



# Department for Education

## Junior ISA for Looked After Children- Information for carers of young people reaching age 16

### **What is a Junior ISA?**

Junior ISAs (Individual Savings Accounts) are long-term tax-free savings accounts for children. Any child can have a Junior ISA if they are under 18, live in the UK and do not already have a Child Trust Fund.

More information on Junior ISAs in general can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/junior-individual-savings-accounts>

### **What is special about Junior ISAs for Looked after Children?**

The Government have contributed £200 for each eligible looked after child.

The Share Foundation, a registered charity, has been authorised by the government to set up and manage the Junior ISAs for all looked after children. The Share Foundation will also be raising funds which it will contribute to the Junior ISAs that it manages.

### **Who decides how to invest the money in a Junior ISA for looked after Children?**

The Share Foundation obtains independent advice from financial advisers about how the money should be invested.

### **When can the money be taken out?**

The money in a Junior ISA belongs to the young person, but they can't take the money out until they are 18. They can then decide what they want to do with it. If the young person chooses not to take the money out, the Junior ISA will automatically become a regular ISA.

No-one, other than the young person, can take money out.

**What changes when the child reaches 16?**

When a young person reaches 16 they can take charge of the account. This means he/she can decide what funds or shares they want to invest in. He/she can also change the Junior ISA provider, but additional contributions can only continue if the new provider is one that works with The Share Foundation. He/she should also remember that he/she cannot take the money out until they are 18.

**What does the young person have to do to take control of investment decisions?**

He/she should contact the Local Authority who will enable him/her to have direct contact with The Share Foundation. He/she will then be allowed to direct the type of fund and provider.

**How can the young person see how much money is in the Junior ISA or how it is performing?**

Regular JISA valuations are sent to the local authority, and you can obtain a copy from them. Additionally, if you wish, copies of statements can be sent to you directly. If you would like to request this option, or would like to discuss details of the statement further, ask your local authority contact to arrange for The Share Foundation to hold your contact details.

**Can I get advice and support on how to help the young people in my care manage their finances as part of the scheme?**

Yes - a programme of financial education support is available to you. Materials for Local Authorities and Corporate Parents, carers and young people themselves have been developed by **pfeg** and are available via <https://sharefound.org> or the **pfeg** (Personal Finance Education Group) website at [www.pfeg.org/JuniorISA](http://www.pfeg.org/JuniorISA).

Telephone support is also available to advise you on relevant educational materials to use with the young people in your care around money. **pfeg** are also able to advise on how to begin discussions with them about their Junior ISAs, and money management in general. Call **pfeg** on 0300 6660 127.

**Is it possible to get further information?**

Further information on the scheme and copies of all materials can be obtained from The Share Foundation website <https://sharefound.org> or by calling the number below.

**How to contact The Share Foundation** (General information unless authorised by the Local Authority)

Call 01296 310400, email [info@sharefound.org](mailto:info@sharefound.org) or write to:  
The Share Foundation, Elsinore House, 43 Buckingham Street, Aylesbury,  
Buckinghamshire HP20 2NQ