

**CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD
8 FEBRUARY 2018**

LEISURE PASSES FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Recommendation

- 1. The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to support and lobby District Councils to continue to provide free leisure activities for Looked After Children and to support discussion around the addition of Care Leavers up to their 25th Birthday.**

Background

2. Worcestershire Looked After Children, Worcestershire County Council foster carers and foster carers' own children are entitled to a concessionary Leisure Pass that provides free or discounted rates on certain sports and leisure activities, and facilities within Worcestershire. The benefits vary from area to area, and are dependent on what the district councils are willing to offer.
3. There have been few changes to the leisure passes since the scheme started. Any changes have been to improve the free or discounted benefits e.g. change in Malvern being run by Freedom Leisure.
4. From January 2018 there are going to be changes to the leisure passes in both the Redditch and Bromsgrove districts. Looked After Children have been asked their views around this and feel that they wish the scheme to continue in Redditch and Bromsgrove to ensure a fair approach throughout the county.

Supporting Information

5. Changes to Leisure Passes

Area	Previous Benefits	2018 Benefits	Date of Changes
Bromsgrove	Free swimming, under 5's recreation, badminton, table tennis and squash 50% discount on the gym on a casual basis, Activzone, Fit Kids exercise classes, swimming lessons, art club, sports coaching throughout district	Free swimming only No longer 50% of gym, swimming lessons and free badminton etc.	Jan 2018 for free activities and 50% apart from swimming lessons which changes April 2018
Redditch	50% discount on all council run leisure and cultural activities *Free swimming for any under 16's who live in Redditch.	None unless in receipt of certain benefits. Free swimming remains for Redditch based children aged 5 – 16 years of age	New Active Card starts on the 8/01/2018

Redditch

6. As it stands in Redditch now young people or carers would need to be in receipt of benefits as the new scheme is geared towards supporting financially disadvantaged Redditch residents. This would mean nearly all of our young people living with foster carers and in children's homes, and foster carers will no longer be entitled to a concessionary leisure cards as they would not meet this criteria unless they are in receipt of PIP. Our care leavers may still be able to obtain a card depending on their circumstances if they are in receipt of any of the benefits e.g. housing benefit.

7. The only people entitled to concessions have to live in Redditch, be in receipt of the benefits listed and will then receive the discounts shown in the 2 boxes below.

The following are to receive a **25% discount**. These are people who are working, but still receive some form of benefit listed below.

People receiving any of the following:

- Universal Credit (In Work)
- Housing Benefit

Bromsgrove

The following are to receive **50% discount**. These are people who are out of work and receive some form of benefit listed below.

- Jobseekers Allowance (Income Based)
- Income Support
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Universal Credit (Out of Work)
- Incapacity Benefit
- PIP

8. In Bromsgrove the free swimming would remain but the removal of the 50% discount on the gym and swimming lessons will mean the costs will increase significantly for young people using these facilities. Swimming lessons are important to our young people as it is a life skill and they may have missed out on swimming lessons at school with potential school changes.

Quick See Guide

9. Quick see guide for leisure passes in 2017 showing all districts before the changes take place.

Area	Name of Leisure Pass	Where the Passes can be used	Benefits	How to obtain a Leisure Pass
Bromsgrove	Link To Leisure Card	Dolphin Centre / Sports Development Sessions (Booked and paid for at the Dolphin Centre)	Free – swimming, under 5's recreation, badminton, table tennis, squash 50% discount – gym on casual basis, Activzone , Fit Kids, exercise classes, swimming programme, art club, sports coaching throughout district	Carers must go to the Dolphin Centre, take along their foster carer's ID card or form of identification and complete an application form.
Malvern	Malvern Connected Card	Malvern Splash Leisure Centre / Tenbury Swimming Pool / Sports Dyson Perrins / Sport Martley	Free – swimming (public sessions), gym 50% exercise classes, swimming lessons, racket sports, climbing, holiday activity camps.	Carers must go to one of the Leisure Centres named opposite, take along their foster carer's ID card or form of identification and complete an application form.
Redditch	Concessionary Reddicard	Action Sport / Abbey Stadium / Arrow Vale / Kingsley / Countryside Centre / Forge Mill / Palace Theatre / Pitcheroak Golf Course	50% discount on all council run leisure and cultural activities *Free swimming for any under 16's who live in Redditch (This is subject to review and may be changed at any time).	Reddicard application form needs to be completed and returned to ISL. The C&LDW will process the application and send the Reddicard in the post or it can be picked up from Abbey Stadium Sports Centre. All renewals must come through ISL.
Worcester	Advance50 Card	Nunnery Wood Sports Complex / St John's / Perdiswell Leisure Centre	50% discount on the majority of activities including, gym sessions on a casual basis, fitness classes, on activity prices, including badminton, 5-a-side football, squash etc.	Carers must go to one of the Leisure Centres named opposite, take along their foster carer's ID card or form of identification and complete an application form.
Wychavon	Concessionary Leisure Card	Droitwich / Evesham / Pershore Leisure Centre / Sport Martley / Sport Dyson Perrins	Up to 50% discount on swimming, badminton, squash, table tennis, gym induction , on use of fitness room, health suite	Carers must go to one of the Leisure Centres named opposite, take along their foster carer's ID card or form of identification and complete an application form.
Wyre Forest	Passport To Leisure Card	Wyre Forest Leisure Centre	50% discount on swimming prices, aerobics / fitness classes, Gym sessions on casual basis, activity prices, including badminton, football, squash, cricket, basketball	Carers must go to the Leisure Centre named opposite, take along their foster carer's ID card or form of identification and complete an application form.

Contact Points

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