

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact

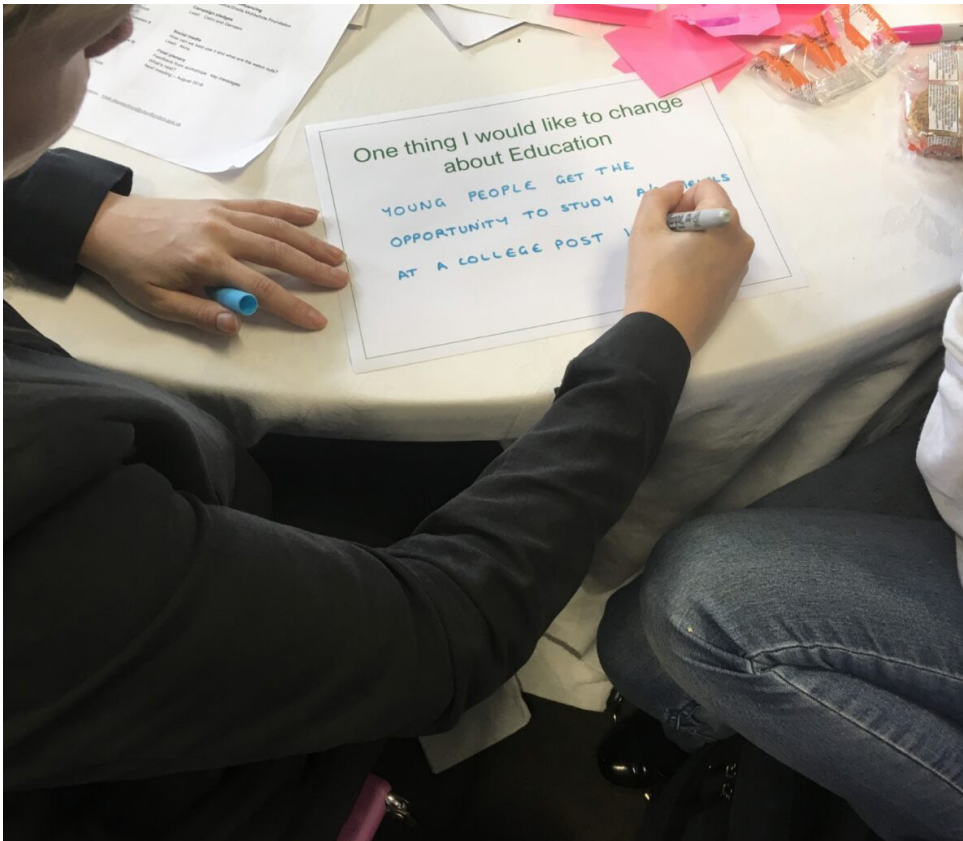


THE PAN LONDON OFFER
Creating Inspirational Care
Experienced Communities

**LONDON
COUNCILS**

ALDCS

The Association of London
Directors of Children's Services



“The disadvantage faced by our care experienced community should be the civil rights issue of our time. Children in care are powerless, they are often invisible to society and face some of the greatest inequalities that exist in England today...” (Independent Review of Social Care 2022)

Overview

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact developed in response to a problem. Care-experienced young people say the support they receive is different depending on where they have been in care, and where they live. They also say that better quality support is needed. Their views are echoed in numerous research reports and academic studies.

As a result of this, work on the Pan London Care Leavers Compact started in 2021 to increase **consistency** and **quality** in the support offered to London’s care leavers. The Department for Education gave funding to get the project going and we have learned from others like Manchester, who have done similar work. The Pan London Care Leavers Compact is a group of several different support offers. It will continue to grow as new offers are added.

The Compact works on the principle that it is **everybody’s business** to support London’s

care experienced community. Lots of organisations, such as London’s Children in Care Council, Partnership for Young London, London boroughs, London Innovation and Improvement Alliance, the Mayor, the Greater London Authority, the NHS and Transport for London have given their time, energy and funding to building new support offers that are available to all London’s care leavers. Together, the partnership calls itself the London Care Leavers Trust Board.

The partnership is growing all the time. We are determined that the launch of the Compact is the start, not the end, of the journey to do better for London’s Care Leavers. We invite you to join us on the journey.

Care Leavers Trust Board

1st February 2024

Pan London Care Leavers Compact – The Support Offers (so far)

The following support offers exist under the Pan London Care Leavers Compact. Please remember there is much more support that you can find out about through your home authority's Local Offer or your personal advisor. The Care Leavers Covenant app/website is also a great source of information on what is out there.

The offers below are for 18-24 year olds who are defined as care leavers under the 1989 Children's Act. You do not need to be working with a personal advisor or have a pathway plan to access them, although most will require you to contact your responsible local authority to confirm your eligibility.

Health

Exemption from prescription charges

If you pay for your prescriptions, you can now access a pre-paid prescription certificate (or equivalent) via your local authority. This has been funded by London's five NHS integrated health partnerships. Some of the schemes are pilots, so will be reviewed to check they are needed. For more information and support to access this, please contact your personal advisor / local authority.

This can save you £9.65 for each item prescribed.

Universal Family Programme

London's five NHS health areas are working with the Care Leaver Covenant to provide employment and training opportunities to care leavers. Please contact your personal advisor / local authority to find out more about a career in healthcare.

Transport

The Mayor of London and Transport for London have worked together to offer half price travel on buses and trams to London care leavers (living in London) up until their 26th birthday. This should benefit many young people, although for some other TfL concessions may be a better fit. To access your half price concession, please contact your personal advisor / local authority.

For example, those who travel on buses or trams across London will see their journeys capped at £2.55 a day thanks to the new Care Leavers Concession.

Local Authorities

London boroughs and the City of London Corporation are working together to offer support in several areas. These include:

- council tax exemption
- priority housing status till the age of 25
- rent deposit schemes
- agreements between children's and housing departments to work together in care leavers' interests

Most London local authorities are now members of the Care Leaver Covenant or working towards this. Membership asks them to commit to whole council approaches that support care leavers across all their activities.

Many have also decided to give protected characteristic status to care leavers.

To find out more about what your Local Authority offers, please see its Local Offer or contact your personal advisor.

Special thanks to all our partners

The Pan London Care Leavers Compact has been created thanks to the work of a wide number of partner organisations, including:



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