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# Money matters 16 to 17 years old

Last Modified July 07, 2025



This information was designed to help you the financial support you can receive from Blackpool Council if you are aged 16 or 17 and you are living in semi-independent or independent accommodation.

Some of the financial support is dependent on where you live; other support will be based on an assessment of your needs. It is important to talk to your social worker and/or personal adviser about what might be available to you.

## Your money

You are entitled to a weekly allowance up until you reach 18.

The table below tells you how much you are entitled to depending on the type of home you live in.

Make sure you have your own bank account so we can pay this money into

Where you live	The amount we pay you	How will this be paid
Live on your own and pay for bills and food	£78.15	Into bank
Utilities are paid by where you live, but you pay for food	£65.30	Into bank
Utilities and food are paid for by where you live	£52.55	Into bank

## Education and training

We want to support you to succeed in your studies and we will be there for you to achieve your qualifications and achievements along the way.

We can support you financially to buy items up to £175 for things you might need such as books, educational visits or field trips and any equipment you might need.

So how can we help you succeed

Help available	How much	How this will be paid
16 to 19 bursary this is for those in full time education.	£40 per week for 30 weeks	The college or learning provider will arrange this with you

If you are not able to claim the 16 to 19 bursary then we will support you with £10 per week and a bus pass. You will need to be in:

- Full time education, training course or voluntary activity
- We also support you with the following, to help you in your study

Grant	Amount	How this will be paid
Stationery grant	£25	Your PA will take you shopping
Educational visit grant	£100	We will pay the visit organiser
Books and other equipment	£150	Your PA will take you shopping

## Studying at Level 2 to 3 or learning English?

Your PA will help you to choose a laptop to help you with your level 2 to level 3 course or if you are studying English as a second language.

This can cost up to £325. We can only support you once with this.

## Apprenticeships

If you are on an apprenticeship with a local employer it is a full time job which combines training, work and study, you learn as you earn. An apprenticeship can take anything from a minimum of 1 year but can last up to 4 years, depending on the qualification you are taking, either level 2 to level 4.

If you are on an apprenticeship with your local employer it is the learning provider who you/your employer has enrolled with who pay this.

For apprentices who have started their apprenticeship before 31 July 2023, the bursary is £3000.00. This is paid in 3 instalments of £1,000 over the first year providing that you are still in the apprenticeship at 60, 120 and 300 days after you start. This money is paid to the apprenticeship training provider.

[More details and to ensure you are eligible to receive this bursary](#)

## Jobs in the family firm

Blackpool Council operates a priority initiative that enables care leavers to apply for council vacancies at the internal advert stage. On occasion and where appropriate there are also jobs/apprenticeships that are ring-fenced for our young people. Please speak to your personal adviser about a Greater Jobs account.

## Care Leaver Covenant

Blackpool Council is a member of the Care Leaver Covenant and has access to England's largest network of professionals who support care-experienced young people. The covenants support is wide ranging and can include mentoring, interview clothes and accessed to employment opportunities. Please speak to your personal adviser about a Connect account.

## If you are employed

This just tells you what financial support we can help with.

What	Amount	How will this be paid
If you need special equipment and your employer does not provide it?	£100	Shopping with your PA
Interview clothes	Varies depending on need	Shopping with your PA

If you need any support in gaining or keeping a job please speak to your personal adviser. We have access to a number of resources to support including help with qualifications, extra ID and travel cost.

## Identification

You will be supported to obtain formal ID documents including passports, provisional driving licences and a Citizencard. Your social worker will help you apply for your National Insurance number.

If you do not have any of the others, then ask your social worker and/or PA who will support you to apply for these.

ID we can support with	Amount	How will it be paid
Passport - we will pay for one passport this could be your first or a renewal	£94.50 (Online) £107.00 (paper)	Direct to the Passport Office
Birth certificate	£12.50 (With a GRO search it is an additional £3.50) £38.50 (expedited)	Direct to the registrar
Changing name by deed poll	£53.05	Online payment
Citizencard – Only the initial card	Free via your PA	Your PA will have to apply for this

## Getting about

We know that seeing your family and other people is important to you. This section tells you all about our support with getting about.

Transport	Amount we can support you with	How will this be paid
Bus pass - if you need help to get to work	Weekly or monthly	Your social worker will organise this for you/either a paper bus pass or through Blackpool Transport app
Bus pass - if you need help to get to college/6th form	Weekly or monthly	You will be able to get this bus pass through your college/6th form
Time with your family or important people who do not live in or close to Blackpool	Approximately £150 per year	Your social worker will organise
If you need to attend court	Travel warrant	Your social worker or PA will organise.

# Driving lessons

You can apply for a provisional driving licence in the UK when you are 15 years and 9 months old. This can be for to start your driving lessons for either a car, motorbike or moped.

You must have no convictions for driving-related offences, and we can help you with the cost of learning to drive.

## Learning to drive a car

Once you have saved for your five lessons and provided receipts from a qualified driving instructor, we will support you with another five lessons (making a total of ten funded lessons in addition to your contribution).

Please speak to your personal adviser (PA) or the duty care leaving team if you would like this support.

We will pay for:

- One provisional driving licence
- One theory test
- Five driving lessons with a qualified instructor
- One practical driving test

To receive this support, you must:

- Be in education, training, or employment for at least three months
- Pay for the first 5 driving lessons yourself

## Learning to ride a motorbike or moped

To ride on public roads you first need to obtain your provisional licence and then complete the compulsory basic training course (CBT) to get a certificate which includes a practical and theory test.

We will pay for:

- One provisional driving licence
- The first initial cost to pay for your CBT basic training course

# Birthdays and religious festivals

As a celebration for your birthday, we will ask you what birthday present you would like.

Also for those of you celebrating religious festivals such as Eid, we would like to buy you a gift of your choice.

Birthday	Amount	How will this be paid
17th birthday	£25	Talk to your social worker to discuss what gift you would like
18th birthday	£100	Talk to your social worker to discuss what gift you would like
Birthday meal	£20	Talk to your social worker to have a chat about this

There might be certain times in the year where you want to celebrate your culture and/or religion and we wanted to make sure that you can do this

Culture celebration	Amount	How will this be paid
Christmas	£100	Your social worker will buy a gift that you would like

Eid	£100 (instead of Christmas)	Your social worker will buy a gift that you would like
Other cultural activities	£100 (instead of Christmas)	Your social worker will buy a gift that you would like

## Co-production

We want to make sure our services that we offer are right for you, therefore, we offer an incentive of £10 (voucher) when you get involved in co-production with us

## Passport to Leisure

All young people can have access to a Passport to Leisure card. The scheme provides free and reduced access to leisure provision for all of our children and young people up to the age of 25 years.

The scheme entitles the individual to free and discounted access to the activities outlined below at the following locations:

- Palatine Leisure Centre, 207 St Annes Road, Blackpool, FY4 2AP
- Blackpool Sports Centre, West Park Drive, Blackpool, FY3 9HQ
- Moor Park Health & Leisure Centre, Bristol Avenue, Blackpool, FY2 0JG

You are able to access the following at these sites:

Free activities:

- Casual swimming, badminton, table tennis\*, fitness room access, casual rock climbing and bouldering, athletics track

\*Free use of badminton and table tennis court, enables the individual to bring a friend to play with for free.

Half price instructor led activities, including: gymnastics, rock climbing courses, exercise classes, swimming lessons, roller skating, netball coaching and basketball coaching/ You can also download the Active Blackpool app from your app store.

### Don't live in Blackpool?

Don't worry we will check to see if there is an free alternative leisure card for you to apply for or if not, we will pay for a gym membership in the area you live. You will need to discuss this with your social worker.

## Other financial support we can offer

Here are other things that we do to help and support you. The table below outlines these for you.

What	Amount	How will this be paid
Initial clothing allowance	£200 (this only available if you come into our care at 16/17 and are in semi-independent or independent accommodation)	Your social worker will arrange
Clothing	£20 per week	Your social worker will arrange
Co-production - help us to shape services for care experienced children and young people in Blackpool	£10	You will receive a voucher of your choice - Your social worker will arrange this for you.





<p>Luggage - we have bags from Mad Lug and Comfort cases that are available for you – please just ask your PA. If this is not suitable or you need more case we will buy luggage for you.</p>	<p>£50</p>	<p>Shopping with your PA</p>
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We hope you found this money matters helpful?

Remember, we are always here for you and just telephone, text or catch up with your social worker or PA to tell you more about how we can offer you support with your money.

**Additional information**

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