

SMART MONEY KIDS — Local Authorities & Councils Information Pack

Financial Independence for Vulnerable Young People

1. Introduction

SMART MONEY KIDS partners with councils and local authorities to deliver specialist financial education for young people transitioning to independent living. Particularly **care leavers, supported tenants, and vulnerable youth**.

Our mission is to build financial resilience and independence among young residents, reducing arrears, evictions, and dependency on crisis services. We turn financial education into a prevention tool that protects both young people and council budgets.

While other interventions focus on crisis recovery, SMART MONEY KIDS focuses on **crisis prevention**. Equipping young people with the knowledge to sustain housing, employment, and wellbeing.

“Every £1 invested in early financial education saves councils £4–£6 in future crisis costs.”

2. The Problem

Across the UK, young people are being handed keys to properties they are not financially equipped to manage.

They move from supported environments into independent tenancies without practical understanding of **rent, bills, debt, or benefits**.

The results are predictable and preventable:

- Rising **rent arrears** among 18–25-year-olds.
- Increased **evictions and homelessness prevention cases**.
- Higher **NEET rates** and dependency on local welfare schemes.

Each failed tenancy costs local authorities between **£8,000 and £15,000**, excluding follow-on costs such as temporary accommodation or social care.

Despite best efforts, many existing programmes overlook the missing link: **financial capability**.

SMART MONEY KIDS exists to close that gap.



3. The SMART MONEY KIDS Solution

We deliver structured, evidence-based financial education that prepares young people for real-world independence.

Our programmes combine:

- **Interactive workshops** that bring financial lessons to life through roleplay and simulation.
- **Scenario-based training** focused on rent, benefits, and daily money management.
- **Behavioural learning** that builds responsibility and forward planning.
- **Alignment** with council objectives for tenancy sustainment, EET outcomes, and cost avoidance.

Each programme can be delivered directly by our facilitators or through a **train-the-trainer model**, equipping council staff to deliver internally.

Our approach is rooted in prevention, not patchwork support.

“We don’t just teach budgeting — we build independence.”

4. Programme Options

Programme	Duration	Ideal For	Focus	Pricing
Tenancy & Budgeting Workshop	2–3 hours	Hostel or youth hub cohorts	Rent readiness, budgeting & arrears prevention	POA
6-Week Financial Stability Programme	6 weeks	Care leavers & housing clients	UC, benefits, credit & rent management	POA
12-Week Independence Programme	12 weeks	Supported housing residents	Long-term financial behaviour & planning	POA
Council Partnership Model	Ongoing	Borough-wide strategy	KPI alignment, evaluation & cost savings	POA

5. What’s Included

Each commissioned partnership includes:

- Council-branded digital and printable resources
- Facilitator-led sessions or staff training delivery.
- Pre- and post-assessment tracking



- Evaluation and outcome reporting
- Certificates of achievement for participants
- Access to SMART MONEY KIDS digital learning library

Everything is designed for seamless integration into your borough's **youth, housing, and EET pathways**.

6. Outcomes

By the end of each programme, participants will:

- ✓ Manage rent, bills, and budgeting independently
- ✓ Understand benefits and credit systems
- ✓ Avoid high-risk borrowing and debt traps
- ✓ Show measurable confidence improvement

For councils, this means:

- Reduced arrears and evictions
- Improved tenancy sustainment
- Lower NEET rates
- Measurable cost avoidance

“We transform financial vulnerability into financial capability.”

7. Logistics

Delivery Format: In-person or hybrid

Cohort Size: Up to 20 participants per group

Ideal Participants: 16–25-year-olds in or leaving care, supported housing, or NEET pathways

Reporting: Outcome and evaluation summaries provided post-delivery

Timeline: 30–90 days average per delivery cycle

8. Next Steps

Ready to strengthen your borough's independence outcomes and reduce arrears through prevention?

📞 Contact the Local Partnerships Team

Email: councils@officialsmartmoneykids.com

Website: www.officialsmartmoneykids.com

“We don't just prepare young people to live on their own — we prepare them to thrive on their own.”

