

Bury Children and Young People's Department

A Guide to Money Matters for Young People aged 16 & 17 Living in Semi Independent or Independent Accommodation

This leaflet is designed to help you understand the financial support you can receive from Bury Council - Children's Services if you are aged 16 or 17 and you are living in semi independent or independent accommodation. Some of the financial support is dependent on where you live; other support will be based on an assessment of your needs. It is important to talk to your social worker or personal adviser about the allowances that may be available to you, and what your responsibilities are when you are receiving them.

Placement/Accommodation Costs

Bury Council will ensure you have a suitable placement/home or have your accommodation costs covered up to your 18th birthday, at which point you will be able to move into your own council or housing association tenancy, remain in supported lodgings or remain living with your foster carers under a "Staying Put" arrangement.

From the age of 18 you will need to pay rent towards your accommodation, and you will be eligible to claim Universal Credit (housing element) to help with your rent costs. If it is assessed as appropriate for you to move to private rented accommodation, Bury Council can act as a financial trustee or guarantor for you up to your 18th birthday and may provide a deposit and rent in advance if required.

Care Experienced Maintenance Allowance

You are eligible for a Care Experienced Maintenance Allowance (CEMA) payment of £75.65 from Bury Council up to the age of 18 (and for 5 weeks after your birthday). Depending on which type of accommodation you live in, you may have a small amount deducted from your allowance (£10.00 or £20.00 per week). The deduction and bills contribution is done to get you used to having to pay for services, utilities, and food when you reach age 18 as the services, utilities and in some cases food, will be provided with your accommodation. If you are not sure what rate you should get, talk to your social worker or personal adviser or accommodation support worker.

Education, Training, Employment Equipment

Depending on an assessment of your education or training needs, Bury Council will provide a grant of up to £225.00 per year to cover all of your equipment needs (e.g., stationary, education visits, books and equipment). In addition, there is a one-off computer grant of up to £400.00 (£480.00 if NET of VAT) for those in full time further education at level 2 or above.

When you are starting a new job and if you need specific clothing or equipment for the job, you will be able to have a commencing work grant of up to £100.00.

In addition, if you are aged 16 to 19 you may be eligible for the governments' vulnerable young person's bursary of £1,200.00 per year. This is paid by your, sixth form, local college or training provider and is usually given as a weekly payment of £40.00 for 30 weeks. Your social worker or personal adviser will help you to apply for the bursary. If you are undertaking full time education, training, or you're doing voluntary work and do not qualify for the 16 to 19 bursary, Bury Council will provide an equivalent bursary of £1,200.00 per year (as a positive activity incentive) this is available up to the end of June after your 18th birthday if you are undertaking an activity on your 18th birthday (£600.00 a year if you are doing a part time activity, i.e. less than 12 hours per week).

If you are undertaking an Apprenticeship you will receive a £3,000.00 Apprenticeship Bursary (once between 16 and 25) that is provided by the organisation who is supporting you with the apprenticeship, the apprenticeship provider will also get £1,000.00 to help support you. You will receive the £3,000.00 over the first year of the Apprenticeship in three instalments.

Clothing Allowance

You are entitled to a £5.00 per week clothing allowance, which can be paid to you weekly, monthly, or quarterly. This allowance is generally provided via a supervised shop undertaken by your social worker, personal adviser, or accommodation support worker.

Birthday and Christmas/Festival Allowance

Young people who are in touch with their social worker and personal adviser and who are actively engaged in the pathway planning process are entitled to a £277.00 birthday allowance on their 16th and 17th birthday and a £332.00 per year festival allowance (Christmas allowance). The festival allowance can be provided at a point/event suitable to your faith.

Travel

All young people aged 16 & 17 living in the Greater Manchester/Bury area will be provided with a free 'Our Pass' or 'Bee Network Pass' which entitles Cared For and Care Experienced young people to free bus travel. This will enable you to attend any

local or drop-in services, remain in contact with your family, extended family, former foster carers, significant friends and your social worker/personal adviser.

The pass comes in the form of a 'get me there' photocard, or 'bee network' photocard with a £10.00 administration fee, and is applied for through the Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) website. Bury Children's Services will support you to get the necessary identity documents, and cover the £10.00 fee needed for the photocard.

If you live outside of the Bury/GM area, a travel card for the area you live will be provided.

In situations where you have family, extended family, former foster carers and significant friends outside of the Bury area, a travel allowance will be provided following an assessment of your needs. Your social worker or personal adviser will be able to give you more information.

Social Activities and Leisure

Bury Council will provide a weekly leisure allowance of up to £10.00 per week to ensure that you are able to pursue a sport, hobby or leisure activity. The allowance is provided following an assessment of your needs, and as long as you are undertaking an approved activity. In addition, you can access a once a year, life changes or social activity allowance of £135.00 to enable you to take part in a major activity of your choice, such as a trip to London or Manchester to go to the theatre, a football game or something you like doing.

Key Documents

In order to travel, register for housing, open a bank account and also claim any benefits/Universal Credit at the age of 18, you will need a range of identity and key documents. Bury Council will help you to get these and will pay for a copy of your birth certificate and a passport/passport renewal up to the value of £135.00 (subject to being eligible to apply), if you do not already have these documents, this will ensure you have a passport that is valid until at least 25 or beyond.

Introduction to Driving

If you have been doing employment, education, or training for at least 6 months and do not have any driving convictions, Bury Council will provide an Introduction to Driving package and allowance to cover 1 provisional driving license, 1 theory test (and 1 theory test App.), 10 (1 hour) driving lessons and 1 practical test (when you are pass ready) and if you contribute to the cost of 5 (1 hour) lessons. By booking 15 lessons with a driving school, you will usually get an additional lesson free. Your social worker/personal adviser will help you organise the Introduction to Driving Package and will also work with you to apply to charitable trusts such as the Rees Foundation to supplement your driving package.

Lone Parents

Lone parents aged 16 and 17 are eligible to claim Universal Credit, Child Benefit and Healthy Start Vouchers from the birth of the baby. You will then be able to apply for a Sure Start Maternity Grant of £500.00 from the day your baby is born. The Sure Start Maternity Grant is only available for your oldest or first child.

If you would like to return to education, you can get assistance from the 'Care to Learn' fund which can assist you with childcare costs.

Due to having an entitlement to Universal Credit, lone parents will cease to get the Care Experienced Maintenance Allowance once Universal Credit is in payment. All other allowances continue.

Luggage

We want to ensure you have suitable luggage for when you go on holiday or move house, your social worker or personal adviser will support you to make sure you have a number of holdalls and/or suitcases.

Other Financial Support

Support is also available to meet your health needs, special needs, religious & cultural needs and in an emergency or in exceptional situations. In addition, there is also a range of support available to help you to take part in consultation events and when you move home. Your social worker or personal adviser will undertake an assessment with you to explore what you need and how it will be provided.

Talk to your social worker or personal adviser who will help you fill in the chart.

Entitlements	Comments	Amount
Placement & Accommodation Costs		
Leaving Care Maintenance Allowance		
Education/Training/Employment Costs		
16 – 19 Vulnerable Young Person's Bursary		
Apprenticeship Bursary		
Clothing Allowance		
Travel and Family Time		
Key Documents		
Birthday/Christmas and Festival Allowances		

Health and/or Special Needs		
Social Activities and Leisure		
Introduction to Driving		
Religious and Cultural Needs		
Luggage		
Other Payments and Allowances – 1		
Other Payments and Allowances - 2		

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