

# Setting up Home Allowance (SUHA) – Aged 16 and above 2020/2021

Information for Young People



From April 2020

## What you are entitled to (2020/2021 Rates)

### Your setting up home allowance (SUHA) consists of:

- £1879.50 to be spent on items for equipping your accommodation.
- £50.00 Starter pack, to be used on basic essentials such as, cleaning products, tea, coffee, light bulbs, etc.
- £50.00 Health and safety pack, which includes 2x smoke detectors, one carbon monoxide detector, door security chain, chub lock, fire blanket and first aid kit.
- £157.50 for one year's TV license.

**£2137.00 in total**

**VAT** - If items are purchased by HCC on your behalf (you can still choose which items you want and where from), you may not have to pay VAT and therefore this will result in the SUHA being up to 20% bigger (this may require a little advanced planning).

Subject to agreement, if you would prefer to purchase your own items, the allowance can be paid into a bank account, or a prepaid card can be issued and/or you can go on a shop with your social worker, personal adviser, keyworker or carer. If you purchase the items you will need to pay the VAT element.

Remember the above items are just ideas and you do not have to buy these exact items, but the money should be spent on similar items. For example, your landlord may already have smoke detectors in place but not a fire blanket so you could get the blanket with the Health and Safety money and not the smoke detectors.

If you are a Care Leaver aged 16 or above and moving into semi-independent placement, you are entitled to, up to £500.00 of your SUHA account up until your 18th birthday. If you are aged 18 or above living in independent accommodation, e.g. your own flat, then you are entitled to your full SUHA amount, up until your 21st birthday or 25th birthday (see below).

If you are in full time education or on a training programme, you are entitled to your full SUHA amount up until the completion of your education or training.

## **Shopping Tips**

Make your SUHA money go a long way; these simple tips could help you budget your money.

- Ensure you keep the receipts of all items purchased, in case of faults; a lot of electrical items come with a one-year warranty.
- Consider the cost of warranty/ guarantee; it may save you a lot more than having to purchase a new one.
- Consider delivery charges as they change considerably depending on the store which will leave you with less to spend.
- You may not be charged VAT if HCC buy the item on your behalf.

## **Where to Consider Looking**

There are many stores which sell similar products for a range of different prices, so looking around can often be your best option. Don't assume that everything you find online will be cheaper than what you can get in stores. Below are a few other options: Charity shops and markets are great places to shop for cheaper alternatives for essential homeware stuff. The British Heart Foundation has furniture and electrical stores across the country, offering new white goods at reasonable prices. The closest stores for Hertfordshire are Hemel Hempstead, Dunstable and Harlow.

Outlet stores are another way of getting brand new items for low prices. Shops such as Choice Home sell off brand new items which may have been discontinued or excess stock.

Online stores such as AO.com and Amazon, sell home furnishing and electronic goods at reasonable prices. Also consider googling discount codes for website such as Argos, this can save you money.

## Essential items and how much you should consider spending

This is a list of suggested items you should consider purchasing when moving into your own flat for the first time.

**Bed Frame** – Up to £250.00

**Mattress** – Up to £100.00

**Duvet and pillows** – Up to £25.00

**Duvet and pillow covers and bed sheets** – Up to £20.00

**Cooker** – Up to £250.00

**Sofa** – Up to £250.00

**Vacuum cleaner** – Up to £50.00

**Fridge/freezer** – Up to £200.00

**Wardrobe** – Up to £100.00

**Washing machine** – Up to £200.00

**Microwave** – Up to £50.00

**Curtains/blinds** – Up to £50.00

### **Crockery and cutlery**

(note: kitchen knives cannot be ordered online) – Up to £30.00

### **Please Note:**

If you purchase items yourself using the pre-loaded payment card, cash or store vouchers, you will have to pay the full price including VAT.

Think about HCC purchasing the large items for you as you will not be charged VAT and therefore will enable you to buy additional items.

**Below is some space for you to make your own list:**

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