

## Learner Support e-bulletin November 2011

Welcome to the November edition of the Learner Support e-bulletin from the YPLA.

This bulletin is aimed at learner advocates with a responsibility for the administration of Learner Support schemes (including 16-19 Bursary Fund, transitional arrangements (previously Education Maintenance Allowance and Adult Learning Grant), Care to Learn, Residential Support Scheme, Discretionary Learner Support and Residential Bursary Fund); Learning Providers; Childcare Providers; local authorities; and other partners and stakeholders interested in these schemes.

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### 16-19 Bursary Fund Update

We asked you to submit information on the number of students enrolled with you (and those providers listed on Local Authorities' Annex C) who fall into the defined vulnerable groups. This information is being collected via an online portal and the deadline to submit this data was 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011.

We have guaranteed to release additional funding where necessary to ensure that all learning providers have sufficient funds to make £1,200 bursary payments to students in the defined vulnerable groups and have some funds remaining to award discretionary bursaries. We are currently reviewing and moderating the data you provided on this basis, to determine which providers require additional funding from the contingency fund. For providers who return an ILR we have uplifted the student numbers on their return to provide an all-year-estimate of student numbers.

This message is to let you know the process and timescales for making payments of additional funding.

At the end of November, we will be writing to all providers who submitted their data by 31<sup>st</sup> October, to confirm whether or not they will receive additional funding, and how much they will receive.

Those providers who will receive additional funding will need to sign and return a contract variation before the additional funding can be released. Where providers submitted their data by 31<sup>st</sup> October, we plan to issue their contract variations by the end of November and where these are

	<p>returned by the 9<sup>th</sup> December, the additional funding will be released in the December pay run. When we write to Academies we will include the relevant updated Annex</p> <p><b>Please note that additional funding cannot be released until we receive the signed contract variation.</b> Where providers do not return their signed variation by 9<sup>th</sup> December, payment of additional funding will not be made in the December payment run.</p> <p>As the 2011/12 academic year progresses, should you find you have insufficient funding to enable you to pay the £1,200 bursary to students in the defined vulnerable groups, you can request further additional funding by sending an email to <a href="mailto:1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk">1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>If you have any questions on the bursary fund, please email us at <a href="mailto:1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk">1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Residential Support</b></p>	<p>The Department for Education (DfE) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) are reviewing learner support arrangements. This includes looking at how students are supported to access specialist learning that requires a residential element and provision that is not available to them locally.</p> <p>In May 2011, BIS and DfE commissioned the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) to manage a review of current arrangements. <i>ACL consulting</i> were appointed to work with specialist colleges, young people and adults, to develop a clear picture of how existing residential support is delivered and how this support meets its original policy intention. The fieldwork for the review has now completed and ACL presented their findings to both Departments at the end of October.</p> <p>The findings from the review will help DfE and BIS to consider the most effective way to deliver residential support in the future. In the meantime, Residential Bursary Funding (RBF) has been allocated to learning providers for 2011/12 and Residential Support Scheme (RSS) payments will be available for young people and adults who started a new course this academic year 2011/12. DfE and BIS will support all young people and adults who are currently in receipt of support - through the RBF and the RSS to enable them to complete their course.</p> <p>DfE and BIS aim to be in a position to outline future arrangements and to communicate this to learners and providers by the end of January 2012. We appreciate that this may present some difficulties to providers and learners who may be starting courses in 2012/13. However, we ask providers not to make any commitments of residential support until this has been communicated.</p>
<p><b>Changes to adult Learner Support</b></p>	<p>This is to let you know that responsibility for Adult Learner Support has now transferred from the YPLA to the Skills Funding Agency. This includes Adult Learning Grant (ALG), Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDL) and Adult Discretionary Learner Support.</p> <p>This means that if you have a query for the specific adult learner support schemes listed above you should now contact the Skills Funding Agency</p>

	<p>at <a href="mailto:learnersupport@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk">learnersupport@skillsfundingagency.bis.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p>Learners in receipt of Adult Learning Grant can still contact the Learner Support helpline on <b>0800 121 8989</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 with transitional EMA and ALG, Care to Learn, DaDA and the Residential Support Scheme on <b>0845 600 7979</b>.</p> <p>Learners can find out more information from the helpline about EMA, ALG, Care to Learn, DaDA and Residential Support Scheme 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>Providers wishing to find out more about the 16-19 Bursary Fund can visit the <a href="http://YPLA website">YPLA website</a> or direct queries to <a href="mailto:1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk">1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk</a>.</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>