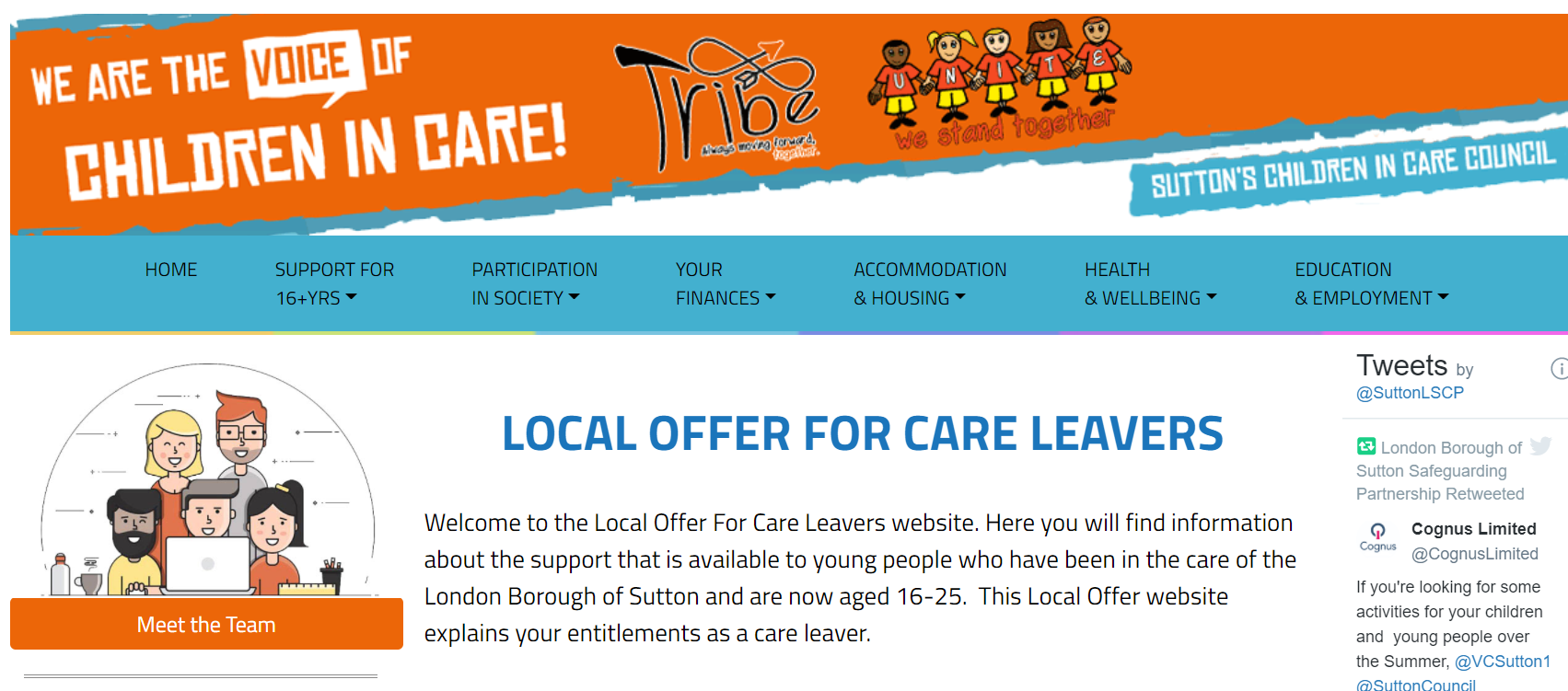
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| **Sutton Virtual School** | |
| Previously Looked-After Children:  A booklet for SGO and Adoption families and young people | |
| Visit our [website](https://cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/)  Follow us on Twitter @SuttonVS\_CLA | |

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| **COntents**   * Previously Looked-After Children – an introduction * Special Guardianship / Supervision Orders * Adoption * Pupil Premium funding and eligibility * Care Leavers |
| **Parents playing with children**  **Previously Looked-After Children**  ‘Previously looked-after children’ are those who have now come out of public care. This could be through a range of arrangements, including through adoption, a Special Guardianship Order, a Supervision Order or through adulthood.  At the London Borough of Sutton, we want all previously looked-after children and young people have support that they need to fulfil their potential.  This booklet provides a guide to the support available to young people in Sutton who were previously in care, and signposts how to access it.  **The Role of Sutton Virtual School**  Sutton Virtual School is available to support you as a parent/guardian of a child who has been adopted, has an SGO or has left care for other reasons. We will be available to provide advice and guidance to you throughout the educational journey and [our contact information is available on our website.](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/about-us/)  You may wish to request for support in the following areas:   * Attendance * Behaviour * Exclusion * Inclusion * SEND * Use of pupil premium plus funding * Educational legislation * Admissions   We will endeavour to respond to your request promptly and provide you with the support you require.  A school does not have a statutory duty to do a Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting for an SGO or adopted child, like they do for a Child Looked After, however we do encourage you to maintain strong lines of communication with the school throughout the child’s education. We provide a [PEP template on our website](https://www.cognus.org.uk/suttonvirtualschool/schools/children-previously-looked-after/) if you wish to use it with the school to replicate a PEP meeting.  **The role of the Designated Teacher**  Each school has a statutory position of Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After. This should be a teacher who holds a position that would enable them to effectively influence change and policy within the school.  We recommend strongly that new adoptive and SGO parents make contact with the Designated Teacher at their child’s school and meet with them to ensure the school fully understands the needs of the child.  Full details around the duties and expectations of the Designated Teacher can be found on [the DfE website](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683561/The_designated_teacher_for_looked-after_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf).  **Adoption**  When a child is adopted, they will no longer be ‘looked-after’ but as a previously looked-after child, there is other support you can access. If you are adopting a child, you can request funding through the Adoption Support Fund.  Adopt London South (ALS) is a Regional Adoption Agency partnership of 9 local authorities – Croydon, Kingston, Richmond, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Southwark, Sutton and Wandsworth. Their specialist adoption staff find families for children, recruit adopters and offer post adoption support to children, families, birth parents and adopted adults.    You can find lots of information about post-adoption support on their website at: <https://adoptlondon.org.uk/adoption-support/>  If you’re looking for peer support from other adopters, these links take you to some useful organisations:   * <https://wearefamilyadoption.org.uk/> * <https://www.first4adoption.org.uk/adoption-support/> * [https://www.adoptionuk.org/support](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.adoptionuk.org%2Fsupport&data=04%7C01%7Csara.martin%40cognus.org.uk%7C88a179cacd404f59da3108d96d546dcf%7Ca383de7d7d37405685d905076fba603f%7C0%7C0%7C637661031658861161%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=PELkRGAMhNgJtiv5EIriBONB7ztKODthqZtvia9nllc%3D&reserved=0) * [https://newfamilysocial.org.uk/-](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnewfamilysocial.org.uk%2F-&data=04%7C01%7Csara.martin%40cognus.org.uk%7C88a179cacd404f59da3108d96d546dcf%7Ca383de7d7d37405685d905076fba603f%7C0%7C0%7C637661031658871115%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FZ01UOw18xa3ncNOx0toEeCRSdIyyMMGwjTwK08ADrU%3D&reserved=0) for LGBT adoptive families   There is a useful adoption guide for grandparents  <http://www.innerworldwork.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/An-Adoption-Guide-for-Grandparents.pdf>  NATP Logo  The [National Association of Therapeutic Parents (NATP)](https://adoptlondon.org.uk/news/free-membership-to-natp-for-adopt-london-families-during-covid19/) offers a range of support group services, peer support online, a members hotline for 1-2-1 consultation, listening circles,  plus training and advice to families. You can contact them on 01453 519000 to discuss membership and its benefits.    **Special Guardianship/ Supervision Orders**  Sometimes, the Court will grant the Local Authority a Supervision order when a child is returned to their parents. In this case, the local authority will still be involved in providing the child assistance and support. Where children are on a Child in Need or Child Protection plan, the Virtual School will continue to promote the education of this group of children, though the Government has set these duties out to provide this through strategic work, rather than providing individual children and families support.  If a Special Guardianship Order is granted, any arrangements or particular support needs will be considered before the SGO is finalised and progressed. After an SGO has been granted by the court, Sutton has a post SG service, which can offer additional support, including:   * advice and counselling * help dealing with other organisations such as schools and healthcare * accessing therapeutic services * training and support groups   Please liaise with your social worker for more information.  **Pupil premium funds for Previously Looked-After Children**  When a child is adopted, adoptive parents can apply for the school to receive pupil premium plus funds for the duration of their schooling. We encourage families to do this, so that the school has these important funds. Pupil premium plus funds can also be claimed for pupils who left local authority care on a special guardianship order (SGO) or child arrangements order.  Unlike pupil premium plus funds for children who are in care, it is the schools and not the Virtual School who are responsible for ensuring that pupil premium for previously looked-after children is spent within the Government conditions of the grant and importantly, this funding is not ring-fenced for the specific individual use of that child.  Person raising hand  The purpose of pupil premium for previously looked-after children is to raise educational attainment and close the gap between them and their peers. It can be spent as the school see fit and include spending on non-academic outcomes or activities that will also benefit non-eligible pupils.  If you have a query or concern about your child’s learning and development, or the use of these funds, we suggest contacting the school’s Designated Teacher or Inclusion lead to discuss this. |

**Care Leavers**

Sutton has a Local Offer website for Care Leavers. Here you will find information about the support that is available to young people who have been in the care of the London Borough of Sutton and are now aged 16-25.  The website explains your entitlements as a care leaver and can be found at: <https://www.suttonlocalofferforcareleavers.org.uk/index.php>

The Leaving Care team can offer support with a range of issues, including:

* Education and Employment
* Accommodation and Housing
* Your finances
* Health and Wellbeing

The team can be contacted on 020 770 6600 or [lcta@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:lcta@sutton.gov.uk) .