



## **ROTHERHAM CARE LEAVERS' CHARTER.**

### **Foreword: Councillor Victoria Cusworth, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

As Corporate Parents, we believe that Care Leavers should have the same opportunities, support and aspirations as anyone else. We recognise the resilience and determination shown by many Care Leavers and are committed to removing barriers, challenging stigma and discrimination, and championing opportunities for success. We will continue to listen to the voices of Care Leavers, celebrate their achievements and contributions, and work with our partners to ensure they receive the support they need to thrive and achieve their ambitions. This Charter is our promise to continue listening, improving and working alongside Care Leavers to deliver the support, opportunities and encouragement they deserve.

### **Our Commitment to Care Leavers**

This Charter sets out the commitments of **Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)** and a number of our partner agencies to support Care Leavers as they transition into independence and adulthood.

The Charter complements the **Leaving Care Local Offer** and the **Children in Care and Care Leaver Promise**, and aligns with our **Leaving Care Strategy**, demonstrating our commitment to ensuring that Care Leavers achieve their aspirations and experience the very best outcomes possible.

This Charter has been produced alongside those with care experience, focussing on what matters to them most.

Our aim is to help you become resilient, successful, safe, and confident in your future, while ensuring you can access the support and opportunities you need to thrive.

### **Housing & Independence**

We are committed to ensuring that you have access to suitable, safe, and affordable accommodation. We understand that having a stable home is a key foundation for achieving independence and success.

#### **We will provide:**

- Priority housing status in Rotherham until the age of 25.
- Tenancy support and guarantor assistance when required.
- Council Tax 100% Reduction for Care Leavers who are the named tenant up to age 21, regardless of where they live and up to the age of 25 for Care Leavers in full-time education, who reside in the borough.
- Access to a named Housing Officer for advice and support with housing matters.
- Access to the **"A Place of Your Own"** independent living programme.
- Housing drop-in sessions at **The Journey**, delivered in partnership with housing colleagues.

- Support with accommodation costs during higher level study, where eligible.
- Access to a Crisis Resilience Fund, including assistance with essential household items.
- One-to-one budgeting, shopping and cooking support through the Financial Inclusion Team.
- Affordable, professionally refurbished household items, including furniture and white goods.
- Independent Living Skills Workshops, including cooking sessions provided by an RMBC partner.
- Provision of housekeeping kits and decorating packs through an RMBC partner.
- Reciprocal agreements across the local region to help maintain housing priority where applicable:

#### **Reciprocal Housing Agreements**

| <b>Local Authority</b> | <b>Priority Status</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Sheffield              | Band 2 (or equivalent) |
| Doncaster              | Band 2 (or equivalent) |
| Barnsley               | Band 1 (or equivalent) |

#### **Education, Employment & Skills**

We have high aspirations for you and are committed to helping you gain the qualifications, skills, experiences, and opportunities needed to achieve your ambitions.

#### **We will provide:**

- Guaranteed interviews for RMBC vacancies where the essential criteria are met.
- CV writing, job application and interview support through RMBC and the Department for Work and Pensions.
- Education drop-in clinics providing advice on post-16 education, training and progression opportunities.
- Bespoke employability skills training.
- Work experience opportunities within RMBC.
- Digital Inclusion sessions in partnership with RNN College.
- Apprenticeship opportunities and work experience in Electrical, Plumbing, Gas, Joinery and waste management, with RMBC partners.
- Apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities with the NHS.

- Access to the NHS Widening Participation Programme, offering training pathways, work experience and guaranteed interview opportunities for eligible applicants, which include Care Leavers.
- Workplace visits, interview preparation and retail sector experience with an RMBC partner.
- Access to short courses and skills-based learning opportunities through an RMBC partner.
- Support to access affordable internet services or temporary internet provision where required.
- Discounted bus travel.

### **Health & Wellbeing**

We want you to enjoy good physical health, positive emotional wellbeing, and access to support when it is needed.

#### **We will provide:**

- Access to free NHS prescriptions, dental treatment and optical care, up to the age of 25.
- Counselling and trauma-informed emotional wellbeing support.
- Healthy relationships sessions at The Journey.
- Sexual Health advice and support at The Journey.
- A Care Leaver Health Summary when you leave care.
- Support through an RMBC partner to reduce social isolation, build confidence and improve wellbeing.
- "Keeping on Track" group sessions covering resilience, stress management and emotional wellbeing.
- An annual social and leisure payment to support participation in activities that promote wellbeing, social inclusion and independence, such as gym memberships or other recreational activities.
- Opportunities to participate in a variety of clubs and events, including fishing, football, cinema trips and themed events.

### **Further Information**

#### **Leaving Care Local Offer**

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/homepage/474/leaving-care-in-rotherham-your-guide-and-support>



### **Children in Care and Care Leaver Promise**



**Together, we are committed to helping Rotherham's Care Leavers achieve their aspirations, fulfil their potential, and thrive in adulthood.**