

Further Support

Dorset Council:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childrens-social-care/children-in-care/children-in-care-and-care-leavers.aspx>

Email: careandsupport13to25@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01305 225809

The Pan-Dorset Looked After Children/Children in Care Health Team:

dhc.dorsetcichealth@nhs.net

Tel: 01305 361127



Welcome to Weymouth College. When you start with us, it's important to know what help you are entitled to. This leaflet has all the information you need about extra help and support you can get here as a looked after child or care leaver.

Support at the College

Here at the college, we have a dedicated member of staff to support you in your transition from school to college. You can access this from the moment you contact us, we can arrange extra visits to familiarise yourself with the site, and you can have contact and support from a member of Student Services. We can also offer one to one mentoring for your time here. If you have any concerns or questions, contact her via email;



Beverley_Bull@weymouth.ac.uk



Phone/text: 01305 208771 or 07808 243 949



or just come and visit her in room F146



Bursaries

As a looked after child or care leaver if you are aged 16 – 18 and your 19th birthday after 31st of August, you are entitled to the guaranteed bursary of up to £1200. Many students use this to cover the cost of a seasonal bus pass initially. More can be spent on help for books and equipment, educational visits or other course related costs.

Apply online at:

www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/funding-finance/

and email your application form or any questions to:

collegebursaries@weymouth.ac.uk

Help for over 19-year olds

You may be entitled to Discretionary Learner Support or Advanced Learner Loan Bursary fund, depending on income.

Apprenticeship Bursary

You will be entitled to a payment of £1000 after 60 days on a qualifying apprenticeship.

Free School Meals

You may be entitled if you are in receipt of benefits.

More information available at; www.weymouth.ac.uk/studying-with-us/funding-finance/

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

PEPs are drawn up in meetings with you, our safeguarding and welfare officer (Beverley Bull), Virtual School, your social worker, and any other relevant agencies. They take place three times a year up until you reach 18. You can expect the meeting to take up to an hour.

Looked After Child (LAC) Reviews

LAC reviews are held to review your care plan, at least every six months. They are led by your Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO). YOU can decide who you want to be invited. These reviews are your chance for your voice to be heard.

Higher Education

If you go into Higher Education at the College, you are entitled to financial support. Dorset Council will pay you £2000 over the duration of your course as a care leaver, on top of the funding you can receive from Student Finance for the tuition fees and maintenance loan.