



Care Leavers National Movement
Couzens Building CO3A
Crewe Green Road
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 5DU

Dear Project Lead

The Care Leavers National Movement (CLNM) is made up of young people representing each Local House Project. It aims to improve outcomes for young people who are members of all Local House Projects and also the wider care leaver community. CLNM meets on a regular basis to share areas of good practice, areas of practice that they think could be improved and new ideas that they would like to test out.

The CLNM met on 14th March 2020 and it was good to hear how well staff and young people were working together to enable a positive move to independent living.

In relation to raising areas of practice that can be improved on they have asked me to raise the issue of Christmas and birthday allowances. These allowances are paid for all young people who remain in their placements up until the age of 18. For young people who move into their own accommodation before then, however, these allowances cease.

Whilst we appreciate the pressure on local authority budgets this seems unfair and, if this is the case in your local authority, we would ask you to review this policy. Young people living alone manage on a small budget and can afford few luxuries. If they continued to receive these allowances, it would enable them to celebrate in the same way as other young people and also give a clear message that they remain important to the people who have a corporate responsibility towards them.

Further discussions were held on the Leaving Care Grant and the variance in the amount between different local authorities. Can you please confirm how much your Local Authority offers as a leaving care grant and whether this is all accessible at a single time to the young person? Can you also let us know what happens to any remaining monies that the young person has not spent and whether this money is transferred to them and at what point.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Date: Monday 30th March 2020

Yours Sincerely



Rosie Blackett

On behalf of Care Leavers National Movement

Young People's Participation and Development Worker

Care Leavers National Movement - The National House Project

E: Rosie@thehouseproject.org

T: 01270 215888

M:07791467385