

Middlesbrough Local Offer for Care Leavers

9th July 2026

[middlesbrough.gov.uk](https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk)


Middlesbrough
moving forward

Purpose of this presentation:

- Overview of the EET offer for Care Leavers.
- Highlight what is working well.
- Identify gaps and challenges.
- Outline priorities for improvement.

Why this Matters

- Care Leavers – significantly more likely to be NEET
- More likely to experience unstable employment
- EET is the key to:
 - Independence
 - Financial stability
 - Long-term wellbeing

Care Leaver Cohort(25/06/2026)

- Total Number of Care Leavers = 245
- % in Education/Employment/Training = 46.9% (115).
- % NEET = 22.9% (56) – 13.1% available(32), 9.8% not available(24).
- Moved out of area = 9.4% (23).
- 1 not on the management information system.
- Other = 6.9%(17).
- Out of cohort = 1.6%(4).
- Unknown = 11.8%(29)

Overview – EET Offer

- Dedicated support
- Education opportunities
- Employment & Training
- Financial Support



Education Offer.

- Ongoing support from Virtual School
- Access to Work Readiness Team
- Ongoing support from Personal Advisers 18+
- Support to remain in or return to education up to 25 years old

Financial Assistance

- Weekly living allowance - £78.15 – in college/training in semi or independent living.
- If not eligible for this – up to £25 based on attendance. (In foster/residential care will not receive this).
- Incentive payments up to the age of 25 if you are not receiving the educational bursary.
- For university students LA grant of £2000 paid in 6 equal instalments over a 3-year course.
- Also, a weekly living allowance of £78.15 throughout your studies up to age 25.
- First year of study LA will pay rent for 52 weeks.
- Cover accommodation costs during holidays.
- Contribute £500 towards equipment, field trips, exams, software and internet access.
- Cover travel costs to and from university at the start/end of each term.
- Consider funding an additional year.
- Up to £100 per year for work clothes.

Support in addition to King's Trust grants of up to £500 from support FET and £25

Financial Assistance

- Masters/Post grad course: support to access student loan.
- Support with £500 towards books/equipment.
- Provide a one-off payment of £3000 divided over 3 terms.
- Support to access additional funding.
- Support you to access and meet a mentor to provide you with academic support.
- Up to £200 a year towards books/equipment and essential clothing.
- Eligible for free travel card aged 18-25.

Employment Offer

- Ongoing Support Personal Advisors.
- Work Readiness Team – IAG.
- Skills and Employment Hub.
- Connect to Work Programme.
- 50 Futures.
- Trailblazer.
- UK Govt Job Guarantee.
- Priority routes - MBC

Training & Skills

- Personal Advisers.
- Work Readiness Team.
- Apprenticeships – support from Skills and Employment Hub.
- Middlesbrough College – ROOTS Academy.
- Supported Internships.

Targeted Support for NEET Care Leavers

- Multi-agency support.
- Intensive PA support.
- Flexible engagement approaches.
- Support to remove barriers

Partnerships

- Colleges/training providers
- DWP/Jobcentre
- Employers/Businesses
- Voluntary & Community Sector
- Housing
- Neighbouring LA's

What Works Well

- Strong relationships between PA's and young people
- Strong multi-agency approach
- Good access to FE locally
- Pathway Plans/action plans
- Processes/procedures
- Clear direction/strategy

Challenges

- Higher NEET rates than peers/geographical/statistical neighbours
- Higher than national rates
- Structural/personal/systemic barriers
- Limited local job opportunities/apprenticeships
- Doing more as a Corporate Parent
- Fragmented support
- Resources

Key Priorities

- Reduce NEET Care Leavers
- Strengthen employer engagement
- Improve tracking and performance data
- Increase capacity/sufficiency
- Increase Corporate Parenting offer
- Increase: apprenticeships
employment opportunities