



Quick Reference Guide: Learner Support Programme

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| <p>Discretionary Learner Support: 20+ Childcare</p> |  |
| <p>What does it do?</p> | <p>The purpose of dLS is to provide exceptional support to learners aged 16 and above, who are experiencing financial difficulty with meeting costs associated with learning. The 20+ childcare funds are designed to help learners, aged 20 or over, with childcare costs.</p> <p>Note: as dLS is managed on a local basis there will be variations in the eligibility, how much will be paid and how to apply. However providers must operate within the YPLA Discretionary Funding Guidance and Requirements, which sets certain parameters on how funding can be spent.</p> |
| <p>Who is eligible?</p> | <p>Learners must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ aged 20 or over and be studying full-time or part-time Learner Responsive funded provision in Further Education (FE) Colleges, External Institutions (EIs), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), and Sixth Form Colleges ▪ the main carer for a child under 15 years of age ▪ normally living in England ▪ The childcare provider must be fully registered with Ofsted (compulsory register for eights and under, and voluntary register for over eights). |
| <p>What type of learning is applicable?</p> | <p>The course taken must be Learner Responsive funded provision.</p> |
| <p>How much could the learner receive?</p> | <p>Learning providers set their own criteria and manage their own procedures. This</p> |

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| | <p>means that the amount of funds available to individuals, and the way the funds are allocated may differ between institutions.</p> |
| <p>What can/can't the funding be used for?</p> | <p>Childcare funds may only be used to fund childcare that is registered with Ofsted in accordance with the requirements of the Children Act 1989 (the Act). The Act states that it is unlawful for a person or organisation to look after a child, for reward, for more than two hours a day without being approved or registered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Informal childcare, such as that provided by a relative, cannot be funded. ✘ When making awards of childcare support, attention should be given to the prevailing rate of Care to Learn (C2L), and childcare awards should not exceed the C2L maximum. ✘ 20+ Childcare should not be used to provide support with childcare costs for learners who are eligible for the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work Scheme and is not to be used to top up any payments made from the new scheme. ✘ Childcare allocations cannot be used to finance the setting up of childcare places, and nor should they be used to make a financial contribution to the costs of a crèche. They should only be paid to, or on behalf of, individual learners aged 20 and above, who should be free to use the resource to support the childcare provision of their choice - subject to appropriate Ofsted registration. |
| <p>How does the learner apply?</p> | <p>The learner should speak to their Welfare Officer or Student Support Officer.</p> |
| <p>What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?</p> | <p>✓ Learners can apply for discretionary 20+ Childcare if they also receive grants and funds including: Education Maintenance Allowance, Adult Learning Grant, Professional and Career Development Loans, and Disability Living Allowance.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Prisoners on day release are not eligible for dLS ✘ Learners on courses that are wholly funded from other sources are NOT eligible. <p>Any learner on one of the following courses: Learndirect, New Deal programme, Apprenticeship training programme, Work Based Learning course, Adult and Community learning course.</p> |
| <p>How are the funds administered?</p> | <p>YPLA National Office allocates funding for discretionary Learner Support directly to learning providers and Local Authorities.</p> <p>Learners should apply for support directly to their learning providers, who provide support at their discretion and in accordance with the YPLA published guidance.</p> <p>Payments can be made in cash directly to the learner or via a third party, or alternatively they can be used to pay for goods and services. These payments can take the form of a loan which has to be repaid, or a grant which does not.</p> |
| <p>What is the aim?</p> | <p>The aim of discretionary Learner Support is to increase participation and retention in post-16 education by helping to overcome the financial barriers associated with learning, in this case childcare.</p> |
| <p>What are the key achievements of the funding?</p> | <p>During 2008/09 22,902 full-time awards and 22,625 part-time awards of 20+ Childcare were made.</p> |
| <p>Further Information and Contact Details</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learner Support - Information for Providers and Advisers (YPLA website) ▪ Information for 14-19 Applicants (Direct.gov website) ▪ Information for Adult Applicants (Direct.gov website) ▪  Discretionary Learner Support Guidance 2010/11 |