

Financial risks

Age range: 16+



Barclays LifeSkills have partnered with Spectra First to support those leaving care to build their employability skills and financial capability. As a signatory of the **Care Leaver Covenant**, alongside other organisations, Barclays has committed to offer a different type of support and expertise from that statutorily provided by local authorities. For more information visit mycovenant.org.uk.

Pages 1-3 of this pack are delivery notes for the facilitator, and pages 4-5 are worksheets for young people. Page 6 has a list of links for further support.

Would you run the risk?

5 mins

- Show the group/individual the images on **Worksheet 1** and ask them to think about the level of risk involved in each activity:
 - Renting a flat
 - Applying for a credit card
 - Going to university
 - Starting a new job
- Ask them to rank to each of the images from high to low depending on the level of risk they would be prepared to take for each activity
- Ask them to explain their choices. Reassure them that there are no right or wrong answers:

What are the risks involved in the activity they have chosen?

Why do they feel more comfortable with these risks than the others?

What did they take into consideration when deciding on the level of risk?

What might be the consequences of taking these risks?

- Explain that assessing risk involves thinking about what might happen, not what will happen. Everyone has their own view of risk shaped by their experiences, influences and personality. There are a variety of actions you can take to avoid or reduce risk, especially when it comes to financial risk and it's important to consider the consequences of any decisions

Financial risks

Online financial risks

20 mins

- Using **Worksheet 2** ask the group/individual to discuss the first part of Melissa's story and consider the associated risks. Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers. They could start by deciding on how they would rank the scenarios from highest to lowest risk
- They should discuss:

What are the general risks to consider?

Do any of these have financial implications?

What are the potential consequences?



Melissa's story (part 1)

"I don't have the internet at home and can't afford a data plan, so to get online, I go to use the free Wi-Fi in a café down the road. The other day I realised I was behind on my rent, so as soon as payday came around I went to the café to log into my bank account, transfer the money to my landlord and send them an email. As it was my lunch break, the café was really busy with lots of people logging onto the Wi-Fi with their mobile phones and laptops."

- After a few minutes, discuss their answers the questions below. If working with a group, ask for a volunteer to sit in the 'hot seat' facing the others, and talk about Melissa's situation. Invite others to ask them openended questions that prompt them to explain or justify their opinions, for example:

What about the risks of...?

What is the likelihood of...?

Why do you think [one situation] is riskier than [another situation]...?

What are the consequences?

- Next read the next part of Melissa's story and look at how their answers compared. Find out which risks they predicted happening and if there were any they didn't see coming. Discuss briefly the types of advice they'd offer Melissa to avoid this happening in the future. E.g. Use a friend's private WiFi if they know someone, change computer settings to turn off file sharing and stop it connecting to the WiFi automatically, only use browsers with "https:", etc.

Financial risks

Online financial risks (cont'd)



Melissa's story (part 2)

"A few days later, I went to pay for my supermarket shop on my debit card but it kept saying I had insufficient funds. I thought this was weird as I knew I had enough money left over from payday. After speaking to my bank, it turned out someone had hacked my account and withdrawn a load of money. That's when it dawned on me that they must have got hold of my personal information when I logged onto the café's public Wi-Fi. I got all my money back but it took a while and I had to take out a loan just to tide me over in the meantime."



Financial risks

Worksheet 1: Would you run the risk?

Renting a flat



Applying for a credit card



Going to university



Starting a new job



Financial risks

Worksheet 2: Online financial risks



Melissa's story (part 1)

"I don't have the internet at home and can't afford a data plan, so to get online, I go to use the free Wi-Fi in a café down the road. The other day I realised I was behind on my rent, so as soon as payday came around I went to the café to log into my bank account, transfer the money to my landlord and send them an email. As it was my lunch break, the café was really busy with lots of people logging onto the Wi-Fi with their mobile phones and laptops."



Low risk



Medium risk



High risk



Melissa's story (part 2)

"A few days later, I went to pay for my supermarket shop on my debit card but it kept saying I had insufficient funds. I thought this was weird as I knew I had enough money left over from payday. After speaking to my bank, it turned out someone had hacked my account and withdrawn a load of money. That's when it dawned on me that they must have got hold of my personal information when I logged onto the café's public Wi-Fi. I got all my money back but it took a while and I had to take out a loan just to tide me over in the meantime."

Further support

The following links can be explored to get further advice on a number of topics around managing finances and living independently:

The Childrens Commissioner (general advice for those up to 25)

childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

The Rees foundation (general support for Care Leavers of any age)

reesfoundation.org

Care Leaver Covenant (help finding job opportunities)

mycovenant.org.uk

The Association of British Credit Unions (help finding the right credit unions and general information about these)

findyourcreditunion.co.uk

Propel (support for those going to university, including financial advice)

propel.org.uk/UK

Citizens Advice Bureau (general legal and financial advice)

citizensadvice.org.uk

Step Change (debt management advice)

stepchange.org

Money Helper (general financial advice)

moneyhelper.org.uk

Debt Advice Foundation (free, confidential debt advice charity)

debtadvicefoundation.org

Benefit calculator (free tool to help find estimates for benefits entitlements)

entitledto.co.uk/help/better-off-calculation

Experian (free tool for credit score checks)

experian.co.uk

If you are a young person and want to know more about money and work, register at <https://barclayslifeskills.com/help-myself/>

If you are working with young people who have experienced care, explore more adapted content at barclayslifeskills.com/help-others/lessons and select 'Care leavers'.

Many other LifeSkills lessons are also suitable for use with care leavers to support them on their employability journey. To find out more, go to barclayslifeskills.com/help-others/lessons and select the 'Building key skills to do well at work' category.