

An assessment would cover things like:

- Can you plan healthy menus, budget & shop?
- Can you cook?
- Can you do your laundry?
- Can you keep yourself safe?
- Can you make appointments, i.e. doctor & dentist/optician?
- Can you use public transport & time tables?
- Can you ask another person for help? Have you a range of people who can offer practical & emotional support?
- Can you manage your space & tell people to leave when you want? Can you make sure everyone respects you e.g. they don't eat all your food?

Employment training & Further Education

- We'll encourage you to get into continuing education employment & training.
- Torbay is especially keen to promote further & higher education education.
- PA's can help make appointments with Careers South West to discuss career choices if needed.
- We'll keep in touch with the college tutors so we know about your successes & any difficulties you may have.
- If the attendance is kept up we offer financial incentives.
- If you are not in education, training or work it will be advised that you should ask to attend alternative training. The PA can give details.



Money

As a care leaver you are unable to claim benefits until you are 18. The exception is if you are a lone parent or disabled. Instead if you are not in foster care we provide you with a weekly Personal Allowance. The amount you get depends on your situation but it is the same as provided by the benefit agency. Your PA can explain this all to you. Briefly:

- This has to cover everything i.e. food, electricity, toiletries, going out, hobbies and entertainment.
- There are other entitlements to things that your PA will tell you about.
- You can get a part time job at 16yrs and keep the money up to a certain amount.
- The leaving care service pays for your accommodation up to 18yrs.
- You will get a Leaving Care Grant to help furnish a bed-sit or flat. This grant is not paid to you directly. You and your PA will discuss what you need to make your home feel like your own place. This is what we call "needs led" and we'll only provide enough to get you started.
- This will be reviewed as you settle into your tenancy & added to later if there are things you need and if you can maintain your tenancy.
- You do not have to spend the money all at once, as you can access this up to the age of 21.
- The leaving care grant is usually used for bigger spends & not be used to buy clothing or food.

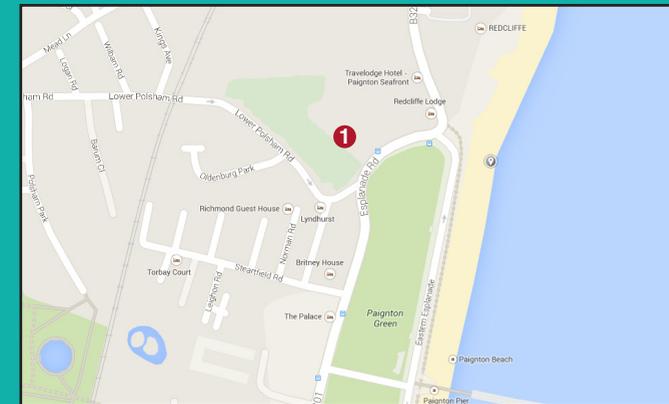
YOUR PATHWAY PLAN WILL MAKE CLEAR YOUR ENTITLEMENTS WHICH VARY DEPENDING ON YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. ANY QUESTIONS? THEN CONTACT IYSS AT:
Parkfield House, 38 Esplanade Road, Torquay
01803 208400
IYSSAfterCareProvisionMailBox@torbay.gov.uk

Torbay Care Leaver's Pledge

"We will Support all care leavers to have the same outcomes that all good parents want for their own Children"

- We will give you the information you need to lead a healthy lifestyle
- We want you to be free from harm and we will support you to feel safe
- We will encourage you to be involved in your future plans
- We will assist you to feel positive about your future and help you get the most out of life
- We will Support you to become independent from us.

Where to find us:



1. Parkfield House

This document can be made available in other languages and formats. For more information telephone (01803) 208400.



Integrated Youth Support Service

A Brief Guide To Leaving Care In Torbay With IYSS

Parkfield House,
38 Esplanade Road,
Torquay, TQ3 2NH

01803 208400
IYSSAfterCareProvisionMailBox@torbay.gov.uk



Who we are and what do we do?

Since the 1st of October 2001, all care leaver's have been entitled by law to extra help and support. The Integrated Youth Support Service or IYSS is the service in Torbay designed to provide that help and support for young people leaving care.

We can offer advice & help with issues such as education work & employment, money & accommodation. We can also talk to you about anything else that will make it easier for you to become independent.

How do you meet us?

Your social worker will refer you to the IYSS team just before you are 15 to complete a Needs Assessment with you and help you make your plans and decide what you might need and who might help. You will move to the IYSS team at age 15.3 months. The IYSS Personal Advisor (PA) will meet you and be able to deal with your plans for the future from the age of 15.3 months through your 16th birthday to age 21 and up to 24 if you continue in full time education.

Don't forget at 16 or 17 you may still be unprepared or unwilling to leave care. IYSS will help you delay your leaving until you really feel confident and ready for independence.



Features of IYSS

- A flexible, vibrant service which puts care leavers at the centre of its business.
- Staffed by suitably qualified people who like to work with young people.
- IYSS understands the issues that effect young people as they leave care.
- Closely networking with other agencies to improve the service like health, Careers South West (CSW), the Fostering Team, South Devon College & Dartington Tech.
- The IYSS will provide a variety of suitable housing options including foster care, supported lodgings scheme Staying Put (post 18) in foster care and supported lodgings. It also includes house shares and routes to achieve single flats or bedsits in partnership with landlords if they are affordable. Your Personal Advisor will discuss all these options with you.
- Young people are encouraged to take part in user groups so that their voice is heard.

The Pathway Plan: A Short Guide

Every young person leaving care should have a Pathway Plan. This plan is important because it sets out future plans in detail. It is completed by you and belongs to you.

It will have information about money, health, education or training, employment & support, accommodation, keeping safe and core skills for independence.

The Pathway Plan process is completed with you at the centre of the process with the PA and carers supporting it & with anyone else you want in your plan. It is reviewed every 6 months or whenever plans change.

Your Pathway Plan will cover the following main points:

- Nature & level of support
- Details of accommodation
- Detailed plan for education & training
- Employment & seeking employment
- Support to sustain appropriate family & social arrangements
- A programme to develop the practical and other skills necessary to live independently
- Financial support details
- The health needs and how they are to be met
- Contingency plans

The Important Bits! The Plan Includes: Accommodation

When you leave care it is important to make sure that where you live is right for you. We have a wide range of accommodation. It is based on your needs and what is available.

Of course you might not want to move at 18 and if you are in Foster care or supported lodgings there is a scheme called "Staying Put" Your PA will provide you with information about that and a full leaflet explaining it all. However briefly this is a scheme that allows you to stay which is funded if everyone agrees

- One example of the type of housing we might be able to offer is through supported lodging schemes. These are people who are prepared to have a young person to live with them in their home.
- These people will support you to look after yourself. After a period of time, agreed by yourself and the PA the next step is to discuss more independent accommodation with all concerned.

- Another example is a in a room, small flat or bed sit in a building that offers a young person staff support as well. Some places have high levels of staff cover.
- We can also support you to seek a "tenancy". It is very difficult to get a tenancy before you are 18 (the legal age you can hold a tenancy.) There are ways you can work towards this aim that we will support.
- More commonly the best option is to live in a shared house which is more affordable. Bed sits and flats are usually available to young people who have already proved they have developed enough life skills to be able to cope with living independently and can afford it. The owner of the property will want to know this. You, your support and the PA all contribute to an assessment of your life skills. This is to make sure you are ready for this level of independence.

