

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Date:	6 December 2012
Title:	Financial support for care leavers
Reference:	4282
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

Contact name: Stephen Handforth, Area Director, Children and Families

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. The Executive Lead Member for Children's Services agree the following financial policy decisions:
- 1.2. To extend Hampshire's 'Staying Put' policy to support care leavers aged between 18 to 19 years old in employment or actively seeking activity
- 1.3. That Children's Services support the travel costs for care leavers aged 18 to 19 in employment or actively seeking activity for a defined period of time
- 1.4. That Children's Services implement a young people's contribution policy from 1 April 2013
- 1.5. That the updated university financial support proposal be agreed and implemented for all students from September 2013
- 1.6. That Children's Services increase the Setting Up Home allowance to a maximum of £2000 per young person dependent upon the individual needs of the young person.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Agreeing the above proposals will enable Children's Services to further support care leavers at critical transition periods in their lives
- 2.2. Young people will be financially supported to enable them to progress their education thereby improving their life chances and access to opportunities
- 2.3. The proposals support Hampshire's Children in Care pledge
- 2.4. It is anticipated that there will be improvements to performance indicators NI147 and 148.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. To make no further changes to the financial support provided to care leavers is an option. However, to make no changes would impact most upon those care leavers who are choosing to take an employment route rather than an education one and there is equal value in both. For those who are not in activity access to financial support to maintain their accommodation for a defined period of time could make the difference thus enabling them to find employment or enter into further education/training.

3.2. **Conflicts of interest:**

3.3. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.

3.4. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

4. **Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:** none.

5. **Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent:** not applicable.

6. **Statement from the Decision Maker:**

Approved by:

Date:

6 December 2012

**Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
Councillor Roy Perry**