



Financial Support:

for young people living in kinship care & moving into further education.

Young People & Further Education

Kinship carers contacting our advice service are often worried about how they are going to support a young person through further and higher education. It is not always easy to find out what help might be available. If you are raising a young person who is in further or higher education, you may be able to get help from the resources below. The support you are entitled to will depend on the legal status of the child, for example, looked after child (LAC), special guardianship & child arrangements order or informally.

Further Education

You will usually continue to be eligible for child benefit, child tax credit or child element in universal credit or pension credit whilst your child remains in non-advanced education or training. In addition to this, certain students aged 16 to 19 may be entitled to a bursary of £1,200 a year. This includes those who are 'looked after', care leavers and disabled young people. Other young people may be eligible for a discretionary bursary – they should check with their school, college, or training provider. For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

University Grants for Children Being Raise in Kinship Care

Many kinship carers and young people are not aware that they may be entitled to a grant if they want to go to university. All children in kinship care are entitled to a grant which does not have to be repaid to help support them.

This is because they are treated as "independent or estranged" if they are not being cared for by their parents or their parents have died.

This factsheet is for information only and should not be taken as a full statement of the law. Last updated March 2021.

Most universities use different terminology to describe who can apply for a grant from estranged from parents, irreconcilably estranged from parents or independent. But, whatever the exact wording of the definition of any university, young people in kinship care are regarded as estranged students.

You can obtain further information and guidance regarding student finance for kinship care students [here](#). You can also find a copy of the Higher Education Student Finance in England Assessing Financial Entitlement [here](#).

Kinship Foster Carers & Higher Education for the Children they are Caring for

If you are raising a 'looked after' child, children's services have specific duties to assess and meet their care and support needs when they turn 16 - particularly in respect of employment, education, and training. A 'looked after child' is entitled to a personal adviser and pathway plan which should set out the help they will receive when they leave care.

This support will continue until they are 21, or longer if they remain in education and includes a bursary of £2000 for higher education (above and beyond anything else they are entitled to). You will need to apply to your local authority for this bursary. It does not have to be repaid. You can also obtain further information [here](#).

For Further Information and Advice about Financial Support for Students

- The Student Room: <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/student-finance/>
- Student Finance: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- Student Finance England: [0300 100 0607](tel:03001000607)

Benefits for 16- and 17-year olds

Benefits for 16- and 17-year olds are limited, and a young person can only make a new Universal Credit claim if any of the following apply:

- you have limited capability for work, or you have medical evidence and are waiting for a Work Capability Assessment
- you are caring for a severely disabled person
- you are responsible for a child
- you are in a couple with responsibility for at least one child and your partner is eligible for Universal Credit
- you are pregnant and it is 11 weeks or less before your expected week of childbirth
- you have had a child in the last 15 weeks
- you do not have parental support, for example you are estranged from your parents and you are not under local authority care

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If a Young Person is Studying Full-time

A young person can also make a claim if they are in full-time further education and any of the following apply:

- you do not have parental support
- you have limited capacity for work, and you are entitled to Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- you are responsible for a child
- you are in a couple with responsibility for a child and your partner is eligible for Universal Credit

'Staying Put' Information for Kinship Foster Carers

If you are still fostering a young person when they turn 18 and you both decide to go on living together then this is known in law as a 'staying put arrangement'.

Staying put is not fostering, but the local authority has a legal duty to support both you and the young person to go on living together until they become 21 or move out if before then. This must include financial support and you must be paid an allowance that will cover all reasonable costs of supporting the young person to remain living with you.

If the young person, aged over 18, moves out and then returns to live with you before they reach 21, the staying put duties no longer apply and the local authority does not have to continue to support you as the carer, although some local authorities choose to do so.

You can obtain further information on 'Staying Put' here:

<https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/policy-practice/practice-information/staying-put>

Special Guardians

Children who were looked after by the local authority immediately before the making of a Special Guardianship Order may qualify for advice and assistance under [section 24 Children Act 1989](#). The young person must:

- have reached the age of 16, but not the age of 21
- have a Special Guardianship Order in force if less than 18 years old
- have had a Special Guardianship Order in force when they reached the age of 18
- have been looked after by a local authority immediately before the making of the Special Guardianship Order.

If a young person meets these criteria, then the local authority which last looked after the child is under a duty to provide advice and assistance. You will need to contact your

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local authority for further information regarding how and what advice and assistance the young person can access.

Charitable Grants

There are also many charities who provide grants for further education, employment, and training. You can search to see if there are any local or national charities which may be able to provide financial support to a young person living in Kinship Care.

Turn2Us is a national charity which helps people find charities via a search tool which can be found here: <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

For further information and support please contact our Kinship Advice Service:

Visit us at - <https://kinship.org.uk/for-kinship-carers/advice-and-support/>

Email us at - advice@kinship.org.uk

Call our advice line - on 0300 123 7015