



Renfrewshire
Council

Supported Carers Newsletter Autumn/Winter

Spring 2016



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Welcome to the latest edition of our Supported Carers newsletter

We would like to take this opportunity to keep you up to date with developments in the service and to inform you about recent improvements in support for care experienced young people, particularly financial support with education and council tax

We also thank you all for the support that you continue to provide for Renfrewshire Council young people. It is acknowledged that young people in supported carer placements thrive with your support. A number of young people are continuing in education, either at college or university and the majority of those not in education are employed.

We value your views and would welcome any comments or contributions that you feel that you would like to make. We would particularly appreciate any suggestions on how we can improve support, both to our carers, and to the young people in your care.

Supported Carers Consultation

We are planning to hold a consultation meeting with our carers on at the Throughcare office in Paisley within the next few weeks. The meeting will be an opportunity for our supported carers to meet and network with each other and for staff to discuss how we can improve support and develop the service. Refreshments will be provided and you are all welcome to come along.

GOOD NEWS FOR CARE LEAVERS



Council Tax Exemptions

In our last newsletter, we had included some information about the Scottish Governments plan to introduce council tax exemptions for Care leavers. This plan has now been fully implemented and will benefit all Renfrewshire Council young people currently in supported carer placements when they move to their own tenancy. The exemption will apply up until the young person's 26th birthday if they are living alone.

Young People sharing their accommodation with a partner or friend, who is not a care leaver, are entitled to a council tax discount of 25%.

This is a welcome development which will clearly benefit our young people and hopefully make the transition to living independently less costly and stressful. When a young person is moving to their own tenancy Throughcare staff will be able to offer advice on how to claim the exemption.

Support for young people in education

Earlier this year the Scottish Government implemented a significant increase in the financial support for care experienced young people in further and higher education.

Nicola Sturgeon announced, "with further investment of more than £5 million, we will increase the grant for every care experienced young person at college or university to £8,100 - that's equivalent to the real living wage.

The Care Experienced FE bursary will rise from £4,185 to £8,100 and the Care Experienced HE bursary will rise from £7,625 to £8,100. Both will take effect in this financial year, 2018/19.

News for Supported Carers

Carers Act

The Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 came into force on the 1st April 2018.

The Act provides new rights to carers in a number of areas. These include:

- a duty for local authorities to provide support to carers, based on the carer's identified needs which meet the local eligibility criteria
- a requirement for local authorities to have an information and advice service for carers which provides information and advice on, amongst other things, emergency and future care planning, advocacy, income maximisation and carers' rights.
- The carers centre in Renfrewshire is located and can be contacted for additional advice and support.

News for Supported Carers

Annual reviews

We are currently looking at the possibility of carrying out reviews for carers who live out with the authority via Skype. We are aware that some of you have had to travel a considerable distance to attend your review. If you feel that using Skype at your next review would be more convenient, then please talk to your link worker.

Inspection

The Supported Carers Service is due to be inspected within the next few weeks. The inspector has in the past asked to meet with a group of our carers and has also visited individual carers, so you may be contacted by the care inspector in the near future.

Training Opportunities

You will have recently received an e-mail regarding an online training opportunity provided by CELCIS, the Centre for Excellence for Looked After Children in Scotland. This free course is titled, "Caring for Vulnerable Children" and can be accessed by visiting the CELCIS website. One of our Supported Carers completed the course last year and found it to be very informative. We would recommend that you consider taking part in this course.

I-Learn

As part of our efforts to develop training for supported carers we have arranged for you to have access to the Renfrewshire Council I-Learn system. There are several online courses which may be of interest to you and we would encourage you to make use of this training opportunity. To access the system, you should click on this link then log on using a temporary employee number which you will be sent by e-mail. Your password will be your surname in capital letters, you will be asked to create a new password when you first log on. If you have any difficulty in accessing I-Learn, please contact your link worker. We look forward to hearing your feedback

<https://tracking.brightwave.co.uk/LNT/Renfrewshire/Index.aspx>

(To access this link, HOLD Ctrl and click on the link above)

Services for young people at the St. James`s Centre

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The Throughcare Team is based in Paisley at the St. James Centre. There is a duty system in operation from Monday to Friday and if you or the young person in your care can't get hold of your own worker the duty worker can be contacted on 0141 618 4531.

There are also various groups for young people which take place at St. James`s during the week:

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL GROUP

As the name suggests, this is an opportunity for young people to take part in a game of football. Staff and Young People participate and the group is held at Ultimate Indoor Soccer in Paisley. Young people wishing to take part can ask their Throughcare worker for more information.

FRIDAY LUNCH CLUB

Each Friday lunch is provided at the St. James Centre for the young people supported by Throughcare. Workers from all of the services based at The St. James Centre are on hand for advice and support and there is a chance to meet other young people and take part in activities such as playing pool and air hockey.

Useful Numbers—Throughcare and Aftercare

St James Centre

10 St James Street,

Paisley PA3 2HT

Switchboard: 0141 618 4531

Kausar Heaney, Service manager

Andrew Ferrie: 0141 618 5782 Mobile: 077953354080



Young Peoples Throughcare workers:

Paul Kyprianou 0141 618 4531

Carin Coyle 0141 618 4531

Kenny MacKenzie 0141 618 4531

Karen Metcalf 0141 618 4531

Amanda Fairhurst 0141 618 4531

Colin Goodall 0141 618 4531

Kelly Collins 0141 618 4531

Alex Morrison 0141 618 4531

Donald Walker, Who Cares 0141 226 4441 Mobile: 0772500709

Out Of Hours Service: Glasgow and Partners Emergency Social Work Services. 0300 343 1505