

Information about Cornwall



What is Cornwall



Cornwall is a county with lots of countryside, beaches and small towns. Cornwall's capital city is Truro which is a small city.

Some of Cornwall's other popular towns include Newquay, St Austell, Penzance, Bodmin and Falmouth.

Cornwall is a very popular place for tourists to come on holiday. Lots of people think Cornwall is very friendly. It is a safe place. Cornwall has a strong sense of local identity and its own language, though this is not spoken widely now.



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A Child in Care

- As an under 18 year old in the UK you are classed as a child. When you do not have your parents to look after you, the Local Authority looks after and cares for you.
- Now you are in Cornwall as a child you will have access to education, healthcare, housing and financial help.
- Your workers on the 16+ Team want to support you to build a nice life here with friends, hobbies and a community around you.
- You have to live in Cornwall until you turn 18, and your Asylum claim is decided: then you are able to make your own decision about where you want to live in the UK which we will do our best to support you with.

Who Supports You

Social worker:

Your Social Worker is here to keep you safe, to support you and to write your Pathway Plan which has all the details of how the Local Authority will support you with accommodation, health needs, your immigration claim, your education, social activities and any cultural needs. Your social worker coordinates all the people who support you to make sure everyone is working together. You have a social worker until you are 18.

Personal Advisor:

Your Personal Adviser will work with you until you are 21 or 25 depending on your circumstances. They help you plan for the future and offer advice, assistance and guidance. They need to help you get ready for the future and make sure you have learnt to do things independently by the time you are an adult.

Carefree support worker:

Your support worker is employed by a charity to support children in care. They facilitate activities with other asylum seeking children and the wider community. They support Social Workers and Personal Advisors to support you, especially when you are new and there is lots to sort out. They support you to engage with opportunities around Cornwall to help you build a life here. They are someone you can turn to about any worries or concerns.

Your Asylum Claim

Once you get to Cornwall, with your consent, your social worker will set up a meeting with an immigration solicitor. A solicitor is someone that will support you and represent you with your asylum claim.

You will have meetings with your solicitor, who will fill in your Statement of Evidence Form (SEF) about why you are applying for Refugee Status. You will then attend an interview with the Home Office, who are responsible for assessing your claim. In the interview they will ask you any questions they have from reading your SEF. There will be an interpreter to make sure that you are able to communicate fully.

Thinking about your asylum claim...

The asylum claim process unfortunately takes a long time and we can't always predict the timescale.

In the meantime, it is important to try not to worry too much about it, and focus on your life in Cornwall.

Everyone who works with you will support you through it the best we can, including the solicitor who is working to make your claim successful.

Always try to talk with your social worker about any concerns or worries you may have about this process. You can also ask for an Independent Advocate from the Refugee Council Children's Panel.

Emergency services in the UK

- Police – In the UK police are safe people, you can talk to them if you have any concerns and they will support you. However, you need to follow the laws in the UK or you could be arrested. We will help you understand the laws in the UK and introduce you to your local police officers.
- Ambulance/hospital – In the UK if you have a life threatening injury or pain you can call for an ambulance to take you to the hospital by dialing 999 on your mobile phone. You will be asked to give your name and location.
- Your Social Worker, Personal Adviser and Support Worker are at work between 8.45am and 5.15pm Monday to Friday. We have an Out of Hours Service for emergencies in the evening and weekends.

The Out of Hours number is: 01208 251300



Important UK law



- In the UK it is illegal to purchase alcohol and cigarettes until you are 18 years old. You cannot smoke indoors in most places.
- You can report racism to any worker or the police and this will be taken seriously.
- In the UK the age of sexual consent is 16 years old. It is illegal to have sex if you are under the age of 16; to have sex with someone under the age of 16 if you are older; and to share or receive sexual images of someone under the age of 18. And remember, even if you are both over 16, is illegal to touch anyone in a sexual way unless you know they have consented for you to do so.
- You must not drive a car until you have a driving license and you need to pass a test. You can learn to drive in the UK when you are 17, however you will need to apply for a provisional driving license (only possible if you have got Leave to Remain).

Your home

Foster Care:

If you are under 16, or 16 and still at school, you will live with a family with adults who are responsible for looking after you. They will provide your food and help you settle into Cornwall.

Supported Lodgings:

If you are over 16 you may be placed in a household with at least one adult who welcomes you into their home and will provide you with one meal a day. The adult will be around to give a helping hand to independence.

Training Flats:

These allow you to have the most independence. You live here on your own, sometimes with other young people in care living in the same building who will be from different backgrounds. These will be furnished with the essentials for you to live comfortably.

There are a limited amount of housing options in Cornwall with lots of demand for placements. You will be placed wherever there are spaces, but we will do our best to ensure you live in the most appropriate place



We help you with...

HEALTH:

- When you arrive you will have a health assessment. With your consent the doctor will do tests to check your overall health.
- You will also be referred for Tuberculosis screening
- You will be registered with a local doctor (General Practitioner).
- You will be added to the waiting list for a dentist or helped to get dental treatment if it is urgent.
- You will have the opportunity to see an optician.
- We can refer you to Brook which can support you with sexual health if you wish to see someone about this www.sexualhealthcornwall.co.uk
- We will support you to sign up to a gym if you would like to and/or consider any other activities.



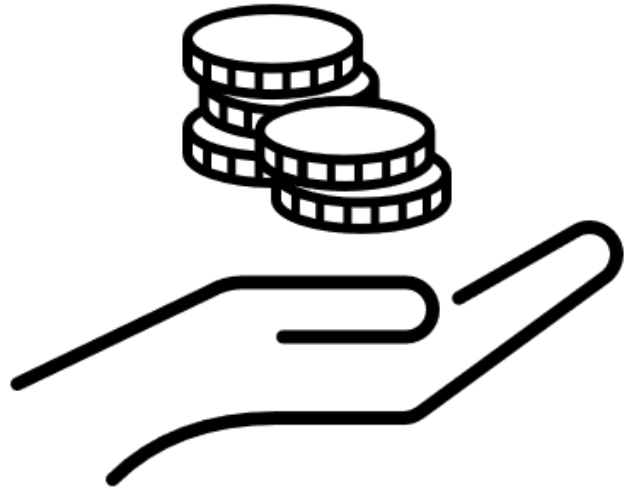
... we will also help you with



EDUCATION:

- In the UK you have to be in education until you are 18.
- We will support you to study English for Speakers of Other Languages if you need to.
- At college aged 17-19 Years old, you can choose your subjects when you have learnt enough English. At secondary school 11-16 Years old, students cover a range of subjects.
- You will be provided with a bus pass to get you to and from college or school.

Money



- What money you receive depends on where you are placed and how much you need.
- In foster care you will get pocket money and your foster parents will make sure you have enough of the other things you need.
- If you are in Supported Lodgings or a Training Flat you will get a weekly personal allowance that you must budget for food, clothing, toiletries and other essentials.
- If you have a friend or family member you want to visit, you can ask us. We do checks to make sure they are safe then we will agree to pay your travel to visit: but only in the college holidays.