

To all Local Authorities

15 June 2011

Dear Colleague

16-19 Bursary Fund Allocation 2011/12

On 28 March 2011 the Government announced a new 16-19 Bursary Fund to support the most disadvantaged young people to participate in and benefit from post-16 education and training. The Department for Education (DfE) consultation on the new arrangements closed on 20 May 2011. A report of the consultation, together with a short guide to the administration of the 16-19 Bursary Fund, will be published very shortly. A brief summary of the arrangements is attached.

Responses to the consultation indicated broad support for the proposed methodology for distribution of the fund. Allocations for 2011/12 will be calculated based on each eligible young person who was in learning with each provider and who received the maximum weekly rate (£30 per week) of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in 2009/10. No provider will receive less under the new arrangements than the funding allocated to them from the discretionary Learner Support Fund in 2010/11.

Individual providers will be notified of their allocations shortly. I am writing to you now to ask you to support the distribution of the 16-19 Bursary Fund to young people in your area in three important ways:

- i) Funding for Local Authority Maintained School Sixth Forms will be routed through the Local Authority in the same way as the standard School Sixth Form allocation. You will be notified of the full allocated amounts and required to pass the funding directly to the School Sixth Forms concerned.
- ii) If your Local Authority is a YPLA funded provider in its own right, you will receive an allocation to cover that provision.
- iii) You will also receive an allocation to cover other providers in your area that are maintained by the Local Authority, for example, Maintained Special Schools and Pupil Referral Units.

In addition, there are other providers in your area, for example, non-maintained Special Schools and Private Providers. In most cases these are small providers and Ministers have agreed that Local Authorities should be asked to administer the 16-19 Bursary Fund on their behalf.

For this third group, we have agreed with the Local Government Association that Local Authorities may choose either to passport the funds directly to the listed providers, as with School Sixth Form allocations, or to hold the funds at Local Authority level, inviting applications from providers on behalf of young people.

Lists of the Maintained School Sixth forms and providers in your area for which we are asking you to administer bursaries are attached at Annexes B and C respectively. Every effort has been made to ensure this list is correct, but I would be grateful if you could review it and check that it only includes schools and providers in your area. Should you be concerned about administering the fund for any of the listed providers please contact [\[Add Regional Contact Details\]](#).

In the interest of finalising the allocations before the summer break the list of providers will be regarded as final unless you raise any queries and concerns by 24th June at the latest. I will write to you again at the end of June to confirm the allocations for provision in your area.

Any other queries about the 2011/12 16-19 Bursary Fund allocations and the administration of the funding should be sent to 1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lauener
Chief Executive

Enc: 16-19 Bursary Fund – Summary of Arrangements
Annex B – Local Authority Maintained School Sixth Forms
Annex C – Local Authority other Provider List

16-19 Bursary Fund – Summary of Arrangements

Under the arrangements for the 16-19 Bursary Fund, the most vulnerable young people (young people in care, care leavers and those in receipt of income support) will be eligible for a bursary of £1,200. Beyond that, schools, academies, colleges, training providers and Local Authorities will have discretion to use the 16-19 Bursary Fund in ways that best meet the needs and circumstances of their young people: for example, to provide help with meals, transport, books or other course-related costs.

The total amount to be allocated to providers in 2011/12 is nearly £108m¹. This will allow providers and Local Authorities to pay:

- bursaries of £1,200 to all young people in nominated vulnerable groups;
- discretionary bursaries to young people in their first year of post-16 study; and
- ‘top up’ payments to those who are currently in receipt of EMA and who will continue to be supported through transitional arrangements, should providers consider it appropriate to do so.

£7.5m will be retained by the YPLA as a contingency, to cover the costs of guaranteed bursaries for the most vulnerable young people in instances where numbers at any one provider are such that the provider’s initial allocation is either insufficient to meet the guarantee, or meeting the guarantee would result in little or no funds remaining to award discretionary bursaries. A review of allocations and the number of guaranteed bursaries awarded by each provider will be carried out early in 2012.

The funding will be paid in three instalments; August 2011, December 2011 and March 2012 in a 50:25:25 split. Providers may use up to 5% of their allocated funds towards the costs of administering the bursaries.

¹ The total value of the 16-19 Bursary Fund in 2011/12 remains £180m. However, a proportion of the fund will be directed via the nationally administered transitional arrangements in the first year. This reflects the fact that a proportion of young people in their second or third year of post-16 study who may be expected to benefit from a 16-19 Bursary will continue to receive weekly payments under the transitional support provision.