

Types of Care Experience

Adoption

Adoption is a legal process which replaces a child's birth parents with new adoptive parents.

Children who are adopted will almost always have been looked after by a local authority, except in cases where a step-parent adopts the child of their partner, or the adopted child comes from a country outside of the United Kingdom (an inter-country adoption).

Only those who have been looked after and went on to be adopted can be considered for the bursary.

Foster care

Unlike adoption, fostering is a temporary arrangement – on either a short or long term basis – and many children in foster care will return to their birth family. Some fostered children are eventually adopted, either by their foster carer or by another family.

Local authorities can only place children with foster carers who have been approved by an agency registered with the Care Inspectorate. Such agencies include local authorities, voluntary organisations and independent sector providers.

Kinship care

Kinship care is when a child is looked after by their extended family or close friends, if they cannot remain with their birth parents. Under the Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009, kinship carers are defined as “a person who is related to the child (through blood, marriage or civil partnership) or a person with whom the child has a pre-existing relationship”.

Kinship care includes children who are looked after and are placed in a formal kinship care arrangement by the local authority.

Residential care

Residential care homes offer young people (usually of secondary school age) a safe place to live away from their families. Residents live alongside a number of other young people in the home, cared for by staff that do not live on site.

Most young people who live in a residential establishment will have been assessed as needing to be cared for away from home by the local authority. Young people are placed in residential care on the recommendation of a Children's Hearing Panel, or on an emergency (short-term) basis to guarantee their safety.

Compulsory Supervision Order with no condition of residence (Looked after at home)

Where a child or young person is subject, through the Children's Hearing system, to a Compulsory Supervision Order with no condition of residence, that child or young person

continues to live at their normal residence (often the family home). This is known as being looked after at home.

Where this happens, the hearing panel will have decided that the child's welfare is best assured by living with their parents. Social workers and any other relevant partners must then work closely together as well as with the child and family to achieve the objectives for which the home supervision order was made.

Compulsory Supervision Order with a condition of residence (Looked after away from home)

Where a child (or young person) has either:

- Been through the Children's Hearings system and is subject to a Compulsory Supervision Order with a condition of residence.
- Is subject to an order made or authorisation or warrant granted by virtue of Chapter 2, 3 or 4 of Part II of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.
- Is being provided with accommodation under Section 25 (a voluntary agreement). **OR**
- Is placed by a local authority which has made a permanence order under Section 80 of the Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007.

In these cases the child is cared for away from their normal place of residence, by foster or kinship carers, prospective adopters, in residential care homes, residential schools or secure units.

If your circumstances are not described above, you may still be eligible to apply for support as a Care Experienced Student.

If you are in any doubt about your status you should contact us on 01595 743844.