



Benefits and Entitlements

A young person's guide for
Anglesey

Resource 6 of 12



You may also like to read these resources:

- Benefits and entitlements- education
- Budgeting
- Money- I need some
- Money- putting some aside

Getting Ready Project



When you leave care you will be in charge of your money. Although you will get support with this, it is useful to know what money you can claim from the Government and other sources, or what things you might be able to get free.

What UC you could get (2021/2022)

Below gives an example. What you actually get will depend on a number of factors

- Basic monthly allowance if you are single **£344**
- Basic monthly allowance if you are in a couple **£490.60 (£245.30 each)** then....
- If you have 1 child **£237.08**
- You may get help towards your rent
- You may be able to claim more if you have a disability or health condition
- You may be able to claim upto 85% of childcare costs if you are in work and have childcare responsibilities

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Universal Credit (UC)

- If you do not have a job and are over 18, you will need to claim Universal Credit
- This is money the Government will pay you (benefits) to make sure you have money to live
- As a care leaver you can start a UC claim 4-6 weeks before your 18th birthday
- To get help with your UC application contact Job Centre Plus or speak with your social worker/PA. Citizens Advice Ynys Mon may also be able to support you with your claim <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/ynys-mon/>



Council Tax

- As a care experienced young person you will not have to pay council tax.
- Your social worker or PA will tell Isle of Anglesey housing team that you are moving into your own flat/house and ensure you don't get charged council tax.

- There is often a 4 or 5 week delay from application until you receive your money.
- You can ask for an advance, but this will be taken off your first payment or first few payments
- Universal Credit is paid directly into your bank account. If you do not have a bank account, speak to your social worker, PA or Citizens Advice.



You do not need to pay council tax thanks to Article 2 of The Council Tax (Exempt Dwellings) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2019 - since you asked!

However if you live with someone who is not care experienced you may have to pay council tax.

Help to Save

- If you are on Universal Credit you can use Help to Save to save some of your money.
- You can save between £1 and £50 per month
- You receive a bonus at the end of the second and fourth year.
- This bonus is worth 50p for every £1 you save (assuming you don't take money out of the account) which is much higher than any interest you will get from saving with a bank
- To apply go to <https://www.gov.uk/get-help-savings-low-income>

What is the Youth Obligation Support Programme

It is a support programme for young people aged 18-21 making a new Universal Credit claim.

Support includes:

- Intensive Activity Programme;
- Work Search Reviews;
- Work Academies;
- Traineeships;
- Work experience

All elements of the programme are aiming to improve your chances of getting a job

For more information go to

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-18-to-21-year-olds-claiming-universal-credit>

UC YOUTH
OBLIGATION
SUPPORT
PROGRAMME



As part of Universal Credit, the Government have set up a programme to help young people find work.

Intensive Activity Programme

- A set of workshops and exercises that will help you think about your skills and job goals;
- Help you to identify any training you need.
- You will also be supported with your CV, interview skills and your job search activities.

Work Academies

- A method to provide you with the right skills to fill vacancies in your area.
- The academy can last up to 6 weeks and include: pre-employment training; a work experience placement; a guaranteed job interview
- Taking part in a sector-based work academy will improve your chances of getting into work.

Work Experience

- If work-related training is not the best way to help you into employment, you will be offered guaranteed work experience
- Available for a continuous period of 3 months,
- Will help you achieve your job goals.
- Work experience is voluntary but doing this will build your skills, confidence and CV.

Work Search Reviews

- Meetings with your work coach
- Support and coaching over the next 6 months
- The support you get will be tailored to your individual needs, and help with any barriers to work you may have.
- Your work coach may refer you to locally available support, for example: basic skills training, other work related training (including traineeships and sector-based work academy placements), work experience

Traineeships

Traineeships are for a minimum of 6 weeks and can last up to 6 months. They include:

- work preparation training
- English and maths support if required
- work experience placement



Have your National Insurance Number to hand as you are likely to need it when signing up to programmes such as this one.



If you are receiving support from the Leaving Care team in Isle of Anglesey, you will be able to access some financial support from them if you are living semi-independently or independently...

Housing

- If you are moving into your own flat/house the council will give you a grant
- This is called the Leaving Care Grant
- You will get up to £1500
- This is to help with essentials such as furniture, cooking equipment, fridge etc.
- They will also help with a deposit if needed



You are also entitled to support if you are accessing higher education. See our **'Benefits and Entitlements- Education'** resource for more information

ID

If you do not have one, the Local Authority will pay for the cost of:

- Birth certificate
- Passport

However this can only be requested once, so make sure you look after your documents once you have them!!

Leisure

- If you live on Isle of Anglesey you will get 12 months FREE membership to local leisure centres
- If you live out of county ask your personal advisor if you can get a similar membership where you live.

Happy Birthday!

- When you are in a placement, the foster carer or children's home gives you a birthday present.
- Once you move out of placement the local authority will give you money for each birthday and;
- money for Christmas/a religious festival

Driving

- If you **need** to learn to drive for a possible job or other suitable reason, Isle of Anglesey will pay some money towards driving lessons; theory test, cost of licence, cost of driving test



For more information about what you get from the Council, ask your personal advisor to give you a copy of the Council's **'Young Person's Guide to Financial Help and Support'** document

Clothes

- If you are aged under 18 you will receive vouchers to spend on clothes/shoes
- If you are aged over 18 you can ask for up money towards the cost of clothes for an interview

Summary of what you could get

Below gives a summary of what you could get if over 18 living semi-independently or independently, however what you receive is often based on what you need.

- Leaving Care Grant- **up to £1500**
- Accommodation deposit- **one month's rent**
- Birthday money
- Christmas/Religious festival- **money/voucher**
- Passport/Birth Certificate- **cost of application**
- Leisure Centre- **FREE access** for a year
- Driving- **some money towards lessons** IF needed
- Clothes- **money** for interview clothing

HELP FROM
ISLE OF
ANGLESEY
COUNCIL

UTILITIES GRANTS

What you could get (2019/2020)

Below is an example of what you could get, however you have to apply for each one separately and different factors may decide if you get the money or not

- Warm Home Discount Scheme **£140**
- Cold Weather Payment **£25** (for each 7 days)
- Welsh Water HelpU **£202.07**



Warm Home Discount Scheme

- If you are on a low income you may be able to apply to this scheme.
- You have to apply through your energy supplier (check a bill to see who this is)
- Unfortunately not every supplier offers this. Check who does:

<https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme/energy-suppliers>



Welsh Water HelpU

- If you are on low income, you may be able to apply to this scheme.
- Strict criteria applies
- <https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/My-Account/Helpu.aspx>

It can be quite costly living in your own home. This page suggests some things that could help.



You need to apply early as they only have a certain amount in their pot

Cold Weather Payment

- If you are unemployed AND have a health condition and/or a child under 5 you will receive this payment
- The payment is made if between 1 November and 31 March the temperature drops to zero (or below) for seven days or more



HELP!!

For help/ advice about applying for these: Citizens Advice Ynys Mon can help you. Contact: 03444 111444, angela.kenney@ynysmoncab.org.uk OR speak to your tenancy support officer.



It can be quite costly living in your own home.
This page suggests some things that could help.



Priority Services Register

- If you have a child under 5 or are a vulnerable person you can sign up
- You will get prior notice of power cuts
- Priority support in an emergency
- Bills suitable for your needs
- To apply:
- Water- 0800 052 0145

<https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/Self-Service/Other/Priority-Services.aspx>

- Electricity - 0800 096 3080

<https://www.westernpower.co.uk/customer-s-and-community/priority-services/priority-services-register>

- Gas- 02920 278558

<https://www.utilities.co.uk/services/safe-warm/priority-customers/priority-services-register/>

- You should also contact your energy supplier to let them know about your additional needs



Customer Assistance Fund

- A scheme offered by Welsh Water if you are struggling to keep up with your water bill
- This will make payments more manageable
- Realistic smaller instalments to be paid
- If you keep payments up for 6 months, your debt will be halved
- If you keep payments up for a further 6 months, your debt will be cleared



Speak to your energy supplier straight away if you are struggling to pay your bills

Warm Home Assistance

- If you are on low income/your heating costs are very high, you could apply to this scheme
- They could help with the cost of insulation or a new boiler
- For more information call Warm Wales 01656 747623 or
- <https://www.warmwest.org.uk/gas-connection-grants/>

Emergency Numbers

In case of an emergency to do with your utilities contact:

- Welsh Water - 0800 052 0130
- Electrical (Western Power)- 105
- Gas leak (Wales and West Utilities)

0800 111 999

UTILITIES

Citizens Advice

Another source of support is Citizens Advice Ynys Mon who offer:

- Debt Advice
- Benefits Support
- Energy use advice
- Advice about consumer issues (goods you have bought)

For further information go to

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/ynys-mon/>



Sometimes there are things you need now but can't afford. If this is the case, there may be some money you can apply for.....

St Davids Day Fund

- This is money available to help you live independent and successful lives.
- When it was set up, suggestions for its use included: driving lessons, interview clothes, equipment for work/college etc.
- The local Council decides how the money is spent



If you apply to the St Davids Day Fund make sure you say how it will help you and your wellbeing

Discretionary Assistance Fund

- Again this is a fund through the Council
- You may be able to apply to Emergency Assistance Fund
- This as it suggests is for an emergency, so if you have lost your money or are waiting for money to come in but need something now

<https://gov.wales/discretionary-assistance-fund-daf-application-form>

Capston Care Leavers Trust

- Provide grants for essential items such as a washing machine or sofa
- The trust covers England and Wales so money is limited
- You have to show you have applied to other places before applying here



HELP!!

For help or advice about applying for these speak with your Personal Advisor.

GRANTS AVAILABLE



FREE things? We all love them, if only more things in life were free! Here are a couple of examples relating to your health....

Your Health

For more information about what support you are entitled to around your health see Children in Wales' guide on health assessments and plans.

<http://www.childreninwales.org.uk/resources/looked-after-children/>

FREE THINGS

Dental Treatment

If any of the below applies to you, dental treatment will be free:

- 18 years old and in full time education
- If you are pregnant or have had a baby within the last 12 months



Did you know?

If you work and have to use a computer a lot of the time while in work, you are entitled to a free eye test from whoever employs you.

They also have to pay for glasses you need to use when working on the computer

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/msd/dse/eye-tests.htm>

Eye Test

You can get a free eye test if:

- you are aged 16,17 or 18 and in full time education
- On universal credit

Speak to your LAC nurse; doctor or PA about applying for free treatment

Wellbeing

- It is important you look after your own mental health and wellbeing
- For free tips and resources go to:
- <https://platform.org/project/young-people/>
- <https://youngminds.org.uk/>