

## Care Leavers Programme

A Care Leavers Programme is one of the entry-level employment routes you can offer as employer and contribute adding social value to Essex.

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### Future employees who are care leavers

Care leavers are young people (16-25 years old) leaving foster or local council care.

For further definitions and resources around care leavers visit the [government website on care leavers rules, guidance, and support](#).

ECC offers a Guaranteed Interview scheme to care leavers for all vacancies. Is this something you can consider replicating in your organisation?

### Funding opportunity for employers

The government have introduced a new incentive. Employers are eligible to £3000 when recruiting a new apprentice between 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021. And an additional of £1000 is available to employers, over and above the £3000, if an employer recruits a care leaver up to the age of 25.

### Assistance to employers to employ care leavers

To find out more about Apprenticeships Programmes in general, please view our Apprenticeship Factsheet or please contact the Essex Adult Community Learning (ACL) Business Development Team at [acl.businessdevelopment@essex.gov.uk](mailto:acl.businessdevelopment@essex.gov.uk) or

[visit the Adult Community Learning \(ACL\) website.](#)

You can also connect to Essex Organisations who also work with care leavers such as [the National Youth Advocacy Service \(NYAS\)](#) and [the social business Catch 22](#), to support talent attraction.

### Care Leavers Programme and Social Value

As an employer your organisation can create social value when you employ care leavers. Vendors can include care leaver placements as the social value offer they make when bidding for ECC contracts. The social value measure ECC 7 covers care leaver employment, specifically measuring the number of employees taken on who are care leavers.

