

**SUPPORTING
CHILDREN IN CARE
AND CARE LEAVERS**

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Northampton College recognises that Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers are experiencing many changes in their lives.

We support a smooth transition into college and onto adulthood by providing a safe and stable environment in which students can set and achieve their aspirations.

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SUPPORT STAFF

Our Vulnerable Students Officer is the designated teacher for young people in care. They coordinate support tailored to the needs of individual students by working with our curriculum, learning support and student services teams and with external professionals in the young person's life, such as their social worker, personal advisor and virtual school representative. They also liaise with the young person's carers.

The College fully engages with the Personal Education Plan (PEP) process. The PEP is the statutory tool used to ensure that the young person's education is actively prioritised, their progress is carefully tracked and they are supported to achieve. Each student in care has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) twice annually, up until their 18th birthday.

These meetings will usually be attended by the Vulnerable Students Officer, the student, social worker, personal adviser, and guardian (sometimes parents may attend if they are a part of the young person's life). The Vulnerable Students Officer will meet with the student before the meeting to discuss any concerns and wishes to ensure that the young person's views and goals are discussed.

All children in care (CIC) have a statutory care plan, which is drawn up and reviewed by the Local Authority that looks after them. The Personal Education Plan (PEP) is a legal part of the care plan, which is a statutory requirement for CIC from a child of three years old if in education provision up to the age of 18.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE LEARNERS

The defined vulnerable groups are students who are:

- In care
 - Care leavers (under 19-years-old at the start of the academic year).
 - Receiving income support, or universal credit because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them such as a child or partner.
 - Receiving disability living allowance or personal independence payments in their own right as well as employment and support allowance or universal credit in their own right.
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The Vulnerable Bursary is provided to support relevant costs for education (to a maximum award of £1,200) to cover essential course costs including kit, equipment and travel (pro rata for courses less than 30 weeks).

The College will consider all reasonable requests for the balance of an award to be used for additional relevant activities or items that aid the development of a student's education i.e. additional books.

Relevant additional costs will be identified by college staff together with the student as part of the College support process (i.e. one to one or PEP Meeting).

Northampton College has made a commitment to provide all students aged under 19 with a laptop or Chromebook to support their studies. This item will be loaned for the duration of the academic year.

We are unable to support the purchase of laptops or personal computers through the bursary.

Students will receive an email detailing how to apply to the Student Bursary Scheme. Please be aware students will need to provide and upload a letter to confirm CIC/Leaving Care Status – this will be provided by the allocated Social Worker/Personal Advisor.

Please note, it will be the responsibility of the student to cover the cost of transport/meals until their bursary has been awarded. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer reimbursements.



For further information or support please contact

Emma Attree, Looked After Children and Students at Risk Coordinator,
by calling 01604 734266 or emailing
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