



# Department for Education

## Junior ISA for Looked After Children- Information for carers of young people reaching age 18

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### **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.

### **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 a regular ISA or draw out the money. If no decision is made, the Junior ISA automatically turns into an adult ISA in their name.

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

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

Prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, The Share Foundation will send the young person details of their Junior ISA (via the Local Authority) and advise them of the procedure they will need to follow to take control of their JISA account. They will need to contact the JISA provider as soon as possible after receiving the letter as the account will automatically become a regular ISA on their 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Junior ISA or how it is performing?**

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

### **Can I get advice and support 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, Corporate Parents, carers and young people themselves have been developed by **pfeg** and are available via <https://sharefound.org> or the **pfeg** (Personal Financial Education Group) website at [www.pfeg.org/JuniorISA](http://www.pfeg.org/JuniorISA).

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

### **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).

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