

To all general further education colleges, sixth form colleges, school sixth forms, academies, training providers

17 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 vulnerable 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, and a report of the consultation is available at [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/). A short guide to the administration of the 16-19 Bursary Fund is available on the YPLA website at [www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary/](http://www.ypla.gov.uk/learnersupport/16-19-bursary/).

I am pleased to be able to confirm your 2011/12 allocation for the 16-19 Bursary Fund on the attached Annex A. Allocations for 2011/12 have been calculated based on each eligible young person who was in learning with you 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.

The total amount to be allocated to providers in 2011/12 is nearly £108m<sup>1</sup>. This will allow providers to pay:

- bursaries of £1,200 to all young people in the nominated vulnerable groups;
- discretionary bursaries to young people, including those in their first year of post-16 study ;  
and

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- 'top up' payments to those who are currently in receipt of EMA, who will continue to be supported through transitional arrangements, should providers consider it appropriate to do so.

Under these arrangements, the most vulnerable will receive over £400 more than the average annual payment under the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). Beyond that, the 16-19 Bursary Fund is sufficient to allow for bursaries of £800 (again, more than the average received under EMA) for all young people who were eligible for free school meals in year 11<sup>2</sup>. This figure is illustrative only, and providers are free to determine the scale of discretionary bursaries.

£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 for Maintained School Sixth Forms will be routed through the relevant Local Authority, in the same way as standard School Sixth Form allocations. The Local Authority will direct the designated funding to each School Sixth Form.

Where a provider operates out of more than one location across England, or through partnerships or sub-contracts, the allocation is being made to the lead office for distribution to each site as they see fit. Providers should ensure that any young people attending provision that is delivered by partners or sub-contractors are able to apply for the 16-19 Bursary Fund on an equal basis to young people in their own provision. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure that the scheme's objectives are met at each site and by any sub-contractors.

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 cost of administering the bursaries.

Every effort has been made to ensure the allocation is correct. In the interest of finalising these allocations before the summer break this allocation will be regarded as final unless you raise any queries and concerns within the next two weeks and by 30th June at the latest.

Now that you have details of your allocation and of how Ministers expect the 16-19 Bursary Fund to be administered, you should proceed to develop your own, local arrangements. You may wish to work with other providers in your local area to develop a common approach to the 16-19 Bursary Fund, or to take account of models such as those being developed by the Association of Colleges. It is crucial of course, that all prospective students, especially those relying on financial support to continue in education, understand the support that is available to

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<sup>2</sup> The average annual payment to all EMA recipients in 2009/10 was £718.60 (over an average of 26.04 weekly payments). The average annual payment to EMA recipients eligible for £30 a week was £792.01 (over an average of 26.4 weekly payments). 55% of EMA recipients received less than £800 a year.

them as early as possible. Due to its discretionary nature, communications from providers will be the main way that many young people hear about the 16-19 Bursary Fund. You will therefore want to consider what action you can take quickly to raise the awareness of the 16-19 Bursary Fund, including locally set eligibility criteria, amongst young people, particularly the most vulnerable.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lauener', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Lauener  
Chief Executive

Enc Annex A - 16-19 Bursary Fund Statement 2011/12