

## Leaving Care Status - Former Relevant Children

*I am 18. I've got my own flat which is paid for by housing benefit. I am at college and my course ends in the summer. I am a Former Relevant Child and can claim income support and housing benefit. My fees are being paid for me up until the age of 19. I need help with books, equipment and also with fares to get to college. Social Care have to help me as this is in my pathway plan. Social Care will always keep in touch with me to review my pathway plan and provide me with a personal adviser.*

You can claim benefits like any other person who is 18. If you're on benefits or a low income you can claim housing benefit. Social Care do not have to pay for your ordinary living expenses but should continue to pay for extra things that are set out in your pathway plan. Any extra money you get from Social Care will not be taken into account in working out your benefits. In particular, Social Care must help you with expenses connected with your work, education or training. See the Benefits, Education and Training Section for more information.

By the time you are 18 Social Care should have found you somewhere to live. If this hasn't worked out, the law now says that Former Relevant Children are in priority need which means that the Housing Department should give you somewhere to live if you are homeless.