



COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME – HARDSHIP POLICY

Addendum to Council Tax Hardship Fund Policy effective from 1st April 2018.

SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS

1. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils requiring them to have regard to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.
2. In recognition of the challenges young people face transitioning out of the care system into adulthood, additional support will be provided to young adults leaving the care of Worcestershire County Council and living in the Bromsgrove District, to cover the shortfall between Council Tax liability and payment of Council Tax Support.
3. Net liability for council tax and after council tax support will be reduced to zero, until the care leaver's 25th birthday, whilst they are living independently, in the district and liable to pay Council Tax.
4. Worcestershire County Council are required to provide details of care leavers meeting this criteria as soon as possible to avoid over payment of council tax, and reduce the need for refunds.
5. The award will be made directly to the relevant council tax account for which the care leaver is liable and for which council tax support is in payment for all or part of the relevant financial year. There will be no cash alternative.
6. A care leaver is defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date.
7. Where any other criteria might apply for example, a care leaver living with partner and jointly liable, a financial assessment would be carried out to understand financial need and appropriate level of additional support to be provided.