

<Addressee name>  
<Address line1>  
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20 October 2011

Dear Colleague

**Re: 16-19 Bursary Fund and independent provision**

We are grateful to local authorities for supporting the distribution of the 16-19 Bursary Fund to providers that were identified on the 16-19 Bursary Fund Local Authority Summaries (Annexes B and C) issued in June 2011.

Only those young people who are participating in publicly funded provision that is inspected by a public body that assures quality are eligible for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund. Young people attending independent provision will not normally be eligible for support from the Bursary Fund. The majority of independent schools have not received an allocation of funding.<sup>1</sup>

However, we are aware that some young people have been placed in independent provision by their local authority as this is the most appropriate provision for them. Ministers have agreed that where a young person aged 16-19 has been referred by the local authority to independent provision and where that individual's provision is being funded by the local authority, the young person should be able to apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund.

We have written to the independent schools to advise them that, in these instances, the young person, or his or her parents/carers should apply for support from the 16-19 Bursary Fund through the young person's home local authority. Any such requests for a bursary from a young person in one of the defined vulnerable groups (young people in care, care leavers, young people in receipt of income support, or young people in receipt of both Disability Living Allowance and Employment Support Allowance) should be passed to the YPLA. The YPLA will provide additional funding to local authorities to cover the additional costs of providing bursaries to students in the defined vulnerable groups at these institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> Independent special schools that administered £30/week EMA to students in 2009/10 have received an allocation of 16-19 Bursary Fund. As set out above, these institutions should use this funding to award bursaries to eligible students aged 16-19 who are referred, and funded by, the local authority.

Local authorities may also award discretionary bursaries to young people placed by them in independent provision, although we would expect any other support the young person is receiving – for example, where residential costs are being met – to be taken into account.

Details of the process for local authorities to request additional funding is set out at:  
<http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary/>.

Further information on the 16-19 Bursary Fund can be found on our website:  
<http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary/>

Should you have any queries about the 16-19 Bursary Fund, please email us at  
[1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk](mailto:1619bursaryfund@ypla.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully

Jane Cowell  
Director of Funding Policy