



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

Welcome to the first edition of the LSC Learner Support Directorate's Childcare News 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:

- Care to Learn
- Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work
- Sixth Form College Childcare Scheme
- Discretionary Learner Support (20+ Childcare).

This e-bulletin will be split into sections according to scheme, allowing you to access the most relevant information for you. There will also be a general section which gives information that is relevant across all Learner Support's childcare schemes.

In this edition we give you background to the childcare schemes and we tell you about the availability of 2009/10 application packs and Guidance documents, changes to email addresses as well as what marketing materials are available.

We hope that you find this new e-bulletin useful. If you have any feedback on this publication or would like to be added to (or removed from) the distribution list, please email us at [Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk).

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## 1. Background to the scheme

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## Care to Learn

### 1. Background to the scheme

The Care to Learn scheme was rolled out nationally in 2003 and is an integral part of the Government's Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. The scheme enables parents aged under 20 to continue with, or return to, learning after the birth of a child by assisting with the costs of childcare and associated travel.

Eligible parents can receive up to £160 per child per week across England (£175 in London), which is paid directly to the Childcare Provider by BACS.

### 2. Childcare review

You will be aware that as of September 2008 Ofsted changed their registration requirements for Childcare Providers. This means that only Childcare Providers registered 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 five years old and includes care and learning;
- **The Ofsted Childcare Register (OCR)** – compulsory part for those caring for children from ages five to seven.

Following these changes, we are undertaking a review of the types of childcare provision that are eligible for Care to Learn, to ensure that quality childcare provision that benefits teenage parents, will be in scope for this scheme.

We would like to ask for you to help with this review by letting us know of any types of childcare provision that you know has fallen out of scope for Care to

Learn since the changes outlined above took effect. Please email any details to us at [C2Lsurvey@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:C2Lsurvey@lsc.gov.uk).

### 3. Frequently asked questions

We would like to use this e-bulletin to give you key information about Care to Learn and Learner Support's other childcare schemes. In line with this, we would like to give you some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the Care to Learn scheme.

#### **What kind of learning provision do young mothers have most success with?**

The Institute of Employment Studies published a suite of evaluation reports in November 2007 looking at the impact of Care to Learn on the 2003/04 cohort, the issues and barriers faced by young parents wishing to return to learning, and the issues faced by Learning Providers working with, or wishing to work with, young parents.

All Care to Learn evaluation reports since 2005 are available from our [website](#). On this website there is a report which may be of particular interest entitled *Learning for Young Mothers – a qualitative study of flexible provision*.

#### **Is there data showing the number of teenage mothers per Local Authority?**

National and Local Authority figures for teenage mothers are estimated from the Office of National Statistics birth data using a robust methodology. In short, the number of births to mothers aged under 20 (the latest data available is from 2007) are combined with the number of births to teenage mothers in preceding years who would still be under 20. For example, a 14-year-old giving birth in 2003 will still be a teenage mother in 2007. Totals are then adjusted to take account of mothers who have had more than one birth. The same method is used to calculate the number of mothers under 18 and under 19.

It should be noted that this method produces estimates of the number of teenage mothers at a single point in time, rather than the total number that were a teenage mother at some point during a whole year. This estimate would be larger as a significant proportion of mothers will turn 20 during the year. It should also be borne in mind that mothers are a very mobile population, who may move to another Local Authority area after registering the birth of their child, or access learning such as college outside the Borough in which they are resident. However, we believe these figures provide the best

tool by which we can monitor the take-up of Care to Learn, compared to the whole cohort, for each top-tier Local Authority area.

### **Is there help with childcare costs for residents of Wales?**

To be eligible for Care to Learn, young parents must live in England.

Responsibility for student support in Wales rests with the Welsh Assembly. They have advised that childcare for students in Further Education in Wales usually comes out of the colleges' hardship funds (Financial contingency Fund). Residents of Wales studying in English colleges are eligible to apply to the equivalent discretionary support funds. They should speak to their college student support adviser.

There may also be options for young people and assistance with childcare from the Genesis Wales project. This scheme helps those hardest to reach and before they enter college or a course, so is unlikely to be available for those who have already started their courses. A link to this is [www.genesiswales.com/main.asp?page=home](http://www.genesiswales.com/main.asp?page=home)

You can find answers to other Frequently Asked Questions on the Care to Learn scheme on the [website](#).

## **Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work**

### **1. Background to the scheme**

The Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme was launched nationally in April 2009. The scheme supports adults (20 years and over) by paying for childcare and travel costs while they are undertaking learning leading to work. The aim of the scheme is to encourage the non-working parent within a family to participate in learning or training that will help lead them into sustainable employment. The scheme therefore contributes to the targets to reduce child poverty by improving the longer-term job prospects of families.

## **Sixth Form College Childcare**

### **1. Background to the scheme**

The Sixth Form College Childcare scheme provides support with childcare costs for adult parents (aged 20 years and over) who are learning at a school sixth form or sixth form college.

The amount of support a learner can receive is dependent upon household income; learners can receive up to £160 per week (£175 in London).

## **Discretionary Learner Support (20+ Childcare)**

### **1. Background to the scheme**

Discretionary Learner Support (20+ Childcare) is part of the Discretionary Learner Support Funds, which are available in FE colleges and school sixth forms to help towards costs that learners may have when starting or following a course, for example childcare costs. The funding forms an effective safety net for disadvantaged students, aged 16 plus, from low-income households who wish to remain in education.

We provide funding to the Learning Providers who administer the funds to support learners in financial difficulty. Learners who wish to access this support should contact the Student Support Officer at the Learning Provider they attend for further information.

## **General information**

### **1. 2009/10 Guidance available**

The Guidance for Providers for the Care to Learn, Sixth Form College Childcare, Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and Discretionary Support Funds have been updated for the 2009/10 academic years. These Guidance replace the 2008/09 versions and are designed to advise you about how to operate these schemes within your organisation and how to get the best from them.

You can download copies of these Guidance documents from our website [www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn), or from each scheme's individual website, links of which are available from the above location.

Please dispose of your 2008/09 versions of the Guidance. We will make any updates to the 2009/10 documents on-line and so we would advise you to check the website regularly to make sure that you are using the most up-to-date version.

## 2. Childcare Big Picture

You can now pre-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 an 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, and this will soon be available to view on the [Care to Learn](#) and [Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work](#) websites.

Please let Learning and Childcare Providers and key stakeholders know that this is now available and encourage them to pre-order or download a copy.

## 3. New email address for queries

You may be aware that the email addresses to send queries regarding any of the childcare schemes to, have changed. The addresses that you should now use are as follows:

- **Care to Learn** – [C2L@lsclearnersupport.co.uk](mailto:C2L@lsclearnersupport.co.uk)
- **Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work** – [freechildcare-adults@lsclearnersupport.co.uk](mailto:freechildcare-adults@lsclearnersupport.co.uk)
- **Sixth Form College Childcare** – [6FCC@lsclearnersupport.co.uk](mailto:6FCC@lsclearnersupport.co.uk)

You can also find answers to your queries by calling the Provider helpline on **0845 600 7979**; please choose option 3 for Care to Learn, option 4 for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and option 7 for Sixth Form College Childcare.

If you have queries about the administration of the scheme, you may also refer to the 2009/10 Guidance, which contains information on how best to operate the scheme within your organisation. If you cannot find the information you are looking for within this document, then you should refer your query to one of the above options.

## 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 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**.

We would like to encourage you to order a sufficient number of application packs for these schemes to distribute to learners, and to encourage them to apply for support in 2009/10.

## 5. Marketing materials

We have updated our marketing materials for the schemes for the 2009/10 academic year and you can order a number of these to help you to promote the schemes to learners.

All materials can be ordered from LSC Publications by calling 0845 602 2260 or emailing [lsc@prolog.uk.com](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com). Please quote the relevant reference number to make sure that you receive the correct materials.

### Care to Learn

- **Leaflet** – aimed at the learner this gives basic information about Care to Learn and how to apply. Reference **LSC-P-NAT-090005**. To download this leaflet, please visit our [website](#).
- **Poster** – aimed at Learning Providers and Childcare Providers this poster is to be used to inform young parents about Care to Learn. Reference **LSC-P-NAT-080007**. To download this poster, please visit our [website](#).
- **Code of practice for childcare providers** – written specifically for Childcare Providers, but useful for Learning Providers, support workers and those in regular contact with young parents. This booklet sets out the ways in which you may be able to help with issues and problems young parents may face. You can download this booklet from our [website](#). Reference **LSC-P-NAT-090052**.

### Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

- **Leaflet** – provides basic scheme information, including the basic eligibility criteria, and gives contact details for further information.

Reference **LSC-P-NAT-090091**. To view a copy of the leaflet click [here](#).

- **Poster** – for Learning Providers and Childcare Providers to use to inform parents about the scheme. The poster gives contact details for learners to find out if they are eligible for support. Reference **LSC-P-NAT-090090**. To view a copy of the poster click [here](#).

## 6. Websites updated

We have updated the websites of all three childcare schemes with information for the 2009/10 academic year. Links to these are given below; please note that LSC websites give information to you as Providers and other key stakeholders, and the Directgov website gives key information for learners and young parents to access about the schemes.

### Care to Learn

- <http://caretolearn.lsc.gov.uk/>
- [www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/MoneyToLearn/Caretolearn/DG\\_066971](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/MoneyToLearn/Caretolearn/DG_066971)

### Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

- [www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/)
- [www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning)

### Sixth Form College Childcare

- [www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/DG\\_067471](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/DG_067471)

### Discretionary Support Funds

- <http://lsf.lsc.gov.uk/>
- [www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/DG\\_10033131](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/AdultLearning/FinancialHelpForAdultLearners/DG_10033131)

Please note that information on the current academic year, 2008/09, will remain on the websites until the end of August. Please visit these websites to read all the updated information for the 2009/10 academic year.

## Actions you may need to take

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

- Email us with information about childcare provision that has fallen out of scope for Care to Learn (please see Care to Learn Item 2).
- Order 2009/10 application packs for all schemes.
- Download a copy of the 2009/10 Guidance for all schemes and familiarise yourself with the information.

- Download or pre-order a copy of the Childcare Big Picture.
- Help to promote the schemes by ordering marketing materials and distributing leaflets to eligible learners.
- Visit the updated websites for new information for the 2009/10 academic year.
- Send email queries for any of the schemes to the new email addresses, and let colleagues know about the change (please see General Item 2).
- 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 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).