



*The Grand Campaign*

**A  
NATIONAL  
VOICE**

**coramVoice** )))  
getting young voices heard

**The Grand Campaign**

**Campaign Resource  
Pack**



# The Grand Campaign

<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Who are A National Voice?</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>About The Grand Campaign</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Helpful Information</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>My Dream Home! - Activity</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Freedom of Information Request</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Template Letter</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Share Your Stories</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Join Online Discussion</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Ways to Advocate for Yourself</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>I Support Cards</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>What next? Collating Response</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>26</b>



## Who are A National Voice?

A National Voice (ANV) is the National Children in Care Council of England. Our mission is to bring care experienced young people together to find their voice and use it to improve the lives of all children in care and care leavers. We work with others to amplify young people's voices to create an environment in which young people's views are sought, valued and acted upon.

ANV was established over two decades ago by care experienced young people, to make sure children in care and care leavers' voices were heard at a national level. In 2017, A National Voice joined Coram Voice and continues its work through national projects.



## About The Grand Campaign

All local authorities should help care leavers with the costs of setting up home (sometimes called the Setting up Home Allowance or Leaving Care grant).

On 1st April 2023, the Government increased the minimum recommended amount for this grant from £2,000 to £3,000.

However, we have heard that not all local authorities offer the full £3,000.

### **A National Voice want the following:**

- **All local authorities to offer the full £3,000 to all care leavers up to 25**
- **Clear and consistent guidelines and entitlements**
- **No more postcode lottery**

### **What we will do with this pack**

We have developed this pack to help groups and individuals in local authorities to discuss and explore the Leaving Care Grant. We hope that you will complete some or all of the activities enclosed, and share the feedback with us. We will gather together all the feedback in a report, which we will use as evidence to show what is happening nationally.

We will publish the report on our website and share it with key leaders like the Children's Minister, asking them to help us make sure all local authorities offer the full £3,000 to all care leavers up to 25.



## About The Grand Campaign

As part of the Grand Campaign, A National Voice ambassadors are doing the following:

Creating a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to identify what support is offered across authorities concerning the leaving care grant.

Creating a template letter for children and young people to use to request a meeting with leaders, corporate parenting boards, and more.

Giving children and young people the opportunity to share their experiences of moving out for the first time, how they managed, and what could be helpful.

Sharing practical activities that groups of children and young people might want to get involved in to aid discussion (this could be used as evidence when approaching leaders in their LAs).

Asking children in care councils, local authorities, and leaders to showcase their support in different ways by signing and leaving a message in the 'I Support' card (see page 22). We will then share this on our social media.

Creating a report combining the results of the FOI request, responses to the template letter, individual stories and experiences, and findings from the activities, and requesting a meeting with key leaders to present its findings.



## Helpful Information

### ***Where does it say that a local authority should have a leaving care grant?***

The rules about leaving care grants are included in the Statutory Guidance Vol 3: Planning transitions to adulthood for care leavers (search for Setting up Home allowance).

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/61f81624d3bf7f78df30b359/C A1989 Transitions Guidance.pdf>

### ***What is statutory guidance?***

Statutory guidance are documents that set out rules for how local authorities should act. When it is 'statutory' it means that they have to do what it says, unless they have a very good reason not to. (Not having enough money is not considered a good reason).

### ***Where does it say that they should pay £3,000***

The increase to £3,000 is set out in this letter. Local authorities were also given extra money to make sure that they could do this.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/648339e8103ca60013039ccf/Section\\_31\\_grant\\_determination\\_letter\\_for\\_leaving\\_care\\_allowance\\_uplift\\_implementation\\_grant\\_2023\\_to\\_2025.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/648339e8103ca60013039ccf/Section_31_grant_determination_letter_for_leaving_care_allowance_uplift_implementation_grant_2023_to_2025.pdf)



# My Dream Home! - Activity

## Aim:

This activity is designed to let children and young people envision the essential items for their ideal home, without worrying about cost. After completing the activity, they'll reflect on the financial support available from their local authorities' leaving care grant and evaluate how much of their desired items are feasible.

We encourage them to present their findings to leaders, policymakers, and corporate parenting boards, comparing their ideal home essentials with the financial assistance they receive.

In this pack, you will find a template letter that you can use or adapt to request a meeting with key leaders for presenting your findings and discussing the campaign.

## Audience:

This activity is intended for children and young people.

We also recommend involving adults such as professionals, for example, corporate parents, social workers, leaders, health professionals, teachers, or any other adults.

This activity serves as an effective tool for everyone to reflect on their own circumstances and compare them to the real-life experiences of children and young people who have been in care.



# My Dream Home! - Activity

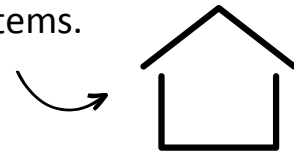
**Objective:** Imagine you are planning to move into your very first home. You have been told that you can furnish your home with everything you consider essential, and there is no limit to how much money you can spend!

**Work alone, in pairs, or on tables!**

**Equipment:**

- Flip chart
- Pens/pencils
- A phone - so that you can research your home items

**Instructions:** 1) Start by grabbing some flip chart. Draw the outline of a house on it, and use this as a space to list your items.



2) The internet is your oyster! Use Google to research different stores that sell what you consider to be essential home items.



3) When you find an item you would like in your home, draw an icon or sketch that represents that item inside the house. After drawing, write the cost of the item next to it.



4) As you go along, add up the cost of the items (you can use the calculator on your phones). Once everyone is finished, refer to the reflective questions on the next page to discuss what you discovered.

**Remember! If you consider it essential, put it on your list! There is no spending limit.**





# My Dream Home! - Activity

## Reflective Questions

### Questions for Everyone:

- What was the total cost of all the items?
- What are some essential items for a new home that might not be immediately obvious?

### For young people taking part:

- Do you think the leaving care grant provides enough financial support for what you need when moving out for the first time?
- What do you believe would be an ideal amount for the leaving care grant?

### For care leavers taking part:

- Was your leaving care grant sufficient to cover all your necessities when you left care?
- If you needed support, who did you turn to?
- How would you manage if there was something you needed but couldn't afford?

### For adults taking part:

- Can you share your experience of leaving home for the first time?
- What level of support did you receive when you were leaving home?
- Who was your go-to person when you encountered difficulties?
- What did you do if there was something you needed but couldn't afford?

On the following pages, you will find each question on a worksheet template. Print these to write down responses. Alternatively, you may use the above questions on flip chart.



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### Questions for Everyone:

**What was the total cost of all the items?**

---

**What are some essential items for a new home that might not be immediately obvious?**

---



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### For young people:

**Do you think the leaving care grant provides enough financial support for what you need when moving out for the first time?**

---

**What do you believe would be an ideal amount for the leaving care grant?**

---



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### For care leavers:

**Was your leaving care grant sufficient to cover all your necessities when you left care?**

---

**If you needed support, who did you turn to?**

---



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### For care leavers:

**How would you manage if there was something you needed but couldn't afford?**

---



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### For adults taking part:

**Can you share your experience of leaving home for the first time?**

---

**What level of support did you receive when you were leaving home?**

---



## My Dream Home! - Activity

### For adults taking part:

**Who was your go-to person when you encountered difficulties?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**What did you do if there was something you needed but couldn't afford?**

\_\_\_\_\_



# Freedom of Information Request

## What is a Freedom of Information Request?

A Freedom of Information Request (FOI) is a formal way for individuals to ask government agencies, public authorities, or organisations for information they hold. It's like a tool that allows you to access specific details or documents about their activities, decisions, or policies.

Let's say you're curious about how your school makes certain decisions or want to know more about a government program. Instead of just asking casually, a Freedom of Information Request lets you formally request information, and the authorities have to provide it, as long as it's not confidential or against the law. It's a way for citizens to keep an eye on what those in power are doing and make sure everything is transparent and accountable.

## The Grand Campaign FOI

The focus of A National Voice's campaign is to investigate the amounts provided by local authorities as part of the statutory leaving care grant for care leavers. Talking to young people we found that not all local authorities made sure their care leavers receive the full £3,000. Our goal is to gather concrete evidence of where this happens. This evidence will be really important when we approach government leaders responsible for implementing this policy. We aim to demonstrate that the current approach is not working effectively and that there is a need for further action to better support care leavers.

Therefore, ANV has collaboratively initiated its own Freedom of Information request to find out what support is available.





# Freedom of Information Request

## What we have done

A National Voice have sent out a freedom of information (FOI) request to all local authorities to find out more about their setting up home allowance (sometimes called the leaving care grant).

We have asked your local authority about how much the grant is, whether there are plans to increase it to £3,000 this year and who can access it. We have also asked whether they have a policy on this and to share it with us.

## Template Letter

### How you can support

As well as other elements present in this pack, we've developed a template letter that can be used as-is or adjusted to suit local requests. This letter is intended to be sent to Local Authority leaders. It provides background information on the campaign and suggests a meeting to discuss a number of things. Additionally, it emphasises that your authority should be prepared for the FOI request that ANV will be sending, with the aim of encouraging their prompt response.

You can download or print the template letter on the next page and add your names and signatures. Alternatively, you can copy and paste the text into your own format.

## Supporting The Grand Campaign for Care Leavers

Dear

We trust this letter finds you well. We are reaching out to you about a cause close to our heart that we think is really important — The Grand Campaign led by A National Voice (ANV).

Last year, the government made a significant move by increasing the setting-up home allowance for care leavers from £2,000 to £3,000. There is a clear expectation that all local authorities should make this change, as evidenced in Government guidance, and echoed by Children's Minister David Johnston (7.50mins).

The goal of the Grand Campaign is straightforward: to make sure that every local authority fully embraces this increase, eliminating the differences in support for care leavers in different regions. ANV acknowledges that, despite government guidance, not all local authorities are offering the enhanced grant. They envision a future where every care leaver, up to the age of 25, is entitled to the full £3,000, free from the constraints of a postcode lottery, and supported by clear, consistent guidelines.

We support The Grand Campaign and are writing to seek your support in championing this cause and making a positive impact on the lives of those who need it most.

ANV are undertaking a Freedom of Information request and we ask that you anticipate this request.

We believe that by working closely together, we can effect positive change. Please meet with us to discuss:

- The uplift and hear why it is important.
- How you can work on the policy and guidance around the uplift with our local authority.
- How we communicate any changes, so that all care leavers in our local authority are aware.
- How we as an authority can show support to The Grand Campaign and share what we do.

For more information, please feel free to contact

Yours sincerely,



## Share Your Stories

### Capturing individual experience

A National Voice want to give individual children and young people the opportunity to share their experiences related to the campaign. We will include them with the responses to this campaign pack in a comprehensive report to present to key leaders.

Sharing real experiences is incredibly valuable, as they really show the actual impact of policies on children and young people in everyday life. Real stories help decision makers understand what it is like to be care experienced and how they can help you and others like you.

We have therefore created an online form where you can share your experiences. All responses received will be anonymised.

### Ways to share

Use the form which has some short questions to share your experiences. However, we also welcome feedback in other ways that you feel comfortable with:

- Record either audio or video footage of yourself sharing your experiences.
- Attach existing work such as stories, books, poems, artwork, and more.



Within the online form, you will find an upload function, along with an email address for sending existing work or stories shared in a different format.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GrandCamp/>



## Join Online Discussion

### For professionals:

**Audience:** Any professional that will be supporting the participation of children and young people with any of the activities in this pack.

**Aim:** To explore the campaign pack, share the timeline of events, gather thoughts on best approaches for children and young people, and effective feedback loops. It will be an opportunity to share thoughts and ask any questions.

**Date:** 27 March 2024

**Time:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm

[Sign-up now](#)



### For children and young people:

**Audience:** Care-experienced children and young people that are interested in the campaign or want to know more.

**Aim:** To explore the campaign pack, share the timeline of events, explain the activities within, and how they can get involved.

To give a space for children and young people to start a national conversation on their experiences of the leaving care grant.

**Date:** 24 April 2024

**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm

[Sign-up now](#)





## Ways to Advocate for Yourself

**If you don't think you are getting the right support you can:**

### **Learn about your rights and entitlements**

Find out information about your care status and rights and entitlements using Coram Voice's sorted and supported: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/1870-CV-SortedSupported-Guide-new2.pdf>

More information on our website: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/myrights/my-rights-when-i-am-leaving-care/>

### **Find your local offer**

Learn about your local authorities individual local offer to care leavers: <https://www.careleaveroffer.co.uk/> or ask for this from your social worker or personal advisor. Ask to speak with your social worker or their manager to raise your concerns.

### **Make a complaint**

You can learn your more about your rights here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ceaec40f0b6629523c98a/getting\\_the\\_best\\_from\\_complaints.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ceaec40f0b6629523c98a/getting_the_best_from_complaints.pdf)

### **Speak to an advocate**

Speak to an advocate who can support you with understanding your rights and with any issues you are experiencing: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/get-help/advocacyhelpline/>

### **Find my MP**

If you wish to contact your local MP then you can follow the link below to find their details. Simply type in the name of your town, city, postcode or their name if you know this: <https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>



# I Support Cards

We have developed an 'I Support' Card intended to encourage individuals, children in care councils, local authorities, and leaders to express their support for the campaign.

There are several reasons why you might choose to sign the card to demonstrate your support, and you can learn more about them here. Additionally, once you have signed the cards, there are various actions you can take. Discover the steps below:

## Why might you sign the 'I Support' card?

We recognise that individuals are at varying stages regarding the leaving care grant, thus offering different ways to show support.

### 1. To demonstrate past success

You might sign the card if your local authority has already implemented the full £3,000 leaving care grant. In this case, you could sign with the name of your local authority and include a message explaining this achievement. We would then feature this as part of our social media campaign to highlight successful examples.

### 2. To express a desire for change

If your local authority currently does not provide the full £3,000 grant, individuals such as members of local authority children in care councils, corporate parenting boards, decision makers, or leaders could sign the card with a message expressing their aspiration or support to achieve this in the future.

### 3. Leave a message of support

When signing the card to express your support, please include a message detailing your actions or commitments. For instance, if a local authority leader signs, the message could read: "As an authority, we support the goal of providing all care leavers with the complete £3,000 leaving care grant. We aim to accomplish this by 2025."



# I Support Cards

## Sharing completed cards

Upon completing your 'I Support' card, please share it with us. You can do so by:

- Scanning and emailing it to us,
- Holding the card and taking a picture of it, or
- Following the previous steps and additionally sharing the picture via your social media accounts, tagging Coram Voice, and using the hashtag:

**#TheGrandCampaign**

## How we intend to share

Upon receiving scans, pictures, or being tagged in posts of your completed cards, we intend to share them on our own social media accounts as we receive them. This will allow us to showcase the success and support for the campaign. Your images may also be included on our website.

## Consent

Please only share photos with us of individuals who have given consent to do so.



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CoramVoice/>



Twitter/X - <https://twitter.com/CoramVoice>



Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/coramvoice/>



LinkedIn - <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/voice>

[Download the I Support Card here](#), or use the card on the next page.

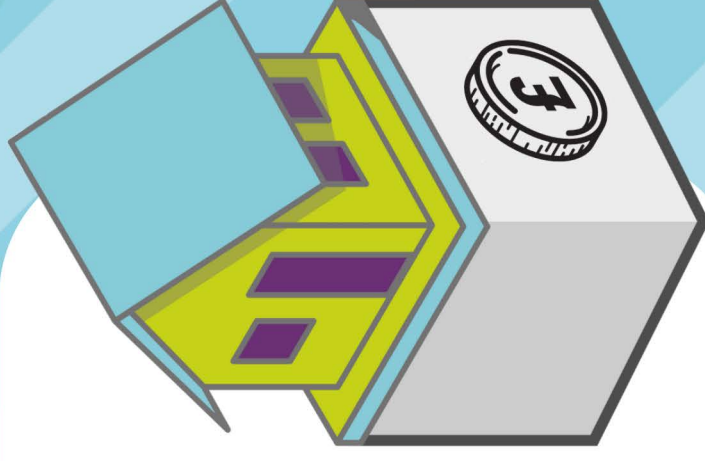
*The Grand Campaign*

# I Support

**A  
NATIONAL  
VOICE**

Signature:

Message:







# What Next?

## Collating Response

A National Voice will pull together the evidence from the activities within this pack into a comprehensive report, which we will publish online and present to leaders to ensure that every local authority is fully committed to the three campaign requests.

**In addition to the detailed contents provided on each page, below is a checklist outlining the feedback we encourage you to share with us:**

- Evidence related to 'My Dream Home', including participation photos, scans, or photos of completed flip charts, and responses to reflective questions.
- Images of your personalised template letter requesting a meeting with leaders, as well as pictures documenting the meeting itself. Also, include pictures or documents that show what happened because of the meeting, like what was decided or what will be done next.
- Participation in the 'Share Your Story' activity.
- Attendance at an information session.
- Completion of an 'I Support' card along with a personal message.
- Any other information about what you have done to promote the campaign.

You can send evidence directly to: [ANV@coramvoice.org.uk](mailto:ANV@coramvoice.org.uk)



# Social Media

Here are the details for our social media accounts. Please use them to tag us in any work completed using this pack. Follow us to stay informed about progress and ongoing projects with Coram Voice and A National Voice.



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CoramVoice/>



Twitter/X - <https://twitter.com/CoramVoice>



Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/coramvoice/>



LinkedIn - <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/voice>

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Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch at: [ANV@coramvoice.org.uk](mailto:ANV@coramvoice.org.uk)

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