



Young People's
Learning Agency

Learner Support e-bulletin September 2011

Welcome to the September edition of the Learner Support e-bulletin from the YPLA's Learner Support Directorate.

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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Late payment process (EMA and ALG)

Exceptional late payments for 2010/11 attendance

Payment decisions for 2010/11 EMA FE and ALG enrolments are now closed and Learning Providers cannot authorise or amend them.

In exceptional circumstances, Learning Providers can notify the Learner Support Service (LSS) of a learner's 2010/11 attendance after 26 August 2011 so that these learners are able to be paid for enrolments in 2010/11 by completing a late payment pro forma. The deadline for receipt of these pro formas is **30 September 2011**.

For more information, contact the Learner Support Service on **0845 600 7979**.

Update on the 16-19 Bursary Fund

The process for allocating additional funding from the contingency

Allocations of the 16-19 Bursary Fund was allocated to providers based on previous EMA take-up. This approach received the most support in the public consultation.

However, as the number of students eligible for the £1,200 bursary for

defined vulnerable groups could not be known in advance, the YPLA has retained a contingency fund to make extra payments to any provider who has more students in the defined vulnerable groups than they can afford to pay £1,200 bursaries from their original allocation. In addition:

- 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 less than 20% of the original allocation. 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. should any of the assumptions in a provider's business case subsequently prove erroneous, we may request re-imburement.
- In the autumn, we will carry out a review and allocate most of the remaining contingency on a fair and equitable basis (**this is the 2011/12 in-year review as outlined below**). 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. Details of this review are outlined below (We will retain a small element for any further in-year cases.)

2011/12 In-year review

The YPLA will shortly be starting the collection of Management Information for the in-year review of funding. The in-year review of funding will be undertaken via a secure web portal which requires a user name and password.

The Management Information web portal will be made available shortly. An e-mail will be sent to all providers with a 16-19 Bursary Fund allocation before the end of September confirming the web portal address and explaining how providers can gain access.

Once signed up to the Management Information web portal, providers need to:

- submit the following information using data as at 30 September 2011
 - the total number of students that have been approved for payment of a full £1,200 bursary
 - the total number of students that have been approved for payment of a pro-rata'd £1,200 bursary
 - the total amount of funding that has been approved for pro-rata'd £1,200 bursaries only
- complete and submit the in-year return from 1 October 2011. Returns should be submitted **by 31 October 2011**.

More information is available in the Provider Q&A document at: <http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary>.

Resources

There are a number of resources available to download from the website

	<p>to help give you information about the bursary fund at http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary</p> <p>Updated Q&A The Provider Q&A document has been updated; the latest version is version 7 dated 7th September.</p> <p>Guide The 16-19 Bursary Fund Guide for 2011/12 gives information on the policy and administration of the fund.</p> <p>Resources for young people The Department for Education has produced a factsheet, leaflet and poster for young people, which you can access through links on our website.</p> <p>Email If you have any questions that the information on the website or in this bulletin does not answer, you can email 1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk</p>
<p>Care to Learn Consultation</p>	<p>The Department for Education will continue to provide childcare support to all parents in England who are under 20 when they start a course in the 2011/12 academic year until they complete that course. Care to Learn will continue beyond this academic year.</p> <p>The Department for Education is carrying out a 9-week consultation on some changes to the Care to Learn scheme that will ensure its sustainability into the future. They are consulting on four options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to a discretionary fund; • Changes to the maximum weekly rates payable; • Linking support to income; and • Changes to the age criteria. <p>You are invited to take part in the e-consultation, which is available at www.education.gov.uk/consultations until 28 October 2011.</p> <p>More information on the Care to Learn scheme is available on our website at http://caretolearn.ypla.gov.uk</p> <p>2011/12 Application Packs</p> <p>Care to Learn application packs for the 2011/12 academic year are available to order:</p> <p>Providers should call 0845 602 2260, quoting reference YPLA-G-002/2011.</p> <p>Learners can request a pack from the directgov website, or call the learner support helpline on 0800 121 8989.</p> <p>Useful resources on the Care to Learn policy and how to complete the 2011/12 application pack are available on the website at</p>

	<p>http://caretolearn.ypla.gov.uk/resources/guidance/</p>
<p>Discretionary Learner Support 2010/11 MI Returns</p>	<p>The YPLA are currently collecting the annual Management Information return for the spend of both youth and adult discretionary Learner Support (dLS) for the academic year 2010/11. The YPLA is collecting the management information for adult dLS on behalf of the Skills Funding Agency.</p> <p>As was the case for last year (2009/10), the data will be collected via the online web portal which can be accessed at: http://dls.ypla.gov.uk/data. This is a secure area which requires a user name and password.</p> <p>Providers can submit their 2010/11 dLS data from 1st September 2011 and are asked to complete it by 31st October 2011 at the latest.</p> <p>Providers should use the same user name and password as they did for 2009/10 to access the web portal. If you have forgotten your user name and password, you will be able to reset it using the 'Reset password' link found on the sign-in page. If you require access to the portal for the first time, please email dlsenquiries@ypla.gov.uk stating that you require access to the dLS MI Portal for 2010/11.</p> <p>Please note, this MI collection relates only to discretionary Learner Support for 2010/11 and not the 16-19 Bursary Fund.</p>
<p>How to find out more</p>	<p>More information about Learner Support schemes is available at www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport</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 0845 600 7979.</p> <p>Learners can find out more information from the helpline about EMA, ALG, Care to Learn, DaDA and Residential Support Scheme on 0800 121 8989, or visiting www.direct.gov.uk and searching for the relevant scheme.</p> <p>Providers wishing to find out more about the 16-19 Bursary Fund can visit the YPLA website or direct queries to 1619BursaryFund@ypla.gov.uk.</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 LearnerSupportNews@ypla.gov.uk.</p>