

ADULT LEARNING GRANT CELEBRATES FIRST BIRTHDAY

Figures show the huge success of ALG on its first anniversary

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(Please note: A breakdown of take up statistics for Adult Learning Grants per North West county is listed at the end of press notice)

As the Adult Learning Grant today celebrates its one year anniversary since national roll-out in 2007, figures show that the scheme has soared to success over the past 12 months, providing financial support to a 3,820 adult learners in the North West since the scheme began¹. Take-up in this first year of national roll-out has hugely exceeded expectations and has proved just how popular the scheme is.

Further research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has also revealed that adults make fantastic learners, with 77% of adults in LSC funded further education provisions being successful in their courses². This proves that although adults may face some of the biggest hurdles when it comes to going back to education, they make some of the best learners.

In fact, ALG, which offers adults up to £30 per week to go back to learning, was so successful when initially piloted across the UK in 2003-2006, that the national roll-out was brought forward a year.

¹ LSC Adult Learning Grant performance statistics at 21st May 2008

² 'Success Rates in LSC Funded FE Provisions' published on 25th May 2008

Just one example of this success is 26-year-old Kim Mitchell, from Lancaster, is now on track for a dream career in counselling, with help from an Adult Learning Grant (ALG). Kim said: "Getting the ALG took some of the pressure off me financially and I would definitely encourage other adults thinking of returning to college to apply for the grant."

Trevor Fellowes, Director of Learner Support at the Learning and Skills Council, comments: "It's fantastic to see what an impact the Adult Learning Grant is having for adults and that it has offered so many learners a helping hand in education. The grant 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."

If you are thinking about going back to college it's time to start looking at your options. ALG could help you – to find out if you are eligible visit www.direct.gov.uk/alg or call 0800 121 8989 today.

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Notes to Editors:

Janet Jackson from the Learning and Skills Council is available for media interviews during the morning of June 25. For more information contact Anne Arnold at COI News & PR on 0161 952 4505.

This press release applies to England only.

*** 1,219 students in Lancashire received ALG in 2007/08 at the following colleges:**

Accrington and Rossendale College
The Adult College

Blackburn College
Blackpool and the Fylde College
Blackpool Sixth Form College
Burnley College
Cardinal Newman College
Lancaster and Morecambe College
Myerscough College
Nelson and Colne College
Preston College
Runshaw College
Skelmersdale and Ormskirk Colleges
St Mary's College, Blackburn

*** 394 students in Cheshire and Warrington received ALG in 2007/08 at the following colleges:**

Macclesfield College
Mid Cheshire College of Further Education
Priestley College
Reaseheath College
South Cheshire College
Warrington Collegiate
West Cheshire College

*** 120 students in Cumbria received ALG in 2007/08 at the following colleges:**

Barrow-in-Furness Sixth Form College
Carlisle College
Kendal College
Lakes College West Cumbria
University of Cumbria

*** 1219 students in Greater Manchester received ALG in 2007/08 at the following colleges:**

Bolton Community College
Bolton Sixth Form College
Bury College
Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College
City College Manchester
Eccles College
Hopwood Hall College
Loreto College
Manchester College of Arts and Technology
North Trafford College of Further Education
Oldham College
Pendleton College
Salford College
South Trafford College
Stockport College

Tameside College
The University of Bolton
Wigan and Leigh College

*** 853 students in Greater Manchester received ALG in 2007/08 at the following colleges:**

Birkenhead Sixth Form College
Hugh Baird College
King George V College
Knowsley Community College
Liverpool Community College
Riverside College Halton
St Helens College
Wirral Metropolitan College

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.

ALG is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for their first full level 2 (5 GCSE's 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.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY COI
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