Dear User

This email is to advise you of an important change to the residency criteria for the Care to Learn scheme. We appreciate that not all users have Care to Learn learners and so may not find this relevant.

Please note, this does not apply to EMA or ALG; EMA and ALG learners must meet one of the criteria in question A8 of the EMA or ALG application form.

Change to residency criteria for Care to Learn

With immediate effect, the residency question on the 2008/09 Care to Learn application form will be disregarded by the Learner Support Service when assessing Care to Learn applications. The residency requirement for eligibility for Care to Learn for 2008/09 will be as in previous years, i.e. learners who live in England and have been accepted on to a publicly funded programme are eligible for Care to Learn support if they meet the other eligibility criteria (they are under 20 on the day their learning starts, they are the main carer of their child and they are using childcare that is registered on the compulsory part of the Ofsted childcare register).

This should not be taken as an indication that these arrangements will last for any longer than this academic year. Learners must be made aware that residency rules for Care to Learn are under review and that some people may not be eligible for support from September 2009.

Learners who are part way through a course should continue to be eligible for childcare support until the completion of their course regardless of any changes in residency criteria.

Any young parent who has already applied for Care to Learn and been turned down on residency grounds should be advised to contact the Learner Support Service helpline on 0800 121 8989 for advice. Any costs for childcare already incurred by those eligible for Care to Learn will be backdated to either the date the childcare started or the young parent’s course start date, whichever is later; please note that backdated payments will be made up to the Care to Learn weekly limit of support, £160 (£175 in London).

Important information on childcare provision

We must also inform you that The Childcare Act 2008 has had an impact on who we are able to pay to provide childcare through the Care to Learn scheme. Care provided by relatives is not eligible for Care to Learn, even if that relative is listed on the compulsory part of the Ofsted register.


If you have any queries about this email, please contact the Provider Helpline on 0845 600 7979.

With kind regards,

Learner Support Service on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council