

## Other helpful people that you will meet

### Designated teachers

At your school or college, there will be a special teacher for looked after children and care leavers. You can talk to them or another teacher you like or trust if you have any problems or worries and they will help sort them out or arrange for extra help and support for you.

### Virtual School for Looked-After Children

This is a team of workers who support the education of looked-after children and care leavers who can help you to achieve the targets set in your Personal Education Plan or College Support Plans. You can contact the Virtual School by email.

### Designated nurse for looked-after children

The designated nurse for looked-after children is **Maggie Mackenzie**, and she will make sure that you, your carers and your social worker have the information you need to keep you healthy. You can call Maggie on **01865 265015** or **07887 641 829**.

### Independent visitors and advocates

Advocates and Independent Visitors are normally volunteers – they give up their time for free to help represent the views of other people because they believe strongly in what they do and want to help others find the support they need. They can either help you speak out or talk on your behalf. Contact them: [VIVA@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:VIVA@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or **01865 328670**

### Useful websites for young people:

<http://oxcentric.oxme.info/cms/>

<http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk/>

<http://leavingcare.org>

## Have your say about being in care ...

### Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council (CICC) is a group of looked after children and young people, aged 12 to 21 (or up to 24 if in education). They are either in care or leaving care. They help us to make sure our services are doing the best they can for all children and young people in care.

The CICC encourages children and young people to talk about their experiences of the care system with adults who are in charge of it. Young members of the Council say it's helpful because they now feel they can trust adults more and have realised that many do listen to them and respect their opinions. It has also boosted their self-esteem, skills and confidence.

### Find out more...

To get involved in any participation and consultation projects, contact the **Engagement Team** on **07803 287813** or [james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.collins@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### Looked After & Leaving Care Service

**Oxford City** 01865 323 222

**Banbury** 01865 816 677

**Abingdon** 01865 897 984

**Oxfordshire County Council**  
New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

**Tel: 01865 815540**

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**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

S335-04 (10/15)

# Care Leavers



## Looked After & Leaving Care Service

Promoting a long-term  
commitment to young people  
through care,  
0 to 25 years



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

## What does it mean to be looked after or a care leaver?

Being 'looked after', often called being 'in care', means that Oxfordshire County Council are legally being responsible for your care on behalf of your family – we make a pledge to do what's best for you in your life. A 'care leaver' is a term that is often used to help ensure that you receive on going help when you become an adult and are no longer legally cared for by the council.

## Who will help me and how long for?

Most young people will be supported by a Social Worker whilst in care until 18yrs old. Between 16 years and 25 years you are entitled to receive support from a Personal Advisor.

In some cases your social worker will remain your Personal Advisor when you leave care as an adult. This will continue until you are 18 years, 21 years or 25 years old depending on your situation.

If you are engaged in Education or Training at 21 years, support continues until the program of education or training, which has been agreed in your Pathway Plan, ends. You can ask us to consider supporting you if you want to return to study or training post 21 years and up until your 25th birthday.

## Have your say



## What is the role of my Social worker and Personal Advisor?

- ❖ To provide advice, make plans with you, so that you have all the things that you need whilst you are looked after.
- ❖ To help you with practical assistance and the skills needed to become a successful independent adult and
- ❖ To visit you regularly to make sure that you are getting on okay

You can talk to them about anything – if you're having problems, or are worried about something, or if you just fancy a chat!

## How can I be involved in planning?

All planning for you should always consider your views and wishes. The best way to make this happens is to be actively involved in your Looked After Review Meetings and in developing your Care Plan or Pathway Plan.

## Pathway Plans

If you are over 16, you will have a Pathway Plan. The Pathway Plan is a continuation of your care plan and looks at the support and skills you will need when you leave care and are nearer to becoming an adult. It will look at what you will need to live independently and is designed to help you make the most of life and develop useful skills that could help you in the future. It will include things like:

- ❖ where you will live
- ❖ any education or training you might want to be involved in
- ❖ jobs
- ❖ money (including financial support from us)
- ❖ cultural or identity needs
- ❖ your health and your lifestyle.