

Setting up Home Allowance (SUHA) – Aged 16 and above

Information for Young People



From April 2024

What you are entitled to (2024/2025 Rates)

If you turned 18 on or after 1st April 2023 Your setting up home allowance (SUHA) consists of:

- £2,580.50 to be spent on essential items for equipping your accommodation including bed & mattress; cooker; fridge/freezer; washing machine; kitchenware (crockery, cutlery, pots, pans etc); carpet / flooring; furniture.
- £150.00 Starter pack, to be used on basic essentials such as:- initial grocery shop including cleaning materials; crockery & cutlery; kettle; bedding; microwave; air mattress etc.
- £100.00 Health and Safety Allowance, to be used on tool kit; camera doorbell; first aid kit; fire blanket; LED Light bulbs
- £169.50 for one year's TV license.

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.

If you are a Care Leaver aged 16 or above and moving into semi-independent placement, you are entitled to, up to £390.00 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 3 months before you turn 25 years old.

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.
- Consider the stores refund policy in case you wish to return unwanted items. Some stores will not refund or take returns.
- 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.

[illegible]