



QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE – LEARNER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Name of Scheme	Adult Childcare - 20+ Childcare	
What does it do?	<p>discretionary Learner Support (dLSF) is allocated locally to help disadvantaged learners, aged 16 and above, with costs associated with learning, e.g. living, transport and childcare. Priority groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Those in care or on probation ▪ Young parents and those who are considered to be at risk ▪ Those eligible for fee remission because they are themselves, or they are the dependant of someone who is, receiving a means-tested state benefit or Tax Credit ▪ Adults undertaking a first full Level 2 ▪ Learners aged 19-25 undertaking a full first Level 3 ▪ Learners taking a skills for life programme of study ▪ Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities ▪ Medically ill <p>The 20+ childcare funds are designed to help with childcare costs</p> <p>Note: as dLS is managed on a local basis there will be variations in the eligibility, type of learning applicable, how much will be paid, what the funding can/can't be used for and how to apply.</p>	
Who is eligible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The learner must be aged 20 or over and be studying full-time or part-time in an Further Education (FE) Institution. ▪ The childcare provider must be fully registered with Ofsted <p>With the exception of asylum seekers aged 19 and over, where a learner has been accepted onto and studying, a programme of learning funded by the LSC, they will be eligible to apply for 20+ Childcare support.</p>	
What type of learning is applicable?	The FE course taken must be funded by the LSC	
How much could the learner receive?	Institutions set their own criteria and manage their own procedures. This means that the amount of funds available to individuals, and the way the funds are allocated may differ between institutions.	
What can/can't the funding be used for?	<p>Students should exercise their entitlement to other forms of financial support before eligibility for 20+ Childcare is considered. In summary they comprise: Adult Learning Grants (ALG); Care to Learn (C2L); Residential Support Scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ In general, childcare funds may only be used to fund childcare that is approved or registered with Ofsted in accordance with the requirements of the Children Act 1989 (the Act). The Act states that it is unlawful for a person or organisation to look after a child, for reward, for more than two hours a day without being approved or registered. In very exceptional circumstances, the fund may be used for childcare of up to two hours a day that is charged but not registered, where local registered provision is not available. Informal childcare, such as that provided by a relative, cannot be funded. When making awards of childcare support, attention should be given to the prevailing rate of C2L, and childcare awards should not normally exceed the C2L maximum. Providers should not use 20+ Childcare to support the childcare costs of parent learners who are eligible for, but not claiming C2L. ✘ Childcare allocations cannot be used to finance the setting up of childcare places, and nor should they be used to make a financial contribution to the costs of a crèche. They should only be paid to, or on behalf of, individual learners aged 20 and above, who should be free to use the resource to support the childcare provision of their choice - subject to appropriate Ofsted registration. 	

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How does the learner apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If the learner is at college, they should speak with their Welfare Officer or Student Support Officer
What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learners can apply for 20+ Childcare if they also receive grants and funds including: ALG, Career Development Loan (CDL), and Disability Living Allowance ✗ Prisoners on day release are not eligible for discretionary Learner Support ✗ Learners on courses that are wholly funded from other sources are NOT eligible ✗ Any learner on one of the following courses: Learndirect, New Deal programme, Apprenticeship training programme, Work Based Learning course, Adult and Community learning course is not eligible.
How are the funds administered?	<p>LSC National Office allocates funding for 20+ Childcare to the LSC regions. The regions are then responsible for making funding allocations to the learning providers or the Local Authority in their area.</p> <p>Applicants should apply for support directly to their learning providers, who provide support at their discretion and in accordance with the LSC published guidance. The payments could be made in cash directly to the learner or via a third party, or the payment could pay for goods and services. The payment could also be a loan which has to be paid back, or a grant which doesn't.</p>
What is the aim?	<p>The aim of the 20+ Childcare is to increase participation and retention in post 16 education by helping to overcome the financial barriers associated with learning.</p>
What are the key achievements of the funding?	<p>During 2005/06 just over 46,000 awards of , then, 19+ Childcare were made</p>
Further Information and Contact Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn ▪ www.directgov.gov.uk/en/educationandlearning ▪  Discretionary Learner Support Guidance 2007/08