

PROTOCOL BETWEEN NORTH WEST UNIVERSITIES AND MANCHESTER LEAVING CARE SERVICE/MANCHESTER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ASYLUM SEEKING SERVICE

1) General

The foregoing Protocol will apply generally as to how Universities signed up to this agreement will deal with LAC/Care Leavers as a group. This Appendix specifically relates to **Manchester Local Authority Care Leavers** attending any of these Universities.

2) Data sharing/Information

In Manchester, Barnardos Manchester Leaving Care Service (MLCS) carries out the statutory duties vested in Local Authorities under the 2000 Children (Leaving Care) Act on behalf of, and in partnership with, Manchester Local Authority's Childrens Services, and in relation to unaccompanied asylum seeking young people who become care leavers this is carried out by CAFRASS-Manchester's Children and Families Refugee and Asylum seeking Service. It is thus MLCS/CAFRASS who have the duty to allocate the young person a Personal Advisor, and to help 'progress' that young person holistically until they reach the age of 21, or if they began an agreed course of education or training before that age, until that course ends or the young person is 24.

Twice a year, in early September and again in January/February, MLCS/CAFRASS will thus furnish a 'named person' within 'student support' services in each participating University with a list of 'Manchester' Care Leavers attending that University. MLCS/CAFRASS will ensure the young person knows this information is being shared. Such a list will comprise the forename, surname, date of birth, MLCS/CAFRASS Personal Advisor "responsible" for that young person and name of course the young person is doing.

This information will be shared on the strict understanding this may be as far as that information 'goes' within the University, unless the young person expressly agrees it can be shared with others. Nevertheless the 'named person', or their representative within 'student support' may use the information to send direct to that young person (if the University so wishes) information as to what 'student services' can do to support that Young Person whilst they are at University. Secondly, under this arrangement, the MLCS Worker and University student support representative may liaise together in the interests of the further welfare of the young person concerned, providing that young person is fully aware of this liaison and indeed ideally participates as an active three way participant in such a process. Other staff within the University will only participate with the express permission and knowledge of the young person.

3.Financial Support

Manchester Local Authority have a separate section within the City Council's "16-21 Financial Policy" for LAC/Care Leavers which deals with young people in Higher Education and has also produced a leaflet describing this component called "Oi Care Leavers...No ifs No Buts...You can go to University". Essentially this policy builds on and compliments what young people leaving care can get financially at University just like any other young person but adds something extra in recognition of care leavers being a statistically disadvantaged group in this regard. Manchester's policy essentially tries to ensure that young people will have an adequate amount to live on throughout their time in higher education and will only need to take out loans as an optional extra. That way they will not need to be in a lot of debt if they so choose when their course is ended.

4. Monitoring & Review

Any issues or problems concerning this arrangement will be discussed between the 'named persons' involved. This will be

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