

CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE



HARINGEY

LEAVING CARE HANDBOOK

Designed and printed by the Communication Unit

LEAVING CARE SERVICE

The Old Building, Compton Crescent, London N17 7LD
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www.haringey.gov.uk

HARINGEY COUNCIL

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The Leaving Care Service wishes to thank Andrew for all his hard work, the drawings, the initial idea and his help in making this handbook happen.

We provide a safe and positive environment for you, so that you can explore the realities of your life in an environment that you can identify with.

We work with 'looked after' young people in an equal and fair way and recognise them as individuals, with qualities that need an opportunity for personal growth and development.

We develop a personal programme, which will help you acquire self-confidence and the ability for independent creative thought.

We provide a range of education and employment advice so that you are prepared for your independence and feel supported beyond 18.

We will assess your readiness for accommodation.

We continually review the assessments completed by you and caring professionals.

We ensure that you have information about your rights and entitlements whilst in care and after care.

We ensure that you know where and how to access local resources.

The staff consist of:

Social workers, personal adviser, education, training and employment worker, housing officer, supported lodging, network co-ordinator and administration staff.

How we will help you:

You will be allocated a leaving care social worker who will provide you with information about the range of assessments that are undertaken, how long these will take and why we review your pathway plan when you are 18 and over. It is their duty and responsibility to give you information, educate you towards your independence and keep in contact with you and give you details of who to contact when they are not in the office.

What we need from you:

Tell us what you think about our service by

- (a) filling out any questionnaires we send you
- (b) writing a letter to a social worker letting us know what is working for you and what is not
- (c) speaking to the Network Co-ordinator
- (d) letting us know about your compliments or complaints at your review
- (e) writing in your newsletter.

Give us ideas on how to improve this service by speaking to all or one of the above mentioned. This is your service and your voice matters to us.

Complete surveys and help us to bring about change.

Join our user group and take part in activities and annual conferences.





Our rules:

- Treat people with respect.
- No alcohol, drugs or weapons on the premises. Do not damage the property or use aerosol sprays on the premises.
- Abusive or violent behaviour will lead to you being excluded from the building for a period of time.
- We want you fairly treated and offer you the best service possible with respect to your race, culture, religion, disability, gender, or sexuality.

What we provide for you:

Written information for young people leaving care.

Continuous assessment of need, care plan and pathway plans which are reviewed every six months.

A personal adviser.

Keep in contact.

Duty drop-in service.

Support and assistance on issues such as:

Leaving care grants

Housing

Benefits

Budgeting

Education/training

Employment/unemployment

One off leaving care grant

Health matters

Independence training

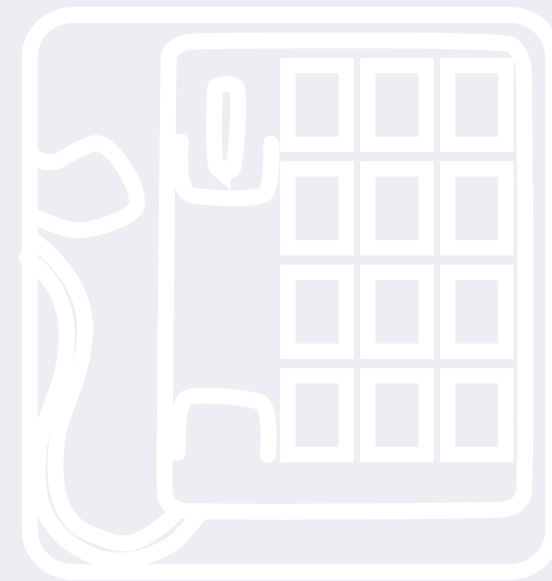
Legal advice

Address: Leaving Care Team
The Old Building
Compton Crescent
London
N17 7LD

Telephone No: 020 8489 5800

Fax No: 020 8489 5858

Opening Times: 9.00am – 5.00pm





The Haringey Leaving Care Team is committed to offering support, advice and assistance to its care leavers who are looked after by Haringey Social Services. Part of this service requires us to find you accommodation and to plan your future housing needs. There are different types of housing available for young people, this is mainly determined by your age and the skills you have to live independently.

Following a discussion between you and your social worker your housing options will be considered and the most appropriate type of accommodation to meet your needs will be allocated to you.

If you are under 18, it is likely that supported housing will be more suitable for you.

If you are over 18, Haringey's Housing Department will offer you permanent accommodation. Your skills to cope on your own will be discussed and this will tell us if you're ready for permanent accommodation.

Once your move has been agreed you will be nominated to Central Allocations where the approximate waiting time for a one bedroom flat is one year. Care leavers who are parents and waiting for two-bedroom accommodation may have to wait longer.

The Haringey Leaving Care Team has its own in-house housing workers to help you deal with any housing and related problems. This service works with young people who are placed in temporary or permanent housing owned by the Council. It enables us to immediately deal with your problems, have a better understanding of your needs and provides us with information, which allows us to meet these needs.

The housing worker will discuss the options available with you and explain what is expected of you when we assess your needs. They will give you information on the range of local amenities available to you in Haringey, be a constant source support and keep an assessment of your progress.

We prefer that all those referred for independent housing have taken part in our independent skills training. If you would like more information about this training course contact your social worker.



Will I get my permanent place when I am 16?

No. Permanent housing can only be offered to people 18 and over. This does not mean that you will automatically get your flat at 18. However, you will be housed before you are 21. Your housing will be planned as part of your regular assessments.

How can I develop my skills to live independently?

Social Services have a duty to prepare each young person who is 'looked after' for their independence. That means your social worker and/or personal adviser will ensure that you have the skills to live independently before you leave care.

How am I taught these skills?

About three months before your 16th birthday you will have a needs assessment. This is completed by you with a leaving care social worker, children and families social worker and any other person who supports you. The assessment will allow the leaving care social worker to have some basic knowledge about you.

The pathway plan will guide you towards your independence. Your social worker will teach you the purpose of each plan, how you will be guided and supported and how to learn the skills to be more confident in your independence.

Do I need help?

We know having your freedom and not always having someone telling you what to do can be exciting. But for some young people it feels lonely and can be too much to cope with. Remember, it's a big leap from having someone to rely on to having to think and plan ahead for yourself.

The key to coping is to take one step at a time, listen to advice and learn from your own experiences and that of others. It is important that you are not afraid to ask for help, if you need it.





You may find the following checklist helpful:

- What are the pros of me staying where I am?
- What are cons of me staying where I am?
- What skills do I think I need to live independently?
- Do I have these skills?
- Where can I get help with any of the skills I have listed that I don't have?
- Am I well prepared to live alone?
- How much help and support am I going to need?
- Will I get this support where I want to go?

How can I demonstrate responsibility to cope alone?

You can demonstrate this by:

- Keeping your appointments with your social worker.
- Showing that you have learnt the tasks that were given to you.
- Attending independence training skills groups.
- Attending your planning meetings and reviews.
- Helping us to plan for your independence and be prepared for your move.

Wherever you live, you'll need to get some idea of how to handle independence before experiencing it. Foster carers, social workers and residential staff will give you advice about living on your own.

Your rights

- You have the right to be taught the necessary preparation skills before leaving care. These include basic cooking, ironing, washing, budgeting, education, employment and health and safety skills.



- Your carer will help you to develop your skills within the home.
- If you feel that your skills are not being developed discuss this at your review, or in your one to one with your social worker or personal adviser.
- If you have a disability or a special need make sure these needs are met by speaking to your social worker.

What type of housing is available?

- Supported lodgings – (this is explained on page 12 and 13 of this booklet).
- Semi independence – Shared housing with other young people. Each share house has its own key worker.
- Training flat – Semi independent housing with tenancy support.
- Permanent – Secure accommodation owned by the Housing Department.

When the time is right your social worker will discuss and give you more information about any or all of the above housing choices and what application forms you will need to fill out.

What if I want to move out of Haringey?

If you have a need that requires you to be housed outside of Haringey e.g. you are in full-time education or you have evidence of local connections in another borough, we will speak with a housing provider in that area and ask them if they are able to assist you in being re-housed.

If you have lived in another borough for most of your time in care and have developed strong links there, we will continue to support you.





It is important that you understand we cannot influence another boroughs housing decision, but we will do our best to advocate on your behalf.

Please note once you have a permanent flat you can register with a mutual exchange or mobility scheme to move to another location.

We advise you to be flexible in your choice of areas you are willing to live in as this helps find you accommodation quicker.

How will you help me settle me into my new place?

A leaving care grant may be available. This financial assistance helps you buy items for your permanent flat. A resettlement worker will also be involved in your move to help you settle into your new home.

What is supported lodging?

Supported lodging is accommodation which is available to 16-18 years olds. You will live in a supported lodging carers home as a member of the household, but you do not have to become part of the family. With the support of the carer and your social worker, you'll be able to take responsibility for yourself, making your own choices and decisions.

The focus of supported lodging is to help you gain the skills you will need to live on your own. Although most young people feel they know everything about living on their own, it is nice to have the support of an adult during your preparation for this big step to independence.

Supported lodging is about helping you to prepare for living on your own and making your future successful.

Isn't supported lodging just another name for foster care?

No. Supported lodgings are not the same as foster care. Carers are not there to take the place of your family or to make decisions for you. This is a new step on your way to becoming independent and carers are there to encourage this. Supported lodging carers are available to help you and act as a mentor, not as a parent.



Will I have my own room?

Yes. In supported lodgings you will have your own bedroom, which will be fully furnished. The kitchen, lounge and bathroom will be shared with the carers.

How much does supported lodging cost?

Lodging costs are met by the Leaving Care Team or Housing Benefit, if you qualify for assistance.

You may be asked to pay something toward the cost of your accommodation if you are able to do so, as being responsible for paying rent is an important part of preparing to live on your own. The exact amount that you will be asked pay depends on your income.

In supported lodging some meals may be provided for an agreed period at the beginning of the placement, you will be encouraged to shop for yourself and prepare your own meals. However, you will make a contribution towards these meals. Lodging also covers hot water, heating and lighting.

You will have to budget your own money and pay for some of your living expenses. This will include clothes, toiletries, and fares etc. You will be offered help if necessary.

Can I meet the carer before a placement?

Yes. Before you agree to a supported lodging placement you will meet the carer in their home. These meetings are informal and a chance for you and the carer to get to know each other. Your social worker and the supported lodging coordinator will also be at this meeting.

If you want to meet the lodgings carer again without a social worker there, this can be arranged. We can also arrange for you to stay overnight or for a weekend with the carer, this will help you decide if you want the placement. Supported lodging placements only go ahead if both you and the carer feel comfortable with it.





If you have other questions about supported lodging, please contact the supported lodging co-ordinator on 020 8489 5807 or ask your social worker for further details.



It is time for you to start planning your future. This is not always easy. Often it is hard enough knowing what you are going to do tomorrow, let alone what you will be doing in six months. But you're not alone in deciding what it is you want to do, there are people in the Leaving Care Team who can help you. You can also get help from your education, training and employment advisor, personal advisor, reviewing officer or social worker.

Once you have finished school, there are many options available for you:

- College
- Higher education
- Youth training
- Apprenticeship
- Full-time employment

Whatever you decide you want to do in the future have confidence, believe in yourself and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

The Government offers all young people a 'Learning Entitlement' which is extra money for remaining in further education. This is to encourage all young people to continue with their education after leaving school, to improve their job prospects.

This means you have:

- The right to expert advice, information, and guidance from your local careers adviser.
- The right to carry on learning, whatever you're doing after school.
- The opportunity to train in order to gain a qualification to NVQ level.

One of the options available under the 'Learning Entitlement', is work based learning. This enables you to get further qualifications whilst having a job and getting paid.





Modern apprenticeships

If you are interested in doing a modern apprenticeship, in most cases you will have to find a company, which will employ you and support you throughout your studies.

There are two types of modern apprenticeships:

- Foundation modern apprenticeship – This offers you employment, where training to NVQ level 2 and any additional training required by your employer is guaranteed.
- Advanced modern apprenticeship – This offers you employment, where training to NVQ level 3, plus any additional training required by your employer is guaranteed.

You can get advice on modern apprenticeships from an education, training and employment advisor or a Connexions personal advisor on 020 8808 0333.

New Deal

New Deal was designed by the Government to help unemployed people aged 18 – 24 get a job. To qualify for this scheme you will need to have been out of work for six months or more and claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA). After the 'Gateway' – a period of job search, help and advice, during which you and your personal advisor will draw up an action plan, you will have four options to choose from:

- Work in a subsidised job with an employer.
- Work with the Task Force.
- Work in the voluntary sector.
- Full time education and/or training to obtain a recognised qualification.

For more information on New Deal, contact your local job centre, careers office, personal adviser or education, training and employment adviser.



How to decide

When deciding what to do with your future, sit down and think about what you enjoy doing. Do you enjoy being indoors, or being outdoors? Do you enjoy being by yourself or do you prefer being with people? Would you prefer to be sitting at a desk or moving around?

Thinking about all these will help you decide what sort of career would suit you. Now that was the easy part, now you have to decide what sort of education, training and qualifications you'll need.

If you get stuck, or are unsure which course would suit your needs, or just want some general advice, you can contact the education, training and employment adviser, local job centre or careers service, who are all trained to help you.

Registering for work

Before your 16th birthday you should receive your National Insurance card, this has your National Insurance number on it. Everybody over the age of 16 should have their own card. Your National Insurance number is used as a tax code. When you go and register for work at your careers office or job centre make sure you take this card with you, so staff can process your forms without delay. Once you have registered, you must keep in contact with them, as they do have the right to cut benefits that you may be entitled to. You may also need your card when you apply for certain training courses.

Note: If you have not received your card by the time you are 16, please inform the Benefits Agency or your social worker. Remember, it may take time to organise this new card.

Advice: If you're beginning a new job or course, but have to wait before you start, make sure that you register for work. If you have a temporary job, you can still register for work and be considered for a permanent job.





Your rights

The Children Leaving Care Act came into effect on October 2001, as a result the help and support young people leaving care are entitled to changed.

- The new law does apply to you if you went into care on or after this date.
- The law does apply to you if you are 16 or 17, in care and have been in care for at least 13 weeks since you turned 14.
- The new law does apply to you if you left care before this date.

So what does that mean to you?

There are four groups of care leavers who will receive various levels of support and advice.

Eligible young people: are aged 16 or 17 and currently looked after, they have been looked after for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14.

Relevant young people: are 16 and 17 year olds who have left care, but who otherwise meet the same criteria as eligible young people.

Former relevant young people: are aged 18 - 21 and have been eligible or relevant young people. Young people over 21 can continue to be relevant children whilst they are being assisted with a course of education or training.

Qualifying young people: are all other children aged under 21 who leave care aged 16 or over. This includes young people who have left care before the start of the new Act in October 2001.

This new Act does not mean you get less help, it just means that as you get older we will remain involved with you and still offer you our support. Your needs will change as you get older, so speak to your social worker and/or personal adviser about what assistance, advice and support you are entitled to.



The Data Protection Act

There are now restrictions on the information, that can be held about you. Please consult a solicitor, law centre, Citizens Advice Bureaux or library for further information.

Can I read my files?

Yes. You can read your file. Speak to your social worker for more information.

Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act 1998 gives individuals the power to bring action against public authorities if their human rights have been breached. The Act gives individuals fundamental rights such as the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence, the right to freedom of expression, the right to liberty and security of person and the right to a fair trial.

Legal advice

Haringey Youth Offending Team offers a range of support, information, advice and group work to any young person who has committed a crime. They have produced a range of leaflets which may be helpful. These leaflets include:

- Remand and bail information for young people and their families/carers
- Community Rehabilitation Order
- Stop and search
- Community Service Order
- Fines, costs and compensation
- Going to court
- Supervision Order
- Reparation Orders





- Community Punishment and Rehabilitation Orders
- Action Plan Orders
- Helping victims of crime
- Parent support groups
- Refugee Probation Advice Service
- How the law might affect you
- Information for young people and their families

The Youth Offending Service is based at:

2-6 Middle Lane
Hornsey
London N8 8PL

You can phone them on 020 8489 1522.

What to do if you are the victim of a crime

There are organisations all over Haringey, which help and support the victims of crime.

- The National Association of Victim Support Schemes
Tel: 020 7735 9166.
- The Criminal Injuries Compensation Authorities
Tel: 0141 331 2726.



Solicitors

If you are in trouble with the law, a solicitor is the person who is able to represent you and help to argue your case.

Who can help?

The organisations below can give you information and help with any rights or legal issues:

- Liberty
Tel: 020 7403 3888
- Children's Legal Centre
Tel: 01206 873820
- Release (National Drugs and Legal Services)
Tel: 020 7729 9904
- You can also get help at any local advice centre.

How to get free legal advice?

If you are charged with an offence, or need legal help, e.g. problems with your landlord or employer, depending on your financial status you may be able to get free advice from the public funding scheme.

Legal age guide

At 16 you can:

- Get a National Insurance number
- Buy premium bonds
- Buy cigarettes or tobacco
- Join a trade union (some unions will allow you to join before you are 16)
- Leave school
- Consent to medical, surgical or dental treatment





- Work full-time
- Pay prescription charges (certain people are exempt, e.g. if you are unemployed, on a low income or in full-time education and under 19)
- Girls can consent to sexual intercourse
- A boy can join the armed forces with parent/guardian's permission.

At 17 you can:

- Hold a licence to drive any vehicle except certain heavy goods vehicles
- Appear before an adult court if charged with an offence
- A girl can join the Armed Forces with parent/guardian's consent at age 17
- A Probation Order can be made on you.

At 18 you can:

- Get married
- Vote in a parliamentary or local election
- Get tattooed
- Act as executor of a person's will
- See an '18' film
- Enter a betting shop and bet
- Change your name
- You can drive a motor cycle and a car
- Make a will
- Apply for a passport without your parent/guardian's consent
- Own houses and land
- Sue and be sued



- Go abroad to sing, play or perform professionally without a licence
- Sit on a jury
- Be a blood donor
- Buy alcohol
- Drink alcohol in a pub
- Pawn an article in a pawn shop
- Apply for a mortgage (but most building societies will not consider applicants under 21 years of age)
- If you are adopted, you can see your birth certificate on application to the Registrar General

From 21 you can:

- Stand in a parliamentary or local election
- Drive any mechanically propelled vehicle
- Hold a licence to sell alcohol
- Adopt a child
- Drive a large goods or passenger vehicle





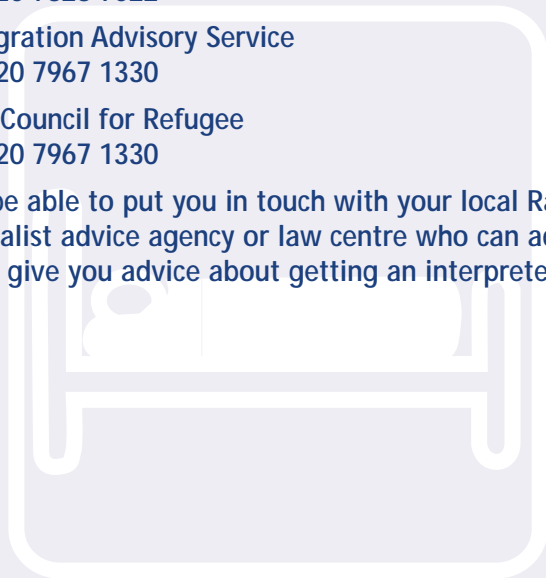
Asylum advice

The laws concerning immigration and asylum can be complicated, so it is important to get advice early if you or a member of your family needs help.

For further information contact:

- Haringey Asylum Services
Tel: 020 8489 5000
- Commission for Racial Equality
Tel: 020 7828 7022
- Immigration Advisory Service
Tel: 020 7967 1330
- Joint Council for Refugee
Tel: 020 7967 1330

They should be able to put you in touch with your local Racial Equality Council, specialist advice agency or law centre who can advise you. They can also give you advice about getting an interpreter if necessary.



Each young person will receive an agreed sum of money each week. If you are not clear about your entitlements you can contact your leaving care social worker about what other monies you may be considered for and how it is agreed.

Below is a financial break down of what monies may be given to you, your social worker will explain to you what your entitlements are. Please note that the amount may change and you will be informed about any changes that are made.

Full-time educational payments

Category	Type of expenses	Weekly amount	Total
Full-time education (term-time)	Subsistence	£42.00	
	Fares/bus Pass equivalent	£8.00	
	Course equipment	£6.00	
	Lunch	£5.00	£61.00
Not in full-time education/training	Subsistence	£42.00	£42.00





Full-time educational payments

Other expenditure	Criteria	Award	Comments	
Course Fees	Young person must be accepted on a course of further education	Payment of registration fees and exam entrance fees	Young person must provide written confirmation from the college of acceptance on the course and copy of term time-table	
Top up payment				
Category	Expenses	Amount	Total	Comments
Qualifying 16-17 year olds under a care order	Three months fares (max.) Providing confirmation from employer received			
Qualifying 16-17 year olds in full time education	Subsistence	£42.00		No entitlements to JSA
	Travel/Bus pass	£8.00		
	Course equipment	£6.00		
	Lunch	£5.00		
	Total amount		£61.00	



Other considered costs

Other Expenditure	Criteria	Weekly amount	Comments
Driving lessons	Must be part of young persons career plan	£6.50 contribution towards the cost of each lesson	Young person must attend a reputable driving school.
	Young person must pass driving assessment course	£8.50 contribution towards the cost of a provisional licence	Young person must provide a copy of his/her written assessment Payment will be made for a maximum of 10 lessons
Top up Payments	Young person has an income of less than £61.00 per week	Income topped up to £61.00 per week	





Other funding considerations

General funding areas	Criteria	Amount awarded	Comments
Accommodation	All relevant 16-17 years old	Rent	Young person contributes £2.50-£5.00 weekly towards service charges
Moving cost		Cost of move	Transport arranged by the Leaving Care Team. Up to £200 of young person's leaving care grant will be payable at this point
Leaving care grant	Young persons weekly income is more than £200	£750 max.	Young people eligible for community care grant must apply for it. If amount awarded is less than the maximum leaving care grant payable, the amount awarded will be topped up to the max. level payable under the leaving care grant If application is unsuccessful in the first instance you must lodge an appeal. Should this again be unsuccessful the leaving care grant awarded will be at the maximum level
	Young persons weekly income between £150 -£200 per week.	£1000 max.	
	Young persons weekly income is less than £100 per week	£5000 max.	



Pregnancy	Young person without appropriate maternity wear	£100	Assistance available during pregnancy
Clothing	All relevant 16-17 year olds	£240	Amount payable in two instalments at the beginning of summer and winter
Holidays	All relevant 16-17 year olds	£200	Holiday arrangements must be found to be satisfactory Amount represents a contribution towards holiday cost
Hobbies	All relevant 16-17 year olds	£150 maximum	Must be related to employment/educational outcomes, improving life skills or reducing social isolation
Birthday allowances	All relevant 16-17 year olds	£42	The amount represents one additional week's subsistence
Religious festivals	Applicable 16-17 year olds	£30 maximum	The amount represents one additional week's subsistence
Glasses	Applicable 16-17 year olds	£45	Amount available for religious festivals of young person's choice
Travel	Maintaining agreed contact with family/significant others	Travel card/rail card	Maximum eight times per year





BAHAI No dietary requirements.
Some choose to be vegetarian.
Fasting: 2nd March to 21st March, no food or drink to be consumed between sunrise and sunset (not obligatory for under 15's).

BUDDHIST No dietary requirements.
Some choose to be vegetarian.
Fasting: New moon and full moon days, festivals, e.g. Buddha's birthday and death day. All food to be consumed before 12 noon, after which fasting begins.

CHINESE Definite customs concerning preparation, service and manner in which food is eaten. Always ask.

HINDU Most will eat no beef.
Some will not eat eggs.
Some are strict vegetarians and will not eat vegetarian food items cooked and served in dishes previously used for non vegetarian foods.
Fasting: Some periods of fasting during the year.
Always ask.

JEWISH Meat must be killed by religious trained personnel in a humanitarian way – Kosher.
Pork is totally forbidden.
Observant Jews will not drink milk and eat meat at the same meal.
Milk and meat utensils, cutlery and crockery will always be kept separate. Some will not eat cheese made from animal rennet from non-Kosher animals, same applies to jellies and other foods containing gelatine.
Fasting: Several minor festivals in religious calendar. Most prominent is Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, this falls in September/October and is accompanied by a 25 hour fast.



MUSLIUM Pork is forbidden.
All other meats must be killed by a Muslim with a religious prayer this is called- Halal.
In general all shop bought products containing animal fat are avoided as they may contain pork fat or fat from non-halal animals.
Fasting: During the month of Ramadan.

SIKH Do not eat beef.
Most will accept other meats although some women will not eat meat of any kind.
Fasting: Some will fast when there is a full moon.
Always ask.

VIETNAMESE No dietary requirements.
Some are suspicious of lamb and do not use much milk and other dairy products.
Always ask.





January

New Year (Ne'er Day)

Ganjitsu

Japanese New Year.

Epiphany

Christians celebrate the visit of wise men from the east to see baby Jesus.

Christmas Eve/Day

Celebrated by Christians from the Eastern Orthodox churches.

Yuan Tan

Chinese New Year.

February

Setsuban

Japanese people scatter beans at home and their temples. The ceremony is meant to ward off evil and bring happiness.

Teng Chieh

Chinese people celebrate the Lantern Festivals which mark the first full moon of the year.

Lailat-ul-bara'h

Muslims seek mutual forgiveness in preparation for Ramadan.

Parinirvana

Buddhists mark the final passing away of Buddha.

Mahashivrati

Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Shiva.

Ramadan

Muslims begin a 30-day period of fasting and self-restraint.

Shrove Tuesday

Christians seek forgiveness for their sins and prepare for lent.

April

Rama Mavami

Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Rama.

Mahavira Jayanti

Jainas celebrate the birthday of their last great teacher.

Palm Sunday

Christians celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Marks the beginning of the holy week.



C'hing Ming

The Chinese visit their family tombs.

Passover

An 8 day festival by which Jews celebrate the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

Hanamatsuri

Japanese people celebrate the birthday of Buddha Gautama.

Maundy Thursday

Christians commemorate Jesus' last supper.

Good Friday

Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus.

Easter Day

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Baisakhi

Sikhis commemorate the founding of Khalsa, the brotherhood of Sikism.

Yom Hashoah

Jewish Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

Easter Day

Celebrated by Christians from the eastern Orthodox churches.

June

Al Hijra

Muslim New Year.

Dragon Boat Festival

Festival in honour of China's great poet Chuuo Yuan.

Ashura

Muslims commemorate the Martyrdom of Prophet Mohammed's great grandson Hassain.

July

Dhammacakka/Asala

Commemorates Buddha's sermon of Benares of India.

Martyrdom of Bab

Bahai's commemorate the martyrdom of Mizra Ali Mohammed.

Obon

Japanese festival. The spirits of the departed are welcomed back home from feasting and dancing.





Birthday of Emperor Halie Selassie One of the holiest commemorative days for Rastafarians.

August

Raksha Bandhan Hindu sisters tie a special thread called Rakhi round their brothers wrists to protect them from evil.

Chung Yuan Chinese festival of the hungry ghosts.

Janamashtami Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna.

Paryushana-Parva Eight to ten day festival in which Jainas emulate the lifestyle of their leaders.

Diwali Hindus celebrate this festival of lights. The main focus of this festival is Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Sikhs also celebrate this festivity since the sixth Guru was released from prison on Diwali. Hindus New Year's day.

Advent Christians prepare themselves for the coming of Jesus.

Birthday of Guru Nanak Celebrated by Sikhs. First Guru and founder of the Sikh religion.

St Andrew's Day Christians commemorate the Patron Saint of Scotland.

December

Bodhi Day Buddhists celebrate Buddha's attainment of enlightenment (Nirvana).

Hanukah Jewish people celebrate the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem.



Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikhs commemorate the Martyrdom of the ninth Guru.

Christmas Day Christian commemorate the birth of Jesus.

Omisoka Japanese and Buddhist festival to prepare for the New Year.



Jargon busters

Correspondence	Letter or communication in writing.
Fundamental	Basic ,essential, important or necessary.
Liberty	Leave, permission or privilege.
Asylum	Seek refuge, shelter.
Solicitor	professional adviser on matters relating to the law.
Subsistence	Money received for living expenses.
Rent	Money you give to your landlord, that is the owner of the property you stay in.
Financial	Money which may have been earned, given to you or saved.
Advocate	person who defends you, pleads on your behalf or recommends support for you needs.
Mutual	Same as.
Mobility scheme	A plan to help you move on.
Amenities	Useful services in your area for you to use.
Pathway plan	An assessment.
Accountable	Responsible for, liable for.
Eligible	A entitlement under the Leaving Care Act 2000.
Criteria	A form of assessing what level of service you will be considered for.
Implementation	To fulfil, to take effect within an agreed time.
Entitlements	Services you are allowed to have based on your circumstances.
Mentor	An adviser, instructor or guide.
Martyrdom	A person who suffers or dies for their religious beliefs.
Legislation	An Act passed by the house of parliament.
Parliamentary	A place where government discuss and make important legal act decisions.

All local authorities have a complaints form. If you are unhappy about the service you are receiving speak to your social worker or personal adviser about it. They will discuss your concerns with the manager.

If you are still unhappy with the way your complaint is being dealt with ask for a complaints leaflet from your social worker or ask a member of the Leaving Care Team for a leaflet.

