



Do you qualify for Leaving Care advice and guidance?



If you are between the ages of 16 and 21 years, and were in the care of Somerset County Council at some point over the age of 16, (but for less than 13 weeks in total since you were 14), you may qualify for advice and guidance from Somerset County Council.

This also applies if between the ages of 16 and 18 years you;

- Were in the care of Somerset County Council care but returned home to your parents successfully for more than 6 months
- Were subject to a Special Guardianship Order and immediately prior to the order being made you were in the care of Somerset County Council.
- Were accommodated by or on behalf of a voluntary organisation, or in a private children's home.
- Were privately fostered.
- Lived somewhere which was provided by a health or education authority and you lived there for a period of at least 3 months.

If you do qualify, you could get help accessing education, training or employment as well as advice and information to make sure you are getting all the financial support you are entitled to, and help you find somewhere to live.

If you were in the care of another Local Authority, you may qualify for advice and assistance from them, but the Somerset Leaving Care Team may be able to put you in touch with them.

Any young person who is in receipt of or wishes to have a Leaving Care service is entitled to representation should they require it, and is also entitled to use the County Council complaints procedures should they be unhappy with the outcome of their contact with the service.

If you would like to know more please contact Somerset Direct Children and Young People's Team

Customer Contact, PO Box 618, Taunton, Somerset. TA1 3WF

Email childrens@somerset.gov.uk Contact no 0300 1232224 Fax 01823 321187