



PLANT YNG NGHYMURU
CHILDREN IN WALES

Benefits and Entitlements

A young person's guide for
Caerphilly CBC

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

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

What UC you could get (2023/2024)

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

- Basic monthly allowance if you are single and under 25 **£292.11**
- Over 25 **£368.74**
- Basic monthly allowance if you are in a couple under 25 **£458.51**
- If you are in a couple over 25 **£578.82...**
- If you have 1 child **£315.00**
- For a second child **£269.58**
- 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



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.

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.
- You can also get UC to top up pay. For every £1 you earn your UC will go down by £0.50 unless you earn over the threshold. (go to www.turn2us.org.uk and use the benefits calculator for more information.
- 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 Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent could also support you with your claim

www.citizensadvicecbg.org.uk/

Council Tax

- As a care experienced young person you will not have to pay council tax if you live alone.
- Your social worker or PA will help you fill in the paperwork for this, alternatively go to:

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-tax/CTax-Care_Leavers_Discount.aspx

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 will have to pay council tax (with a 25% discount.



- 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
- 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.



What is the Youth Offer?

You can get extra help to find work through the DWP Youth Offer if you are 16-24 and claiming Universal Credit. You will continue to receive Universal Credit in line with your Claimant Commitment.

Support includes:

- Youth Employment Programme (traineeships, work experience or apprenticeships)
- Youth Hubs
- Youth Employability Coaches

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-16-to-21-year-olds-claiming-universal-credit>
For more information go to



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 'looked after' by Caerphilly County Borough Council, you may be able to get some extra financial support when you turn 16...

Am I eligible?

Whether or not you get extra help from the 16+ team in Caerphilly CBC depends on:

- If you are 'looked after' by Caerphilly CBC (**if you are not, your local authority will have its own list of financial help available for care leavers**)
- What your individual needs are for specific items and support



Employment

- If you have a job when you are 16/17, you will still get a personal allowance if you earn less than £232 per week
- The exact amount you get depends on how much you earn- ask your Personal Advisor
- Your housing costs will be covered if you earn less than £232 per week
- If you earn over £232 per week you will not get a personal allowance or help with housing costs

Personal Allowance

If you are a young person of Caerphilly CBC aged 16 or 17 years old living independently you are likely to receive an allowance.

How much you receive depends on whether:

- You have a job or not
- If you are on a training scheme or not
- If you are in education (College or project such as Llamau Learning 4 Life)

To find out more speak to your Personal Ddvisor or Social Worker.



To find out what help you can get, speak to your Personal Advisor/Social Worker

Other money!

- Birthdays- you may get a small financial payment on your 18th and 21st birthday
- Clothing- you can get up to £50 every 3 months if you are still a "child looked after" and living independently.

Caerphilly 16+ Team Financial Policy

- The information in this document is a summary of information available in Caerphilly CBC's 16+ Team Financial Policy
- For more detailed information about what you could receive speak to your Social Worker or Personal Advisor and/or ask for a copy of the Financial Policy.

SUPPORT
FROM 16+
TEAM

UTILITIES GRANTS

What you could get (2023)

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**
- **Wales Fuel Support Scheme £200**
- **If you are on Universal Credit you will get up to 3 payments of an additional £301, £300 and £299 during the year.**
- Cold Weather Payment **£25** (for each 7 days)
- Welsh Water HelpU **£250**



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

Warm Home Discount Scheme



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

- 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>



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

Wales Fuel Support Scheme



Due to the cost of living crisis and rocketing energy bills the Welsh Government has offered a one off cash payment scheme of £200 payable via your local authority. You need to make contact to receive this and will not be paid automatically. Contact Caerphilly CBC on 01443 815588.

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>



UTILITIES

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



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



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

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/>



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 and should be used flexibly.
- 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

Citizens Advice

Another source of support is Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent who offer:

- Money Advice Project
- Money Skills
- Welfare Rights Support
- Energy Advice
- Community Drop ins
- Debt Advice

For further information go to

www.citizensadvicecbg.org.uk/

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>



HELP!!

For help or advice about applying for these speak with your Personal Advisor/Social Worker

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

Knapman Fund

- Provides up to £500 grant for household goods, training and employment, emergency living costs, education and other to apply go to

<https://www.nyas.net/news-and-campaigns/news/the-knapman-fund-a-brand-new-fund-for-young-people-leaving-care/>

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/>