

Children Looked After – Remands and Custodial Sentences up to the Age of Sixteen (and those who Cease to be Looked After as a result of being Sentenced to a Period of Custody)

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Children Looked After – Remands and Custodial Sentences up to the Age of Sixteen (and those who Cease to be Looked After as a result of being Sentenced to a Period of Custody)

Background

This guidance sets out the allowances to be provided to children looked after who are remanded into custody and/or receive a custodial sentence. The allowances also apply to children who cease to be looked after, i.e. those who were 'Accommodated' under Section 20 who cease to be looked after on receiving a custodial sentence.

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

The allowances apply to all children who were looked after (Section 31, Section 20 and Section 21) at the point of being remanded or on receiving a custodial sentence.

The allowances should only be provided within the framework of the rules of the specific institution in which the child is remanded or receives a custodial sentence. The allowances should not be provided where they create disincentives for the child to attend education, training or other activities, or where they may create additional risks by the child having money or items that other children may not have and may want.

The child's placement plan/detention plan should set out which allowances will be provided, how they will be used and any conditions attached to them.

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 subject to the rules of the individual establishment to children for their general and personal needs. Particular attention should be paid to the pocket money and remuneration schemes that individual institutions have, for example, the provision of pocket money from the institution may be linked to attendance and engagement in education or training activities. Where this is the case the pocket money from the local authority should cease.

Initial Clothing Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£261.14

Where a child is initially remanded or receives a custodial sentence, an audit should be made of the clothing that the child has and if they require any additional clothing (this will also depend on the rules of the individual institution).

Weekly Clothing Allowance

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£16.00

The weekly clothing allowance is only provided, subject to an assessment of need, if clothing is required and must fit within the rules of the individual institution.

Personal Luggage

Age	As Required
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 institutions, placements and to independence.

Birthday Allowance

All children are entitled to a yearly birthday allowance of £100.00. The child's social worker should liaise with the individual institution to decide whether a gift/gifts should be provided, or the allowance should be retained and given to the child on release or added to their Junior ISA/savings.

Age	Amount
11 to 16	£100.00

Christmas/Festival Allowance

All children are entitled to a yearly Christmas/Festival allowance of £100.00. The child's social worker should liaise with the individual institution to decide whether a gift/gifts should be provided, or the allowance should be retained and given to the child on release or added to their Junior ISA/savings.

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, or added to their Junior ISA/savings (see above).

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 3rd 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).

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