

Request

1. As of 21st March 2024, does your local authority offer to act as a rent guarantor for care-experienced young people (e.g. care leavers) to access when seeking to rent a privately rented property? YES / NO
2. If 'Yes' to Question 1, what is the eligibility criteria for care-experienced young people (e.g. care leavers) to have your local authority act as their rent guarantor?
3. As of 21st March 2024, does your local authority offer a rent deposit for care-experienced young people (e.g. care leavers) to access when seeking to rent a privately rented property? YES / NO
4. If 'Yes' to Question 3, what is the eligibility criteria for care-experienced young people (e.g. care leavers) to be offered a rent deposit?
5. If 'Yes' to Question 3, are there any limits/restrictions to the amount of rent deposit offered to care-experienced young people?
6. If your local authority offers to act as a rent guarantor and/or provide rent deposits for care-experienced young people (e.g. care leavers) when seeking to rent a privately rented property, can this be accessed by care-experienced young people from your local authority living out-of-area?
 - Yes – both can be offered.
 - Yes – the rent guarantor offer.
 - Yes – the rent deposit offer.
 - No – neither offer.
7. If you have any published information or data concerning your local authority's guarantor or deposit scheme as set out above, please can you send it through.

Response

1. No – Although this is something we are looking to put in place. We are currently developing our own Guarantor Agreement, to allow us to act as a rental guarantor for local care leavers accessing private rented and/or student accommodation. Whilst this is in development, we will assist care leavers by purchasing guarantor products/services on their behalf if required.
2. N/A
3. Yes, we provide rental deposits for local care leavers accessing privately rented accommodation, which may take the form of a paper 'bond' or guarantee (to be claimed against in the event of rental arrears or property damage), or a standard cash deposit.
4. The offer is available to all care leavers accessing a privately rented property, providing that the property is both affordable and suitable to their needs, and the care leaver can demonstrate that they do not have their own funds available to cover the deposit.
5. Yes, the rental deposit paid will be up to 5 weeks' rent (in line with the Tenant Fees Act 2019), with a maximum cap in place of £950.
6. Yes – the rent deposit offer, but both can be offered once the guarantor agreement/scheme is in place.
7. No published data is available, but I have enclosed a copy of our Deposit Assistance Scheme leaflet.



Deposit Assistance Scheme



What is the Deposit Assistance Scheme?

The Deposit Assistance Scheme is a great new way for those who are unable to afford an upfront cash deposit to still secure a new home in the private rented sector.

How does it work?

The Council provides a non-cash deposit – known as a bond guarantee – to the landlord or agent in place of the usual cash deposit, which can be claimed against in the event of any property damage, losses, or rental arrears, left at the end of the tenancy.

Moving home can be affordable

Finding the cash for a tenancy deposit is a key barrier for some when moving home. The Deposit Assistance Scheme takes away this need for upfront cash, helping low income households to significantly reduce their moving costs.

A hassle-free service for landlords

Usually, landlords collect a cash deposit from the tenant which they are then required to register with an approved tenancy deposit scheme. But when letting a property through the scheme there won't be this requirement; we will take care of the full process and get the signed agreements in place.

Giving tenants the best start

The scheme is about more than providing deposits - we provide bespoke advice to help tenants to set up and sustain their new tenancy, checking that the property is both affordable and suitable to their needs. We also ensure that the property is safe and compliant, and we have a clear record of its condition at tenancy start.

Guaranteed payment of claims

Our straightforward, streamlined claims process ensures prompt payments to landlords in the event of any damage, losses, or rental arrears.

Where can I find out more?

Visit our webpage: [Getting a deposit.](#)

