



CARE TO LEARN

Changes to Care to Learn – March 2009

To: Childcare providers, learning providers, Connexions advisers, Teenage Pregnancy Support Workers and other advisers involved in delivering Care to Learn to teenage parents.

From: The Learner Support Directorate at the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Care to Learn helps teenage parents stay in learning by contributing to the costs of their childcare and associated travel while they learn.

This note is to tell you about some changes that we are making to Care to Learn. Some of these are effective immediately. Others will come into effect in the 2009/10 academic year.

These changes relate to:

Childcare providers

- Childcare provider review – effective immediately
- Childcare provided by relatives - effective immediately

Applications and Eligibility

- Application forms for 2009/10– effective for learning that starts on or after 1st September 2009
- Young parent's residency status – effective from September 2009

Fees and Payments

- Backdating payments – effective from September 2009
- Review of summer retainer payments – effective summer 2010
- Review of learning provider administration fees – effective September 2010
- Review of childcare provider network broker payments – effective September 2010

More information on each of these, and what they mean for you, is set out below.

Later in the year we will be issuing a **regular childcare bulletin** to keep you updated about the LSC's childcare support schemes. If you would be interested in receiving this, please send an email to Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk. Please ensure you tell us the type of organisation you work for in the subject header of the email (e.g. childcare provider, learning provider, Connexions support worker, other type of support worker or other type of organisation). Letting us know the type of organisation you work for will enable us to better support all our stakeholders in the future.

Childcare providers

Childcare Review

Following the changes to the Ofsted registration requirements in September 2008, only childcare providers registered with Ofsted in the following ways may be approved for Care to Learn:

- **The Early Years Register (EYR) – compulsory for those caring for children from birth to 5 years old and includes care and learning;**
- **The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR) – Compulsory part for those caring for children aged 5 to 7.**

From February 2009, the LSC is reviewing the types of childcare provision that are eligible for Care to Learn, this will include childcare provision that is provided by relatives. The review aims to ensure that quality childcare provision that benefits teenage parents will be in scope for Care to Learn.

If you have any examples of childcare provision that has fallen out of scope for Care to Learn since the Ofsted changes took effect in September 2008, please write to us with the details at C2Lsurvey@lsc.gov.uk

Childcare Provided by Relatives

Where a childcare provider is related to the child, for example a grandmother or aunt, that childcare provider must meet two conditions to be eligible for Care to Learn:

- 1) They must be registered with Ofsted on the Early Years Register and/ or the compulsory part of the General Childcare Register; **and**
- 2) they must be providing registered childcare services for other children.

This criteria is effective immediately and brings Care to Learn into line with other Government-funded childcare schemes.

All childcare providers must already provide their Ofsted registration number, and a copy of their certificate, with the application for Care to Learn. Those who are relatives of the child will also need to provide information on how many other children they provide childcare services for. For applications made on a 2008/09 form, this can be done by way of a note added to the form. For learning that will start from September 2009, the new application form will include a section to be completed by childcare providers who are providing childcare to relatives. Application forms for 2009/10 will be available to order from the Learner Support Service from the end of April 2009. Contact details for the Learner Support Service are given at the end of this document.

Applications and Eligibility

Application Forms for 2009/10

New application forms will soon be available for young parents to apply for Care to Learn for learning that will start from 1 September 2009. New guidance notes, to

help applicants complete the form, are being developed and will be issued with the form.

2009/10 forms will be available **in hard copy only**: due to the poor quality of some downloaded application forms in 08/09, the 09/10 application form will not be available to download from the website. Forms will be available from the end of April 2009 and can be ordered from the Learner Support Service helpline at that time (details at the end of this document). Forms can be ordered by individuals and organisations such as Connexions or learning providers.

For learning that starts before 31 August 2009 the existing 2008/09 application form should be used.

These changes will improve the application process for Care to Learn and reduce the number of applications that are delayed due to being unreadable or incorrectly completed.

Young Parents' Residency Status

From September 2009 young parents must meet the residency criteria to be eligible for Care to Learn. The learner must:

- Live in England
- Be from a country within the European Economic Area (EEA, including British citizens, children of Swiss Nationals and children of Turkish migrant workers)

If the learner is from a country outside the EEA, they must have been granted leave to be in the UK under one of the following categories:

Asylum seeker (and must meet one of the three further criteria below)

Refugee status

Humanitarian Protection

Discretionary Leave

Indefinite Leave to Remain

Indefinite Leave to Enter

Limited Leave to Remain

Limited Leave to Enter

Leave Outside the Rules

If the learner is an asylum seeker who is under the age of 18 at the start of their course, they are eligible for Care to Learn.

If the learner is an asylum seeker who is aged 18 or over at the start of their course, and they are a care leaver, they are eligible for Care to Learn.

If the learner is an asylum seeker who is aged 18 or over at the start of their course, and they are **not** a care leaver, they are **not eligible** for Care to Learn.

The new application form will include a section on residency and the accompanying guidance notes will provide definitions of the terms used and information to help learners understand what they need to do.

Advisers who help young people to complete the form must also be aware of these criteria.

Fees and Payments

Backdating Payments

From 1 September 2009, if we receive an application within **28 days** of a young parent starting their course, the childcare provider may be entitled to backdated payments to the start of the young parent's course or learning programme. Where an application is received outside of the 28 days, payments will usually be backdated to the beginning of the week in which the application is received. Backdating payments for any longer period may be approved in exceptional circumstances and will be at the discretion of the LSC.

Childcare providers, learning providers and advisers working with teenage parents **must** be aware of the need for young parents to make their applications for Care to Learn in good time.

Review of Summer Retainer Payments

The amount payable to keep a childcare place open over the summer holidays is currently under review – changes may be implemented for the summer of 2010.

Review of Learning Provider Administration Fees

The one-off payment of £80 to learning providers in respect of each new start on Care to Learn is currently under review – changes may be implemented for September 2010.

Review of Childcare Provider Network/ Broker Payments

The one-off payment of £100 to childcare provider network/ brokers who support an application for Care to Learn is currently under review – changes may be implemented for September 2010.

How to Contact the Learner Support Service

Learner Support Helpline: 0845 600 7979 (providers)
0800 121 8989 (young parents)

Our websites: <http://caretolearn.lsc.gov.uk/> (providers)
www.direct.gov.uk/caretolearn (young parents)