

16-19 Bursary Funds Principles

Administering funds for Bristol's young people in care/care leavers

Young people who are in education or training, (not apprenticeships), aged 16-18 years and who are in care or care leavers meet eligibility criteria and can apply for a bursary for vulnerable groups. The funding is available to address students' financial need in recognition that they are unlikely to be receiving financial assistance from parents or carers so may need a greater level of support to participate.

The provider will work with the young person to determine what level of support is required, (up to £1200). Payments may be made 'in kind' to cover needs such as transport, equipment, books and meals, or via BACS to the student's bank account where appropriate. Bursary Funds are administered by the school, college, or training provider that the young person attends.

The following principles have been produced by the HOPE, Bristol's virtual school for children in care, to support providers with key considerations for the 16-19 Bursary Process from September 2021.

- 1.** The bursary funds are made available to ensure students are supported to participate in education.
- 2.** Every eligible student should receive support from providers in assessing how the funds can remove barriers and provide maximum possible support to access education.
- 3.** Any financial needs assessment for vulnerable groups does not require a means tested element or carer income assessment. The learner's individual needs should be assessed in view of their eligibility as a child in care or care leaver.
- 4.** Payments can be made 'in kind', for example through purchasing equipment or travel passes for students, or by BACS transfer to the student's account where appropriate. This should be determined on an individual basis.
- 5.** Payments may be withheld if attendance and behaviour targets are not met. This should be made clear to students during the application process and in the written agreement.
- 6.** The breakdown of the student's bursary should be transparent and in writing. It could be included in the student's PEP. Information will be shared with foster carers and the HOPE where relevant and if the young person permits this.

For additional support and guidance in how a young person's need can be considered and funding agreed please contact thehope@bristol.gov.uk

Full guidance for institutions that administer the bursary can be accessed here – www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2021-to-2022-academic-year