EAST AYRSHIRE
Health & Social Care
Partnership

Continuing care

Young people who are 'looked after away from home' – living with foster carers, kinship carers or in residential care – on or after their 16th birthday have legal rights and entitlements to stay in the same place, ('stay put'), with their same carers up until their 21st birthday.

Before your 18th birthday, you should be under no pressure or expectation to 'leave care' (for example when someone under 18 stops being legally looked after under a Supervision Order) if you don't want to or you don't feel ready to. And you should be under no pressure or expectation to leave where you are living if you are under 21, even when there is no Supervision Order or Permanence Order in place anymore.

You don't have to apply for continuing care, or be assessed for this, or to sign an agreement. If you are happy and settled where you are, with people you trust and who care for you, and you want to stay, then your local authority has a legal duty to support that and make it happen. What matters is that you are supported to think through all the options available and you speak to someone you trust.

Information about continuing care

The CELCIS Scotland website is your go-to resource for all things relating to continuing care, including video content, information about your rights and stories from other young people.

Visit www.celcis.org/ccrights or scan the QR code at the bottom of the page.

Who to speak to if you would like support

If you think you need advocacy support or independent legal advice, the following organisations can help. They can also help you find out more about continuing care and your rights, as it can be hard to understand. No-one expects you to know everything, so don't be afraid to talk to any of these services – they're here to help!

Clan Childlaw
Anyone, of any age, anywhere in Scotland, can call Clan Childlaw with a question about children's rights and about how the law and legal systems in Scotland work for children and young people. Call 0808 129 0522, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, or email helpline@clanchildlaw.org.

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Who Cares? Scotland
If you need advocacy support or someone to talk to, contact Who Cares? Scotland on 0330 107 7540, Monday to Friday from 12pm to 4pm, or email help@whocaresscotland.org.

Scottish Child Law Centre
If you are aged under 21 and want to talk to someone about how the law affects you, call 0800 328 8970 (from landlines) or 0300 3301421 (from mobiles). This helpline is open Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 4pm.