



## Learner Support Service Childcare News e-bulletin, July 2009

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

This e-bulletin replaces the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work e-newsletter, and is extended to give you information of all the Learner Support childcare schemes, where appropriate.

In this edition we are pleased to tell you that the Childcare Big Picture is available to order, encourage you to help learners to apply early for 2009/10 and for Care to Learn summer retainer payments.

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](mailto:Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk).

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## Care to Learn

### 1. Apply early for 2009/10!

Application packs for Care to Learn for the 2009/10 academic year are available to order from the Learner Support Service by calling **0845 600 7979**. Learners wishing to order application packs should call the learner helpline on **0800 121 8989**. We are pleased to say that we are already receiving a number of application forms for Care to Learn for the 2009/10 academic year, and as at Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July we have received over 900 applications.

Please encourage young parents who will be starting a course or learning programme in the 2009/10 academic year to apply early for Care to Learn, once they know what Learning and Childcare Providers they will be undertaking. It is important that you support them in applying for Care to Learn to ensure that all the correct evidence is supplied to the Learner Support Service so that they can process the applications more quickly. Too many young parents apply months into their course, after running up debts to their Childcare Provider, which can cause problems if they are assessed as ineligible for the scheme.

It is also important that young parents apply early for support from Care to Learn, because from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009, if we receive an application more than 28 days after the young parent starts their course, payments can only be backdated to the beginning of the week in which we received the application. However, 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.

### 2. Summer Retainer Forms

Young parents who were assessed as eligible for Care to Learn in 2008/09, and are on a course or programme of learning that will continue in 2009/10, or are progressing onto a further course or University, are eligible for a summer retainer for this summer (2009) as long as they are still under 20 years old.

We sent a renewal application pack to all young parents who received Care to Learn in 2008/09, including a Summer Retainer Form, earlier this year. If you need to order any more Summer Retainer Forms, please contact the Learner Support Service helpline on **0845 600 7979**. Please support these young parents to fill in the Summer Retainer Form and return it to us as soon as possible to ensure that their Childcare Provider is paid for this period. **Any Summer Retainer Forms received after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2009 will not be paid.**

### 3. Care to Learn website

If you need further information on Care to Learn there are lots of helpful things you can use on our website: <http://caretolearn.gov.uk>.

On the website you can find some useful background and information on the scheme and the types of learning and childcare that a young parent can use that are eligible for the scheme. You will also find information on residency and how learners can apply.

On the website you can download copies of previous evaluations of the scheme, to see how it has benefited young parents, as well as some case studies, Frequently Asked Questions and marketing and support materials, such as the leaflet, poster and Code of Practice.

The website is designed to act as a tool to help you to promote the scheme to young parents and support them through the application process, and to help you to administer the scheme in your organisation.

## Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

### 1. Apply early for 2009/10!

Application packs for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work for the 2009/10 academic year are available to order by calling **0845 602 2260** or emailing [lsc@prolog.uk.com](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com) and quoting the reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090017**. 2008/09 application packs cannot be used to apply for support from the scheme for learning that will be taking place in the 2009/10 academic year. As such, 2008/09 application packs will not be available after 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

We are pleased to say that we have already received a number of applications for the 2009/10 academic year, and would encourage you to promote early applications to learners. Once they know what Learning and Childcare Providers they will be using, and they are starting a course in September learners should apply for this scheme; by applying early they can remove any worries about how they will cover the cost of their childcare whilst they are undertaking learning.

Please note that anyone eligible for the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme who was receiving support from discretionary Learner Support (20+ Childcare) during 2008/09, and is continuing their learning in 2009/10, will no longer be able to use this to fund their childcare during 2009/10. Please inform any learners in this situation that they will need

to apply for funding through Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and give them an application pack.

Please support learners as much as possible to fill in the application form using the guidance notes provided in the application packs. You can also find more detailed information in the [Guidance 2009/10](#), which is available to download from the [website](#). If you have any further queries you can contact the provider helpline on **0845 600 7979**.

## **2. Progression route to sustainable employment**

For Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work we state that a learner is required to undertake learning that is part of a progression route into sustainable employment. We have had some feedback from some of you saying that you are unsure how to interpret what we mean by a progression route to sustainable employment.

By a progression route we mean that a learner can undertake a course that will lead them on to a higher level of qualification that will lead them into sustainable employment or that a learner can undertake a specific course of learning that is required to enter into a specific job. These will be different for each learner depending on their current skills and the kind of employment they are aiming to enter into.

You should discuss course options with each learner, and then confirm on the application form that the course is part of a progression route for that particular learner.

However, you do not need to track the learner once they have completed their course. We will undertake an evaluation, with the DCSF, to assess the impact of this new scheme and part of this will include talking to learners about their outcomes after receiving support from this scheme.

## **3. Marketing campaign**

We are aware that the summer may be a time when parents want to re-evaluate their own career prospects and aspirations and think about starting a course in September or October. We will be running marketing campaigns during August to help raise awareness of the scheme for those parents who may wish to undertake a course in the Autumn but who are worried about the cost of their childcare. The campaign will include radio and magazine adverts, so look out for activity in your area.

You may want to order a number of marketing materials to give to eligible parents so that they can get more information about Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work.

To order marketing materials, you can call **0845 602 2260** or email [lsc@prolog.uk.com](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com). For leaflets, quote the reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090091** and for posters, quote the reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090090**.

## General information

### 1. Childcare Big Picture

You can order printed copies of the Childcare Big Picture from LSC Publications by calling **0845 602 2260** or emailing [lsc@prolog.uk.com](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com), quoting the reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090083**.

The Childcare Big Picture is an eligibility checker, which gives a useful overview of the eligibility criteria for the LSC and Jobcentre plus schemes that support childcare for parents wishing to enter into learning. The support available is based on the age of the learner and their personal circumstance. All schemes mentioned on the poster are for Ofsted-registered childcare.

You can also [download a copy](#) of this Big Picture, from the [Care to Learn](#) and [Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work](#) websites.

### 2. Catalogue of marketing and support materials 2009/10

We have produced a [catalogue](#) of the current marketing materials that are available from the Learner Support Directorate. This is available for download only from the [LSS website](#). The document gives you marketing materials available by scheme, so that you can easily locate which ones you require, reference numbers of each material, and it also gives details of how you can order any of the materials.

### 4. 2009/10 application packs

2009/10 application packs for Care to Learn, Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and Sixth Form College Childcare are now available to order. The application packs contain a 2009/10 application form and guidance notes to help learners to fill in the form. Please encourage learners to order application packs to apply early for support in 2009/10 and assist them with filling in the form.

**Please note that learners wishing to start a course from 1st September 2009 must use a 2009/10 application form to apply for support.**

You can order copies of the Care to Learn and Sixth Form College Childcare schemes from the Learner Support Service by calling **0845 600 7979**. Individuals can order an application pack for themselves by calling the Learner Support Service's learner helpline on **0800 121 8989**.

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](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com), quoting reference number **LSC-P-NAT-090017**.

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> September to ensure that their Childcare Provider is paid.
- Visit and explore the Care to Learn website.
- Encourage and support learners to apply for the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme in 2009/10.
- Inform learners who received support from discretionary Learner Support in 2008/09 to apply for the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme for 2009/10; also inform Learning Providers that those learners eligible will no longer be able to receive support from discretionary Learner Support.
- Order a copy of the Childcare Big Picture.
- 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 early 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](http://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).