria and an early entrance offer for care leavers.

Referral can be made through a Job Centre Plus Work Coach and you can find more information online:  
**[inworkgm.co.uk/](http://inworkgm.co.uk/)**

# YOUNG PERSON'S GUARANTEE

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The Young Person's Guarantee (YPG) is a commitment to improving the lives and experiences of young people from across Greater Manchester.

## The Guarantee will focus on four key areas:

- Keeping connected
- Staying well
- Preparing for transition back into work and/or education
- Reducing economic inequalities



You can find out more about the Young Person's Guarantee and Youth Task force here:  
**[greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ypg](https://greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/ypg)**

# CONNECT TO YOUR FUTURE

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Connect to your Future is a programme delivered by Career Connect which helps young people not in education, employment or training to identify career options and identify learning and work opportunities.

Connect to your Future offer support and encouragement to help build self-confidence, motivation and resilience to progress to sustainable career outcomes as well as providing tailored mentoring and wellbeing support.

Find out more online here: [careerconnect.org.uk/engagement-mentoring-mcr/](https://careerconnect.org.uk/engagement-mentoring-mcr/)

# FUTUREYOU

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FutureYou is a programme focuses on people aged between 18 and 24 years old who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This is a personalised programme, providing a mix of practical and wellbeing support.

Find out more online here:

**It's time to start thinking about FutureYou | Future You (startfutureyou.co.uk)**

Or call **0161 9360300** or **0800 0249006**

# APPRENTICESHIPS

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There are a lot of apprenticeship opportunities available in Greater Manchester. These allow you to earn a salary whilst developing skill that will benefit your career.

Care Leavers on an apprenticeship could be eligible for a £1,000 bursary.

## **For an apprentice to be eligible for the care leavers' bursary, they must be either:**

- An eligible child – a young person who is 16 or 17 and who has been looked after by a UK local authority or health and social care trust for at least a period of 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who is still looked after
- A relevant child – a young person who is 16 or 17 who has left care within the UK after their 16th birthday and before leaving care was an eligible child
- A former relevant child – a young person who is aged between 18 and 21 (up to their 25th birthday if they are in education or training) who, before turning 18, was either an eligible or a relevant child

You can find out more online here: [gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-bursary-for-care-leavers/apprenticeships-care-leavers-bursary-policy-summary](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-bursary-for-care-leavers/apprenticeships-care-leavers-bursary-policy-summary)

You can apply for the £1,000 bursary through your apprenticeship provider.





# EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

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Greater Manchester Mental Health and Pennine Care provide a wide range of services in the treatment and recovery of mental health conditions and substance misuse.

Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust provides mental health services in Bolton, Trafford and Salford. Find more information here: [gmmh.nhs.uk/](https://gmmh.nhs.uk/)

Pennine care NHS Foundation Trust LINK provides mental health services in Bury, Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale, Oldham, Tameside and Stockport. Find out more online here: [penninecare.nhs.uk/](https://penninecare.nhs.uk/)

There are also other local organisations that you can access to provide mental health services and emotional support:

Find support groups here: [42ndstreet.org.uk](https://42ndstreet.org.uk).

For tips and resources to support your own wellbeing, visit: [mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/wellbeing/wellbeing/](https://mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/wellbeing/wellbeing/)

## Kooth

Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online wellbeing service for young people. Young people using the site are able to access a range of support services including one-to-one counselling sessions, discussing issues with their peers through online discussion boards, reading and contributing to self-help content and recording their feelings via journals and goal trackers. The online nature of Kooth means that young people can access help in a way that is most suitable for them, at a time that is convenient for them, 365 days of the year. Kooth.com offers a wide range of therapeutic tools to help young people to support their mental wellbeing.

Support is also available to you. You can find out more online here: **[koothplc.com/our-products/young-people](https://koothplc.com/our-products/young-people)**

## Qwell

Qwell.io is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community for adults. Our support includes an online magazine, community forums, and professional text based support and counselling through our online platform. Qwell is available to adults starting from the age of 18. However, in some areas this may vary.

You can find out more online here: **[qwell.io/](https://qwell.io/)**



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