



Learner Support Service Childcare News e-bulletin, August 2009

Welcome to the LSC Learner Support Directorate's Childcare News August e-bulletin.

In this edition we remind you about Care to Learn summer retainer payments, give you details of a Care to Learn case study, update you on the differences between the schemes and encourage you to get information out to learners.

If you have any feedback on this publication or would like to be added to the distribution list, please email us at Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk.

In this issue:

[Care to Learn](#)

1. Reminder about Summer Retainer Forms
2. Care to Learn case study
3. Frequently Asked Questions

[Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work](#)

1. Quick Reference Guide updated
2. How does this scheme differ from the Sixth Form College Childcare scheme?

[General](#)

1. Information to learners

[Actions you may need to take](#)

[How to find out more](#)

Care to Learn

1. Reminder about Summer Retainer Forms

In last month's issue we told you that young parents who received Care to Learn during 2008/09, were still under 20 and progressing onto a further course in 2009/10, were eligible to receive a summer retainer for their childcare this summer.

In this issue we would like to remind you that young parents must send in their Summer Retainer Form before **1st September 2009** or their retainer will not be paid.

Please support young parents in completing their Summer Retainer Form and return it to us as soon as possible. If you need to order any more Summer Retainer Forms, please contact the Learner Support Service helpline on **0845 600 7979**.

2. Care to Learn case study: Amie Davis

Young parents sometimes find it easier to get support if they have an example of how it has helped others. Below is a case study of one young mum who received Care to Learn. You can use this example to illustrate to young parents eligible for Care to Learn how this funding can support them in their learning, and encourage them to apply for support themselves:

Amie Davis, 19, is working towards a glossy future by weaving together work and parenthood.

Despite early parenthood, Amie has completed an NVQ Level 2 in Beauty Therapy at West Bridgford-based South Nottingham College and is progressing onto NVQ Level 3 Beauty Therapy in order to complete her professional qualifications.

Amie, from West Bridgford, got pregnant one month into the course when she was studying NVQ Level 1 Beauty Therapy. She had the baby on 2nd May last year. But she was eager to continue her studies, so returned to college three months later in September and received a student of the year award shortly after.

Amie receives Care to Learn, which contributes up to £160 towards her childcare per week. Amie used to live with her mum Diane but has now moved to her own flat. She goes to college on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and juggles looking after one-year-old Kaira, in between manicures, eye brow tints and full leg depilation.

Amie said: "I would not have been able to study without the help. It is hard studying and being a mum, but I do enjoy being a new mum."

When Amie has finished the NVQ Level 3 in Beauty Therapy, she plans to attend a new makeup course once a week and then work in a salon or ideally a spa centre.

Make sure to order application packs for 2009/10 to distribute to young parents, by calling the Learner Support Service on **0845 600 7979**. Please also encourage young parents to apply early for Care to Learn.

3. Frequently Asked Questions

We would like to keep you regularly updated on key information of Care to Learn, to help you with offering advice and guidance to young parents on the scheme. Below are some key questions that might be useful to you.

If a young parent has been receiving support through Care to Learn while at school and is waiting to receive their GCSE results and wants to continue with their learning, are they able to apply for Care to Learn for future funding?

Yes, as long as they have not reached the age of 20 during their previous course, or the age of 18 if they are an Asylum seeker but not a Care Leaver. They will need to contact the Learner Support Service for a new form and supply details of their new learning.

How does the young parent find suitable childcare?

The Family Information Service provides information about local childcare provision. It is expected that the person supporting and advising the young parent during the application stage will either offer support in finding the right type of childcare or refer them to a more appropriate contact locally who can provide advice and support.

What courses are eligible for the scheme?

The young parent must be in, or considering starting, learning or training that has some public funding (including part-funded). Eligible courses include GCSEs, the new 14-19 Diplomas, NVQs, A Levels and AS Levels, as well as shorter courses which may not lead to a qualification and courses within the community. Apprenticeships where the learner does not have employed status e.g. Entry to Employment, Programme Led Apprenticeships, and the Activity Agreements currently being piloted in some areas, are also eligible. The learning can be full or part-time and there is no minimum number of learning hours.

Will the Learner Support Service inform the Learning and Childcare Provider that the young parent has been successful in applying for Care to Learn?

Yes. A payment plan will be issued to the Childcare Provider to detail the childcare payments, and to the Learning Provider to detail the travel payments. The young parent will also receive these payment plans.

Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

1. Quick Reference Guide updated

We have updated the Quick Reference Guide for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work on the [website](#). The Quick Reference Guide gives an overview of the key eligibility criteria for the scheme and key information of what the scheme offers to learners, as well as details of where to find more information.

We would encourage you to use this as a reference to answer basic questions that you or a learner may have on the scheme. The Quick Reference Guide makes up part of a toolkit of resources that we have provided on the website. On this toolkit we have also produced documents outlining the roles of the nextstep adviser, Student Services adviser and Family Information Service and Children's Centre adviser.

2. How does this scheme differ from Sixth Form College Childcare?

Some of you have expressed concern about knowing when to refer parents to Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and when to refer parents to Sixth Form College Childcare. We have set out a comparison of all the childcare schemes, which is available to download from the [LSC website](#). This should help you to understand how the eligibility criteria compare across the schemes.

Parents are eligible for Sixth Form College Childcare only if they are studying in a school sixth form or sixth form college, whilst parents can be studying at any LSC-funded Provider to be eligible for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work. Learners studying in a school sixth form or sixth form college could be eligible for both schemes if their income is £20,000 or less in the previous tax year. In these instances they should be directed towards applying for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work. If they are unsuccessful they should then apply for the Sixth Form College Childcare scheme.

The parent in learning wishing to apply for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work must be part of a couple who are married or living together as though married to be eligible for this scheme. Parents in learning are eligible to receive Sixth Form College Childcare if they are a single/lone parent as well as if they are part of a couple, providing they meet the other eligibility criteria.

For more information on the full eligibility criteria for each scheme, you should refer to each scheme's Provider Guidance 2009/10, which is available on the [LSC Website](#).

General information

1. Information to learners

At this time of year, learners need information about the Learner Support schemes available to them, and this is a key role you can play. Childcare Providers can also advise parents that if they are in learning they may be eligible to receive funding for childcare from Learner Support. You can easily promote these schemes by distributing marketing materials to parents and learners; for more information on what marketing materials are available, and how you can order copies, please download a copy of our Marketing and Support Materials [catalogue](#).

You can order copies of the Care to Learn and Sixth Form College Childcare scheme 2009/10 application packs from the Learner Support Service by calling **0845 600 7979**.

You can order Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work application packs from LSC Publications by calling **0845 602 2260** or emailing lsc@prolog.uk.com, quoting reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090017**.

You can also direct learners to the [directgov website](#) for more information on any of Learner Support's childcare schemes.

Actions you may need to take

A reminder of the actions to be taken over the next few weeks. Please:

- Encourage and support young parents to send in their Summer Retainer Forms before 1st September to ensure that their Childcare Provider is paid.

- Refer to the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and the Sixth Form College Childcare Provider Guidance 2009/10 for more information on their eligibility criteria.
- Download a copy of the Marketing and Support Materials 2009/10 catalogue and help to promote the schemes by ordering marketing materials and distributing leaflets to eligible learners.
- Order 2009/10 application packs for all schemes to distribute to learners, and encourage them to apply for support in the 2009/10 academic year.
- Sign up to receive this e-bulletin, if you have not already done so.

How to find out more

Learning and Childcare Providers

Learning Providers and Childcare Providers can find out more information about each of these three childcare schemes on the websites:

- [Care to Learn](#)
- [Sixth Form College Childcare](#)
- [Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work](#)

You can also call us on **0845 600 7979**; please select option 3 for Care to Learn and option 4 for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and Sixth Form College Childcare.

Learners

Learners can find out more information about the schemes by visiting www.direct.gov.uk and searching for the relevant scheme.

They can also call the learner helpline on **0800 121 8989**. This is a freephone number, which can also be used to access advice about other Learner Support schemes managed by the LSC, including Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Adult Learning Grant (ALG).