

EAST MIDLANDS ADULTS URGED TO CLAIM EDUCATION CASH THEY'RE DUE

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Adults on track to change their life for the better may be missing out on payments of up to £30 a week.

Government figures show that despite some 29,000 adults having already been assessed as eligible to receive support from the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) this year, around a quarter still haven't claimed the money they could be due.

Going back to learning and gaining new qualifications has given adults from across the East Midlands the chance to turn their lives around and the money of up to £30 a week can help with anything from the cost of books and materials, through to childcare costs. Since the national roll out of ALG in September 2007, over 42,000 people have received ALG, vastly exceeding expectations and making the scheme very successful.

The money has helped people like Dean Stirland, 19, from Clay Cross near Chesterfield towards his dream job of becoming a nurse.

Dean started the Adult Nursing course at Derby University in September, after studying for a BTEC National Diploma Level 3 in Health and Social Care at Chesterfield College.

Dean said:

“From secondary school I wanted to be a nurse but I was really lacking confidence. I left school and started a job as a sales assistant. Doing the job for a year was good for me and gave me a massive confidence boost, however the job was not for me.

“I started a BTEC First Diploma in Health and Social Care and thought I could get a job after that in my chosen field. Then I heard about the ALG and I realised that was my chance to do what I’d always wanted to do. I thought this is it, it’s now or never. So I started the National Diploma. I wouldn’t have been able to study this without the money as it’s helped with my fuel, books and other things that I need for my course.

“Being a nurse is what I’ve always wanted to be and now I’m on my way to achieving it.”

Nick Rashley, Area Director, for the Learning and Skills Council, said:

“Adult Learning Grants can make a real difference to the lives of adults who are studying. People can receive up to £30 a week and this can be used to help with anything from the cost of books and materials, through to childcare costs and really does give critical support to adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go back to learning. With all this to offer it’s important that those studying make sure they claim the money they’re due.”

If you have received a letter of entitlement please contact your local college or the learner entitlement support line on 0800 121 8989. If you are thinking about going back to college, ALG could help you. To find out more information and whether you are eligible, visit www.direct.gov.uk/alg or call 0800 121 8989

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Notes to Editors:

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) is a weekly payment designed to help adults overcome the financial barriers to learning. Up to £30 a week during term time is available to adults over the age of 19 who meet the eligibility criteria. It is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for their first full level 2 (5 GCSEs at grades A* to C or an NVQ2 or its equivalent) or a first full level 3 (2 A levels or an NVQ3 or its equivalent) qualification.

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