

## 16-19 Bursary Fund - requests for additional funds

This note sets out the arrangements that YPLA will operate if a college, school, academy, training provider or local authority requests an addition to the allocation that it received in June 2011 for the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

Some £108m has been allocated to providers using a methodology that received by far the most support in the public consultation and is based on EMA take-up. This also included a general allowance for the number of students who would qualify for a bursary of at least £1,200 because they are in one of the defined vulnerable groups. However, it was recognised that there would be some cases where particular circumstances apply; in particular some providers may have unusually high numbers in the priority groups. Therefore the YPLA is retaining £7m as contingency.

The YPLA guarantees to make extra payments from the contingency to any provider who has more students in the defined vulnerable groups than they can afford to pay full bursaries from their original allocation. In addition:

- In the autumn, using data from providers as at 30 September re: actual enrolment, vulnerable students and discretionary awards, we will carry out a review and allocate most of the remaining contingency on a fair and equitable basis. (We will retain a small element for any further in-year cases.)
- Ahead of that, we will consider any emergency requests for extra funds, either relating to the number of awards to students in the vulnerable groups, or because the proportion of allocation left after those awards is exceptionally small. We will apply the same criteria that we will use in the autumn review, and should any of the assumptions in a provider's business case subsequently prove erroneous, we may request re-imburement. An early additional allocation will neither advantage nor disadvantage any provider as its case will be reviewed again in the autumn as part of the national exercise.
- After we have received the data returns (which must be submitted by 31 October) the review will first allocate extra payments to any provider whose allocation did not meet the cost of awards to vulnerable students. The remainder of the contingency will then be allocated to providers who have the lowest remaining allocation for discretionary awards. The expectation at this point is that we will be able to top-up the allocation of any provider who had less than 20% of their original allocation available for discretionary awards.
- It is clearly important that all providers send in their September data returns, and any bids for extra allocations should be supported by a business case (which can take the form of a simple letter) to the designated inbox [1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk](mailto:1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk).