



Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000

2000 CHAPTER 35

1 Further duties of local authorities towards children whom they are looking after

In Part II of Schedule 2 to the Children Act 1989 (“the 1989 Act”), which contains provision as to children being looked after by local authorities, after paragraph 19 insert—

“Preparation for ceasing to be looked after

- 19A It is the duty of the local authority looking after a child to advise, assist and befriend him with a view to promoting his welfare when they have ceased to look after him.
- 19B (1) A local authority shall have the following additional functions in relation to an eligible child whom they are looking after.
- (2) In sub-paragraph (1) “eligible child” means, subject to sub-paragraph (3), a child who—
- (a) is aged sixteen or seventeen; and
 - (b) has been looked after by a local authority for a prescribed period, or periods amounting in all to a prescribed period, which began after he reached a prescribed age and ended after he reached the age of sixteen.
- (3) The Secretary of State may prescribe—
- (a) additional categories of eligible children; and
 - (b) categories of children who are not to be eligible children despite falling within sub-paragraph (2).
- (4) For each eligible child, the local authority shall carry out an assessment of his needs with a view to determining what advice, assistance and support it would be appropriate for them to provide him under this Act—
- (a) while they are still looking after him; and
 - (b) after they cease to look after him,
- and shall then prepare a pathway plan for him.

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (5) The local authority shall keep the pathway plan under regular review.
- (6) Any such review may be carried out at the same time as a review of the child's case carried out by virtue of section 26.
- (7) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision as to assessments for the purposes of sub-paragraph (4).
- (8) The regulations may in particular provide for the matters set out in section 23B(6).

Personal advisers

- 19C A local authority shall arrange for each child whom they are looking after who is an eligible child for the purposes of paragraph 19B to have a personal adviser.”