



Department for Education

Child Trust Fund for Looked After Children- Information for carers of young people reaching age 18

What is a Child Trust Fund?

Child Trust Funds are long-term tax-free savings accounts for children.

Any child born in the UK between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011 was entitled to a Child Trust Fund. The Government contributed a £250 voucher for each child. The parents or other persons in a position of responsibility for the child were responsible for opening the CTF. Furthermore, children who turned seven between 1 September 2009 and 31 July 2010 or who qualified for Disability Living Allowance between 6 April 2009 and 5 April 2011 were eligible for extra payments from the government into their CTF.

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More information on Child Trust Funds in general can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds>

What is special about Child Trust Funds for Looked after Children?

Since October 2017 The Share Foundation, a registered charity, has been the organisation authorised by the government manage the Child Trust Funds for all looked after children. The Share Foundation will also be raising funds which it will contribute to the Child Trust Funds that it manages.

Who decides how to invest the money in a Child Trust Fund for looked after children?

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

What changes when a young person reaches 18?

When a young person becomes 18 they are entitled to access the funds. They can then choose, for example, whether to invest in an Individual Savings Account (ISA) or draw out the money. If they make no decision the Child Trust Fund will automatically become an ISA in their name.

What does the young person have to do to access their account?

Prior to their 18th birthday, The Share Foundation will send the young person details of their Child Trust Fund (via the Local Authority) and advise them of the procedure they will need to follow to take control of the account. They will need to contact the Child Trust Fund provider as soon as possible after receiving the letter as the account will automatically become an ISA on their 18th birthday and will no longer be subject to active investment decisions on their behalf.

How can the young person see how much money is in the Child Trust Fund or how it is performing?

Regular Child Trust Fund valuations are sent to the local authority, and you can obtain a copy of the latest figure from them. Once the young person reaches 18, they will need to take on the responsibility of managing their own account.

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

Yes - a programme of financial education support is available to you. Materials for young people in care, as well as Local Authorities, Corporate Parents and carers have been developed by **pfeg** and are available via <https://sharefound.org> or the **Young Money** (formerly **pfeg**) website at <https://www.young-money.org.uk/>

Telephone support is also available to advise you and the young people about relevant educational materials to use. Young Money are also able to advise on how to begin discussions with young people about their Child Trust Funds. Call **Young Money** on 0300 6660 127 to find out more about the games, tools and booklets that may be of use.

Is it possible to contact the Share Foundation and 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 (General information only, until you have been introduced by the Local Authority):

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

