



## Learner Support Service Childcare News e-bulletin, December 2009

Welcome to the LSC Learner Support Directorate's *Childcare News* December e-bulletin.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please fill in our new [registration form](#). If you have any feedback on this publication please email us at [Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk).

### In this issue:

#### Care to Learn

- 1. Care to Learn Evaluation
- 2. Childcare Provision
- 3. Connexions Data

#### Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work

- 1. Website Update
- 2. Application forms
- 3. Marketing update

#### General

- 1. Learner Support Service Provider Helpline Christmas opening hours
- 2. Courses starting in January
- 3. And finally...

#### Actions you may need to take

#### How to find out more

## Care to Learn

### 1. Care to Learn Evaluation

The latest evaluation of the Care to Learn scheme, *The Impact of Care to Learn: Tracking the destinations of young parents funded in 2006/07 and 2007/08* is available to download from the [Care to Learn website](#).

Earlier this year we commissioned The Centre for Social and Economic Inclusion and Ipsos Mori to undertake a survey to evaluate the impact of Care to Learn on the destinations of young parents funded by the scheme in 2007/08. The evaluation also evaluates the longer term impact of Care to Learn on young parents funded in 2006/07, looking at their current activity and progress since they were last surveyed in the summer of 2008.

Some of the key findings from this current evaluation are outlined below:

- 73% young parents said they could not have gone into learning at all without Care to Learn support. 98% said that the scheme helped them to go on their first choice of course.
- The majority of young parents surveyed (37%) were studying at Level 2, followed by those studying at Level 3 (26%) and Level 1 (19%).
- The proportion of young parents supported by Care to Learn who completed or were still on their course in 2007/08 is only six percentage points lower than the overall retention rate of all FE learners for the same year – despite the additional challenges young parents face with bringing up a child.

Please inform anyone you think would be interested in the evaluation report of where they can find this information.

We are also looking for volunteers to participate in the next round of evaluation and we would like to conduct some interviews with stakeholders to get their views on Care to Learn. If you are a Childcare Provider, Support Worker or Learning Provider who deals with Care to Learn, and could spare around half an hour of your time in the early part of 2010, please send an email to [C2LSurvey@isc.gov.uk](mailto:C2LSurvey@isc.gov.uk) stating your name, telephone number, and your job title.

### 2. Childcare Provision

We let you know in the June issue of *Childcare News* that the types of childcare eligible for Care to Learn have been under review.

We would like to let you know in this issue that **from September 2010** Care to Learn childcare support will be accessible to parents using:

- Childcare Providers registered on the Early Years Ofsted Register;
- Childcare Providers registered on either the compulsory or voluntary part of the General Childcare Register;
- Childcare Provision offered by schools such as breakfast and after school clubs;
- Relatives to care for their children if the relative lives apart from the child, is Ofsted registered, and is also providing registered care for children they are not related to.

**With immediate effect** the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has the discretion to approve support for provision registered on the Care Quality Commission's register on a case by case basis if general provision is not suitable for the child.

**For the remainder of the 2009/10 academic year** any cases where the Childcare Provider does not meet the current published criteria of being registered on the Ofsted Early Years Register or the Compulsory part of the Ofsted General Childcare Register will be referred to the LSC for a decision on a case by case basis. If you are supporting a young parent to apply for Care to Learn to fund such childcare, please enclose a letter with the application to explain the circumstances.

### **3. Connexions Data**

We would like to inform you that to align with the LSC's procedures on data security it has been necessary to stop sending data about Care to Learn recipients in each area through the post, **with immediate effect**.

We are now looking at distributing this information by secure email instead. Please note we will only send these emails to recognised organisations (e.g. Connexions, local authorities etc). If you or any of your contacts have queries about this, please contact the Learner Support Service helpline on **0845 600 7979** for more advice.

## **Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work**

### **1. Website update**

We have recently updated the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work website. This website includes a number of useful resources to help you to find out more information on the scheme as well as information that you can use with learners to encourage them to apply for support.

We have produced a new section on the website where we will post learner case study examples and quotes of how the scheme has helped them to enter into learning, as well as examples from Providers on good practice in helping learners to apply for the scheme.

You can access this at

[www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/marketingmaterials/goodpractice](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning/marketingmaterials/goodpractice).

We would welcome examples from you on how you have successfully helped learners to apply for and take up the scheme. Please email details of your activity to [Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:Childcare-news@lsc.gov.uk).

## 2. Application forms

It is important that the application form for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work is completed fully and accurately, by all parties including Learning Providers and Childcare Providers, before it is sent to the Learner Support Service. If some questions have not been filled in we will need to send the application back to the learner to request this information. This process means learners have to wait longer for a decision on their eligibility for the scheme.

Common areas of the form are often left blank including the learning details, childcare details and childcare costs. An application cannot be fully processed without these details.

To help you to support learners with filling in their application form for the scheme, we have produced an **Application Form Resource Pack** that outlines areas where mistakes are often made and give more information on how to complete specific questions within the form. You can access this pack from [www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/moneytolearn/childcaretraininglearning).

## 3. Marketing update

As you know we have made available a promotional video, featuring Suzanne Shaw, to help you to promote the scheme amongst learners. This video is now available for learners and parents to view on the directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/freechildcareforlearning). Please either direct those interested in the scheme to the directgov website or upload the video, web

button/banner and text from the Free Childcare section of the Campaign Resources Site ([www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/campaignresources)) onto your own website to promote the scheme.

Also, the radio adverts promoting the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work scheme will be played again for a week, from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, on regional/local stations. These will be targeted in the 15 local authority areas where there are high numbers of parents who may be eligible to receive support from the scheme.

More information on other marketing materials available for use in promoting this scheme to parents is available in the *General information* section of this e-bulletin.

## General information

### 1. Learner Support Service Provider Helpline Christmas opening hours

If you need to contact the helpline over the Christmas and New Year period, please note the following operating hours:

- Christmas Eve – 07:00 to 16:00
- Christmas Day – closed
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December – closed
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December – 08:00 to 18:00
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December – 08:00 to 18:00
- New Year's Eve – 08:00 to 16:00
- New Year's Day – closed.

### 2. Courses starting in January

A number of learners will be starting courses in January and may be eligible to receive support from the Learner Support childcare schemes. Please encourage these learners to apply for support to ensure that the worry of the cost of childcare is not an issue whilst they are on their course.

There are a number of marketing materials available for the schemes, which you can order and use to promote the schemes to learners. You can order these from LSC Publications by calling **0845 602 2260** or emailing [lsc@prolog.uk.com](mailto:lsc@prolog.uk.com), quoting the relevant reference number as outlined below:

- **Childcare Big Picture:** provides an overview of the eligibility criteria for the childcare schemes operated by the LSC and Jobcentre Plus. Reference LSC-P-NAT-090083.
- **Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work leaflet:** aimed at the learner and their partner giving basic messages about the scheme and where they can find more information. Reference LSC-P-NAT-090091.
- **Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work poster:** for you to use to inform parents about the scheme, giving details for learners to find out if they are eligible for support. Reference LSC-P-NAT-090090.
- **Care to Learn leaflet:** aimed at the learner and gives basic information on the scheme and information on how to apply. Reference LSC-P-NAT-090005.
- **Care to Learn poster:** for you to use to inform young parents about Care to Learn. Reference LSC-P-NAT-080007.
- **Care to Learn Code of Practice:** sets out the ways in which you may be able to help young parents; however its main audience is Childcare Providers. LSC-P-NAT-090052.

You can download a number of these marketing materials from the scheme websites, accessible from the [Money to Learn website](#). You can then see what each material looks like before ordering hard copies.

Please order copies of the leaflets to give to learners so they know where to find out more information about all of the Learner Support childcare schemes.

### 3. And finally...

The Learner Support Directorate would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you all have a good break.

### Actions you may need to take

A reminder of the actions to be taken over the next few weeks. Please:

- Download a copy of the latest Care to Learn evaluation report from the website. Please also forward the link on to any interested colleagues.
- Send an email to [C2LSurvey@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:C2LSurvey@lsc.gov.uk) if you would like to have your views heard during the next Care to Learn evaluation.
- Make sure you take note of, and inform colleagues, about Care to Learn data no longer being sent by post.
- Take note of the childcare provision eligible for Care to Learn and inform interested colleagues.
- Visit the new section on the Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work website. Please also send us your good practice examples that you might want to share on this website.
- Ensure that you use the Application Form Resource Pack to help learners to complete their Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work application form.
- Take note of the operating hours of the Provider helpline over the Christmas/New Year period.
- Order marketing materials to distribute to learners starting courses in January.
- Encourage any Providers or advisers not already signed up, to [register](#) to receive this e-bulletin.

## How to find out more

### Learning and Childcare Providers

Learning Providers and Childcare Providers can find out more information about each of these three childcare schemes on the websites:

- [Care to Learn](#)
- [Sixth Form College Childcare](#)
- [Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work](#)

You can also call us on **0845 600 7979**; please select option 3 for Care to Learn and option 4 for Free Childcare for Training and Learning for Work and Sixth Form College Childcare.

### Learners

Learners can find out more information about the schemes by visiting [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and searching for the relevant scheme.

They can also call the learner helpline on **0800 121 8989**. This is a freephone number, which can also be used to access advice about other Learner Support schemes managed by the LSC, including Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Adult Learning Grant (ALG).