

	<h2 style="color: #800040;">Learner Support e-bulletin June 2011</h2> <p>Welcome to the June edition of the Learner Support e-bulletin from the YPLA's Learner Support Directorate.</p> <p>This bulletin is aimed at learner advocates with a responsibility for the promotion and administration of Learner Support schemes (including Education Maintenance Allowance, Adult Learning Grant, Care to Learn, discretionary Learner Support); Learning Providers; Childcare Providers; local authorities; and other partners and stakeholders interested in these schemes.</p>
	<p><b style="color: #800040;">In this issue:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>For Information:</b> <a href="#">16-19 Bursary Fund Allocations and Resources</a></li> <li>2. <b>For Information:</b> <a href="#">Residential Support</a></li> <li>3. <b>For Information and Action:</b> <a href="#">Adult Learning Grant deadline for applications</a></li> <li>4. <b>For Information:</b> <a href="#">Care to Learn</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">How to find out more</a></li> </ol>
<p><b style="color: #800040;">16-19 Bursary Fund Allocations and Resources</b></p>	<p>As you will be aware, the 16-19 Bursary Fund is a new scheme to help young people facing financial hardship to stay in full-time education.</p> <p>The scheme is made up of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those most in need will be eligible for a bursary of £1,200 a year. This includes young people in care, care leavers, young people receiving income support, and disabled young people receiving both Employment and Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance.</li> <li>• Other students who need financial support to help them stay in education or training may also be able to claim a bursary to help with costs of transport, food, equipment or other course-related costs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Allocations for the 2011/12 academic year</b></p>

	<p>This month, YPLA Chief Executive Peter Lauener has written to all general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, school sixth forms, academies and training providers informing them of their 16-19 Bursary Fund allocation. He has also written to all local authorities, asking them to play a key role in the distribution of the new Fund.</p> <p>You can download a copy of both of these letters from the <a href="#">YPLA website</a>.</p> <p><b>16-19 Bursary Fund - Guide for 2011/12</b>  Details about the administration of the 16-19 Bursary Fund is set out in the <a href="#">16-19 Bursary Fund – Guide for 2011/12</a>.</p> <p>This document is available to download from the <a href="#">YPLA website</a>.</p> <p><b>Support materials</b>  The Department for Education (DfE) have been working with the YPLA to produce resources to support you in the administration of the Fund.</p> <p>You can download a <a href="#">Q&amp;A document</a> for parents and young people, to use to answer queries from students, as well as a <a href="#">factsheet</a> designed for young people.</p> <p>We have also published a <a href="#">Q&amp;A document for providers</a>, to support them in the administration of the Fund. This document is available to download from the <a href="#">YPLA website</a>.</p> <p><b>How do I find out more?</b>  All queries on the 16-19 Bursary Fund should be sent to <a href="mailto:1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk">1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk</a>. Please note that the Learner Support Service helpline cannot answer queries on the Bursary Fund.</p> <p>Information on the Fund is available from the YPLA website at <a href="http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary">www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary</a>.</p> <p>You can also find information on the Department for Education <a href="#">website</a>.</p>
<p><b>Residential Support</b></p>	<p><b>Changes to Residential Support</b>  The Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) are reviewing Learner Support arrangements.</p> <p>DfE envisage that from 2012/13, distinct 16-18 Residential Bursary and Residential Support Schemes will cease, to be replaced by a simpler means of supporting young people to access provision with a residential element and specialist provision that is not available</p>

	<p>locally. BIS is also looking to develop a more coherent and simplified approach to post-19 student support.</p> <p>To inform the development of future support arrangements, DfE and BIS have commissioned the Skills Funding Agency to review how young people and adults are currently supported to access specialist provision with a residential element and specialist provision that is not available locally.</p> <p>Support will be available from DfE and BIS for those young people and adults who receive awards for residential support in 2011/12 and continue their learning in 2012/13.</p> <p>We have written to all providers who distribute Residential Bursary funding to let them know of their allocations for the 2011/12 academic year, and the changes to residential support from 2012/13. We have also written to those providers who have learners accessing the Residential Support Scheme (RSS) to inform them of these changes.</p> <p>Young people and adults who are eligible for RSS in 2011/12 will be notified of the changing arrangements in their Notice of Entitlement, which they will receive once their application has been successful.</p> <p><b>Guidance and application forms 2011/12</b>  Guidance on <a href="#">Residential Bursaries</a> and the <a href="#">Residential Support Scheme</a> for the 2011/12 academic year are available to download from the YPLA website.</p> <p>Application forms for the 2011/12 academic year for the Residential Support Scheme are available to order. Providers can order these from YPLA Publications by calling <b>0845 602 2260</b> and quoting reference number <b>YPLA-G-005/2011</b>. Learners can order packs by calling the Learner Support Service on <b>0800 121 8989</b>.</p>
<p><b>Adult Learning Grant deadline for applications</b></p>	<p>As you will be aware, a new enhanced adult learner support fund will be operational from 2011/12. The fund brings together the ALG and discretionary support funding budgets from September 2011. As a result of this change, the ALG scheme will close to new applicants after 1 July 2011. Applications for ALG for this academic year (2010/11) must be received by the Learner Support Service by <b>1 July 2011</b>. Applications received on or after 2 July 2011 will not be processed.</p> <p><b>Transitional arrangements for 2011/12</b>  There will be transitional arrangements for 2011/12 only, to help those who are currently receiving ALG who are part-way through their learning to continue to get support to enable them to complete their course.</p>

	<p>Please note: only learners continuing on the same learning programme at the same level will be eligible to receive weekly ALG payments in the 2011/12 academic year. For example, an individual who started on a Level 3 learning programme in 2010/11 and who is continuing on the same Level 3 learning programme in 2011/12. The learning programme must be undertaken at the same learning provider the individual was enrolled with in the previous academic year unless there are genuine exceptional circumstances which prevent this.</p> <p>Learners who received ALG in 2010/11 but who are starting a new learning programme in 2011/12 will <b>not</b> be eligible for ALG.</p> <p><b>Learning Providers' responsibilities for ALG in 2011/12</b>  Learning Providers are required to confirm that they are eligible providers for ALG. To be eligible, learning providers must hold a current contract with the Skills Funding Agency for adult learner responsive provision or a current contract with the YPLA for school 6th form provision or LLDD provision.</p> <p>Providers must also confirm that the learning programme the individual is enrolling on is eligible for ALG, and that it is the same programme that they were following in the previous academic year (their first full Level 2 or first full Level 3).</p> <p>The learning programme must be a full-time programme that is delivered in 450 guided learning hours or more over the academic year, or that involves 16 guided learning hours or more per week.</p> <p>Providers will also be required to enrol learners onto LAPS and make weekly payment decisions throughout the 2011/12 academic year.</p> <p>Guidance on administering the transitional arrangements in 2011/12 will be available from the Skills Funding Agency shortly.</p> <p>If you have any queries, call the Learner Support Service on <b>0845 600 7979</b>.</p>
<p><b>Transitional  EMA  arrangements  in 2011/12</b></p>	<p><b>Summary of changes</b>  The transitional arrangements to help those students currently receiving EMA consist of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who first successfully applied for EMA in 2009/10 will continue to receive payments at the same level until the end of the 2011/12 academic year provided they have entitlement running into that year under the EMA Guarantee (and if their age allows this entitlement)</li> </ul>

- Students who first successfully applied for EMA in 2010/11 and who were awarded the maximum weekly EMA payment of £30 will be eligible for £20 each week they are in education or training until the end of the 2011/12 academic year (and if their age allows this entitlement).

Students who first successfully applied for an EMA payment of £20 or £10 in 2010/11 will not be eligible for transitional support in the 2011/12 academic year, but may benefit from the new 16-19 Bursary Fund.

### **Student eligibility and payment**

The weekly payments made under the transitional arrangements will be administered by the Learner Support Service (LSS), via LAPS. Providers should not notice any difference to how EMA payments have been administered and paid in previous EMA years.

We will issue a Notice of Entitlement to all eligible students, which will explain their entitlement in the 2011/12 year.

We will also issue a letter to all students whose entitlement to EMA is being withdrawn as part of the transitional arrangements, letting them know the reason for this.

The overriding principle is that if a student applied in 2009/10 and received the EMA Guarantee their entitlement continues into 2011/12. Students entitled to the EMA Guarantee and who have had a band increase in 2010/11 as a result of a reassessment will continue to receive EMA at the higher amount in 2011/12.

Students who are eligible for the £1,200 Bursary payment because they fall within one of the vulnerable groups (young people who are looked after, care leavers, those in receipt of Income Support and disabled young people in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance) should **not** be paid transitional EMA payments as well as the £1,200 payment. The Learner Support Service will not be identifying these students separately; this is the responsibility of the provider, who should read guidance on administering the Bursary which is available at <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary>

### **Changes to the Learner Provider Portal – LAPS**

The extension period of 22 weeks, currently available to FE Short Course and Programme Led Apprenticeship students, which allows their enrolment to continue beyond the end of the final year of EMA

	<p>entitlement, will not be available in the 2011/12 year if the student does not have 2011/12 entitlement.</p> <p>This means that students that are ineligible because of their age in the 2011/12 year, and students that are not entitled in 2011/12 under the transitional arrangements, will not receive payments from the week beginning 29 August 2011.</p> <p>Students with an entitlement in the 2011/12 year will be able to be extended between the 2010/11 and 2011/12 academic years, i.e. the enrolment can span both years.</p> <p>This will be achieved by making the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All existing enrolments that do not meet the conditions above will be amended to end on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</li> <li>• LAPS will be changed to prevent new enrolments that do not meet the conditions above.</li> <li>• LAPS will be changed to prevent valid enrolments being amended to violate the conditions above.</li> </ul> <p>To mitigate the effect on those students affected by the change to the 22 week extension LAPS will allow exceptions to the 10 week minimum course length requirement. This means that PLA and FE SC students who have entitlement in the 2010/11 year, but not in the 2011/12 year, will be able to be enrolled to LAPS between 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011 allowing them to receive all 2010/11 EMA payment weeks that they are entitled to.</p> <p>Students enrolling on traditional Further Education courses are excluded from this change.</p> <p>Where a student received £30 in 2010/11 and is eligible for payments of £20 under the transitional arrangements in 2011/12 and are enrolled on a course that has been extended between the 2010/11 and 2011/12 years, the revised payment rate of £20 will be effective from the payment week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.</p> <p>If you have any queries about this please contact the Learner Support Service on <b>0845 600 7979</b>.</p>
<p><b>Care to Learn</b></p>	<p><b>Changes to Care to Learn</b></p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) will continue to provide</p>

childcare support to all parents in England who are under 20 when they start a course in 2011/12. Care to Learn will continue beyond this academic year, with DfE working with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to consider how best to support older parents (including those aged 19, whose learning would be funded by BIS) to continue their education.

### **Guidance 2011/12**

Guidance for providers on the Care to Learn scheme for the 2011/12 academic year is available to download from the [Care to Learn website](#). This document outlines the eligibility criteria for the student, their course or learning programme and the childcare provision, as well as the application process.

To complement the Care to Learn Guidance, we have also published *Care to Learn Audit Requirements 2011/12*, which explain what providers are required to do for audit purposes for the Care to Learn scheme in 2011/12. This document is also available to download from the [Care to Learn website](#).

### **Application packs 2011/12**

As you will be aware, you can order a supply of Care to Learn 2011/12 application packs from YPLA Publications by calling **0845 602 2260** and quoting the reference number **YPLA-G-002/2011**.

Young parents can request an application pack from the [directgov website](#); alternatively, they can call the Learner Support helpline on **0800 121 8989**.

### **Summer Retainer Forms 2011**

Students who will be continuing their course in the 2011/12 academic year, and who require support from Care to Learn to retain a childcare place with their existing Childcare Provider over the summer 2011 period will need to complete a Summer Retainer form.

If a student will turn 20 before the start of their course in the 2011/12 academic year, they will only be eligible to continue to receive support from Care to Learn if they are continuing on the same course at the same level. Students who turn 20 who will be starting a new course will not be eligible and should seek alternative support for [childcare costs](#).

Students who have received Care to Learn in the 2010/11 academic year and who will be under 20 at the start of the 2011/12 academic year have been sent an application pack for 2011/12 and a 2011 Summer Retainer form. Students who have not received a pack or have lost their pack, but who will be continuing on their

	<p>course in the 2011/12 academic year, can request a form from the Learner Support Service by calling <b>0800 121 8989</b>.</p> <p><b>Students should apply for a Summer Retainer before the start of the summer holiday period – any Summer Retainer forms received after 1 September 2011 will not be paid.</b></p> <p>Further information on Care to Learn is available from the website at <a href="http://caretolearn.ypla.gov.uk">http://caretolearn.ypla.gov.uk</a>, or you can call the Learner Support Service on <b>0845 600 7979</b>.</p>
<p><b>How to find out more</b></p>	<p>More information about Learner Support schemes is available at <a href="http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport">www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport</a></p> <p>Learning Providers can call the helpline for support on <b>0845 600 7979</b>.</p> <p>Learners can find out more information from the helpline on <b>0800 121 8989</b>, or visiting <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a> and searching for the relevant scheme.</p> <p>If you have any feedback on this publication, or you either wish to sign up to receive this or unsubscribe, you can email <a href="mailto:LearnerSupportNews@ypla.gov.uk">LearnerSupportNews@ypla.gov.uk</a>.</p>