

**Children Looked After - Detained, Placed or Living in an NHS Hospital up to the Age of Sixteen (and those who cease to be looked after as a result of the placement or being detained)**

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# Children Looked After - Detained, Placed or Living in an NHS Hospital (and those who cease to be looked after as a result of the placement or being detained)

## Background

This guidance sets out the allowances to be provided to children looked after who are detained, placed or are living in an NHS hospital setting and those who cease to be looked after as a result of being detained or placed, i.e. those who were Accommodated under Section 20, Children Act 1989 and cease to be CLA as a result of the detention/placement.

The allowances set out below apply up to the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. From the age of 16, the Transition to Adulthood, Leaving Care Finance Policy & Guidance applies.

The allowances apply to all children looked after (Section 31 & Section 20) at the point of being detained, placed or moving into an NHS hospital setting (and subsequently cease to be looked after as a result of the detention/placement), or a setting providing accommodation and services on behalf of the NHS.

Depending on the nature of the establishment and the circumstances of the child, it may be possible for the child to claim Disability Living Allowance (DLA), either or both the care and mobility elements. In circumstances where DLA is being claimed, a Benefit Appointee will need to manage the claim and allowance/s. The Benefit Appointee could be a foster carer. Where a Corporate Appointee is required, the Brokerage Support Service will take on the role. In either situation, arrangements will need to be established to ensure that money is transferred to the child via the establishment.

## Financial Allowances – Amounts by Age, Conditionality

### Pocket Money

Age	Amount	Age	Amount
11	£6.30	14	£9.50
12	£7.50	15	£11.60
13	£8.50		

The pocket money allowance is provided to all children for their general and personal needs. The level of the allowance and how it is paid will depend on the age and ability of the child and the particular expectations of the setting.

### Toiletries Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£5.00

The toiletries allowance is provided to ensure that children have a supply of their own toiletries. Where the toiletries allowance is not being used to purchase such items, the child's social worker or keyworker will use the allowance on their behalf to buy items/brands that the child uses.

### Mobile Phone Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£2.50

The mobile phone allowance of £2.50 per week is provided to ensure that children can remain in contact with their previous placement, family and friends.

### Initial Clothing Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£261.14

The initial clothing allowance is available at the point a child is first placed into an NHS/hospital setting to ensure the child has appropriate and adequate clothing. The social worker or keyworker should assess what clothing is required and the cost.

### Weekly Clothing Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£16.00

The use of the clothing allowance will differ between individuals and should be set out in the child's placement plan and be agreed by the social worker and keyworker. The placement plan should set out how the allowance will be provided and managed (weekly, monthly and/or a supported shop) and how this will change over time from items being purchased for the child to the child choosing and purchasing their own clothing.

The social worker or placement/hospital keyworker should keep a record of all items purchased to demonstrate how the allowance has been used and what items of clothing the child has.

## School Clothing Allowance

<b>On starting or changing primary school</b>	£136.28
<b>On starting secondary school</b>	£301.19
<b>On changing secondary school</b>	£252.47

The school clothing allowance can be accessed and used when a child starts a new school or changes school, if required.

## Personal Luggage

<b>Age</b>	<b>As Required</b>
11 to 16	£35.00

All children should have at least two luggage items (suitcases/holdalls/rucksacks) for transporting their personal possessions. The £35.00 personal luggage allowance is available to ensure that the child has at least two luggage items for moving between placements and to independence. It is expected that all children will have these luggage items prior to moving to an NHS setting.

## Birthday Allowance

All children are entitled to a yearly birthday allowance of £100.00. The child's social worker or keyworker should purchase a gift/gifts to the value of £100.00. In exceptional circumstances the allowance can be provided as a gift card/voucher. How the birthday allowance will be used should be set out in the child/young person's placement plan.

## Birthday Allowance – Gift/Gifts

<b>Age</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11 to 16	£100.00

In addition, all children are entitled to a birthday celebration allowance which is dependent on age. The celebration allowance should be used to fund a celebration meal, party or event. Only in exceptional circumstances can the celebration allowance be used to supplement the gift allowance (the availability of the celebration component will be dependent of the individual establishment rules).

### Birthday Allowance - Celebration

Age	Amount	Age	Amount
11 to 15	£72.00	16 <sup>th</sup> birthday	£103.00

### Christmas/Festival Allowance

All children are entitled to, and provided with a yearly Christmas/Festival allowance of £100.00. The child's social worker or keyworker should purchase a gift/gifts to the value of £100.00. In exceptional circumstances the Christmas/Festival allowance can be provided as a gift card/voucher. How the Christmas/Festival allowance will be used should be set out in the child's placement plan.

Children who are non-Christians should be given a choice as to when their festival allowance is to be provided. If they do not have a preference, the allowance should be made available at Christmas to ensure that they receive their entitlement alongside their peers.

### Christmas/Festival Allowance – Gift/Gifts

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£100.00

In addition, all children are entitled to a Christmas/festival celebration allowance which is dependent on age. The celebration allowance should be used to fund a celebration meal, party or event (the availability of the celebration component will depend on the individual establishment rules).

### Christmas/Festival Allowance - Celebration

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£72.00

### Life Chances/Hobbies/Leisure Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£12.50

The life chances/hobbies/leisure allowance is provided to enable children to take part in hobby and leisure activities (this will depend on the house rules of the NHS setting). The allowance is provided on the basis of the child undertaking an approved activity.

## Savings

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£5.00

All children are provided with a weekly savings allowance of £5.00 per week for those aged 11 to 17. The savings allowance is placed in a Junior Independent Savings Account (Junior ISA) until the young person reaches the age of 18, at which point it transfers to the young person.

## Exceptional Payments

In circumstances where a one-off payment is required, or an ongoing allowance which is not covered by any of the above headings, a request to the Hertfordshire Access to Resources Panel (HARP) should be made.

## How payments can be made

1. The institution can invoice Hertfordshire County Council: an authorised 3<sup>rd</sup> party payment agreement needs to be in place.
2. The institution can manage an account on behalf of the young person to enable allowances to be paid to them via BACS.
3. The Social Worker/Keyworker could request cash from Brokerage and take the money to the institution.
4. The Social Worker/Keyworker could request Brokerage to purchase items and arrange for delivery to the institution.

These should be requested through LCS via the forms menu (select Finance Service Request Form).

John Short

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